

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held April 22, 2024, in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams, Councilmember Rhonda Dugas, Councilmember Pete Konidis, and Councilmember Paul Oliver in attendance. Mayor Borne called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees. Representatives from the local VFW 4820 then led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 8, 2024 CITY COUNCIL MEETING: Councilmember Pete Konidis moved to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2024 City Council Meeting as written and Councilmember Oliver seconded. Mayor Borne asked for discussion and there was none. Motion passed unanimously.

RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 15, 2024 PLANNING AND ZONING MEETING: Mayor Borne stated that all of Council had received the minutes in their packets.

Mayor Borne asked for reports.

PRESENTATION OF FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR TO GROVES FIRE CHIEF LANCE BILLEAUD ON BEHALF OF VFW DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS STATE COMMANDER, LARRY SANDERS: Mr. Ken Lofton from the local VFW 4820 addressed Council and informed them that even though they are in Port Neches they provide support and veterans services to Bridge City, Port Neches, Port Arthur, Nederland, and Groves. Mr. Lofton then stated that this evening they would like to make a presentation to the Groves Fire Chief Lance Billeaud. Mr. Billeaud had received an award from the local VFW 4820 during their Veterans Day event but this award is from the State Department Headquarters. Mr. Lofton then presented Fire Chief Billeaud with Firefighter of the Year Award from the VFW State Commander, Larry Sanders. Mr. Billeaud thanked the VFW for the huge honor of being chosen as the VFW Firefighter of the Year for State of Texas. There were no further reports.

Mayor Borne asked for citizen comments. Chris Crain of 3810 Grant asked about the item on the agenda regarding the removal of Ms. Dugas a Ex Officio of the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. Crain stated that he is a commissioner on the Planning and Zoning Commission and also stated that Ms. Dugas has been an asset to them. There were no other citizen comments.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON RATIFICATION OF MAYOR'S REMOVAL OF COUNCILMEMBER WARD 4 AS EX OFFICIO MEMBER OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AND APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILMEMBER WARD 3 TO THE SAME POSITION: Mayor Borne made a motion to deliberate and act on

ratification of Mayor's removal of Councilmember Ward 4 as Ex Officio member of the Planning and Zoning Commission and appointment of Councilmember Ward 3 to the same position. Councilmember Pete Konidis seconded. Mayor Borne then asked for questions. Councilmember Oliver asked what initiated this to be put on the agenda and Mayor Borne stated that when the appointment was made no one else that was interested in the position and now he has another Councilmember that is interested. Mayor Borne also stated that he believes in delegating to different members of the Council. Councilmember Oliver then stated from his understanding there was an issue with bringing something forth to the City Attorney and because of her position on Planning and Zoning he thinks she was acting within her boundaries to do that. Mr. Oliver also stated that he doesn't feel that there is anything wrong with her bringing forth these issues that concern Planning and Zoning. Mr. Oliver then stated that he feels like she has done a great job and since she has been the Ex Officio, Council has received more information from the meetings. Mr. Oliver then asked if Council would reconsider this item. Councilmember Dugas stated that Chairman Rodney Pacetti asked her to be Ex Officio and she has served the Planning and Zoning for 3 years and 4 months. Mayor Borne stated that Ms. Dugas originally received the Ex Officio position because of him. Councilmember Oliver then asked if Council approves the Ex Officio and Mayor Borne stated they do and all of Council gets a vote. There were no further questions and the motion passed with Mayor Borne, Mayor Pro Tem McAdams, and Councilmember Konidis in favor of the motion. Councilmember Oliver and Councilmember Dugas voted against the motion.

**DELIBERATE AND ACT ON A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE PROVIDER SELECTION FOR AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT PROGRAMS:** Mayor Pro Tem McAdams made a motion to deliberate and act on a resolution authorizing a professional service provider selection for American Rescue Plan Act Programs and Councilmember Konidis seconded. Finance Director Lamar Ozley addressed Council stating the City issued an RFP for a professional consultant to assist with the American Rescue Plan Act for the local fiscal recovery funds. The provider chosen will be managing the remaining balance that we have, which is approximately \$1.5 million, and will primarily focus on the wastewater system. The City sent out requests to 9 different firms plus one clearing house to solicit bids and received 2 valid bids back. Mr. Ozley also stated that Council authorized a committee to review the bids and make a recommendation to Council which is found in the summary findings in the memo. Mr. Ozley stated they are both very qualified firms but the main difference was the cost with David Waxman Inc's bid being at \$230,000.00 and GrantWorks Inc. being at \$ 45,000.00. The committee recommends that the bid be awarded to Grant Works Inc. and Michelle Bobo with

GrantWorks then addressed Council. Mrs. Bobo informed Council that Grant Works has over 45 years of experience in administering grant funds and also have a specialized team that deals with ARPA funds. Mrs. Bobo also stated that GrantWorks is focused on the City not having to pay back any money that they were awarded and also look to have the remaining funds that are left to be under contract by the end of the year. Councilmember Dugas asked Mrs. Bobo if GrantWorks would be up to date on all of the changes so the city doesn't get caught in a difficult situation and Mrs. Bobo stated the city would be assigned an ARPA project manager and any of the new issuances or regulations that come out will be sent to the City. Mayor Pro Tem McAdams amended his previous motion to include authorizing GrantWorks, Inc., as the service provider selection for the ARPA program and Councilmember Konidis seconded. There were no further question and the motion passed unanimously.

INVOICES: City Manager Kevin Carruth presented invoices for payment totaling \$93,813.20 as follows:

|                                      |  |             |
|--------------------------------------|--|-------------|
| 1. City of Port Arthur               | Landfill sludge disposal March 2024  | \$5,460.00  |
| 2. Fuelman                           | Gas and diesel for March 2024  | \$17,960.17 |
| 3. Houston Poly Bag, LTD             | Trash bags for Water Office  | \$9,900.00  |
| 4. Lower Neches Valley Authority     | Raw water purchased  | \$28,147.68 |
| 5. Republic Services INC             | Commercial dumpster collection for March 2024  | \$9,920.29  |
| 6. Republic Services INC             | Sludge disposal for March 2024   | \$9,315.30  |
| 7. Smart's Truck & Trailer Equipment | 2 Axel replacements for interstate trailer, 55-gallon drum of DEF, repairs to 2 garbage trucks | \$13,109.76 |

Councilmember Konidis made a motion to deliberate and act for the April 22, 2024, Invoice Approval List and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. Councilmember Konidis asked if the two axel replacements were an emergency replacement and

Public Works Director Troy Foxworth stated they were an emergency replacement. There were no further questions. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne asked for Councilmember comments and Councilmember Konidis stated he wasn't at the last meeting and wanted to welcome Mr. Boudoin to the City. Mayor Borne congratulated Chief Lance Billeaud again on his award for Firefighter of the year from VFW Department of Texas State Commander, Larry Sanders.

There was no further business and Mayor Borne adjourned the meeting at 5:27 p.m.

  
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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

