

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held February 12, 2024, in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams, Councilmember Paul Oliver, Councilmember Pete Konidis, and Councilmember Rhonda Dugas in attendance. Mayor Borne called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees. Mr. Ken Lofton from local VFW Post 4820 then led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 29, 2024, CITY COUNCIL MEETING: Councilmember Konidis moved to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2024, City Council Meeting as written and Councilmember Oliver seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions or comments and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne then asked if we had any reports and Mr. Ken Lofton from the local VFW then gave a report on Kosovo. There were no further reports.

Mayor Borne then asked for citizen comments and Seth Droddy of 3749 Main Avenue spoke to Council regarding the price of roofing permits. Mr. Droddy stated that the City of Groves charges \$175 for a permit then informed Council that is too much compared to other surrounding cities. There were no other citizen comments.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON GROVES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES FROM HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX FOR CHRISTMAS TREE TRAIL AND PECAN FESTIVAL: Councilmember Dugas made a motion to deliberate and act on Groves Chamber of Commerce request for reimbursement of expenses from Hotel Occupancy Tax for Christmas Tree Trail and Pecan Festival. Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. Councilmember Dugas asked Chamber Director Letha Knaus if she had submitted the financial statements that include this \$14,700 that she is requesting and Mrs. Knaus stated she did. Councilmember Dugas asked if the P&L Statement for the Pecan Festival is ready and Mrs. Knaus stated that she is just waiting to see if her request tonight is approved or not. Councilmember Dugas asked about the monthly financial statements from the Chamber that Council should be receiving and City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that he will forward those to Council. Councilmember Dugas then asked if she could get an updated copy of the 2023 Chamber Contract and City Clerk Clarissa Thibodeaux stated that she would email it to Council. Mayor Borne asked Finance Director Lamar Ozley if the Hotel Occupancy Tax account could support this request and Mr. Ozley stated it could. Council agreed on the payment of \$14,700. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

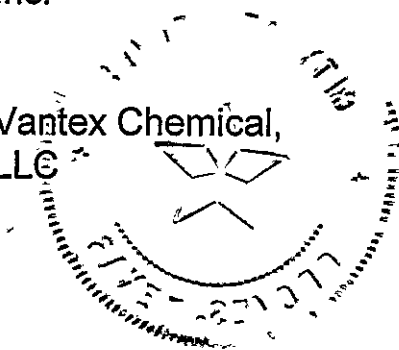
DELIBERATE AND ACT ON ORDINANCE 2024-03, REPEALING CHAPTER 29, ARTICLE I, SECTION 29-6 WHICH PROHIBITED THE USE OF ALUMINUM WIRING IN ANY RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL STRUCTURE: Mayor Pro Tem McAdams made a motion to deliberate and act on Ordinance 2024-03, repealing Chapter 29, Article I, Section 29-6 which prohibited the use of aluminum wiring in any residential or commercial structure. Councilmember Oliver seconded. City Attorney Brandon P. Monk stated that this will require to be published by publishing the caption only and providing an effective date. Mayor Borne stated that this has been strategically removed through the NEC and puts us back in line with not contradicting the NEC. City Attorney Brandon P. Monk stated that the NEC is adopted by State Law. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON RESOLUTION 2024-03, AUTHORIZING A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A MORATORIUM OF THE ISSUANCE OF ADDITIONAL EMS PERMITS THROUGH THE END OF DECEMBER 31, 2024: Councilmember Oliver made a motion to deliberate and act on Resolution 2024-03, authorizing a resolution establishing a moratorium of the issuance of additional EMS permits through the end of December 31, 2024, and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that our current ordinance is almost 20 years old and the EMS environment has changed a lot in the last two decades. Mr. Carruth then stated with everything going on regarding EMS in Port Arthur he feels this would be a good time to hit pause and evaluate our ordinance together with our other two mid-city partners. Fire Chief Lance Billeaud stated that a lot has changed in the last 20 years and we have talked about it with Nederland and Port Neches. Chief Billeaud then stated that the cities would like to look at the current ordinance to see if anything needs to be adjusted and to make sure its proper for our citizens. Mayor Borne asked Chief Billeaud if he sees this affecting our current service and he stated he does not. Councilmember Konidis stated that he had talked to Chief Billeaud and City Manager Kevin Carruth in reference to Acadians response times and they both reassured him that they have done a better job than they have done in the past. Councilmember Konidis then stated that he would like to have a work shop to be able to discuss this ordinance. City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that he agrees on the workshop because part of what needs to be discussed is that right now we have limited control but we also have no cost. Mr. Carruth then stated that if we want more control then we would almost certainly have more cost. Mr. Carruth then explained to Council that he would appreciate the opportunity to hit pause and take a step back, so that we can get together with the other cities also for a good evaluation of the ordinance.

Councilmember Oliver then asked if any ambulance services have contacted the City wanting any kind of contract and Mr. Carruth stated no one has. Mr. Carruth then informed Council that the way the ordinance is written is that the Fire Chief can issue permit number one on his own but any subsequent requests have to come to City Council. Councilmember Dugas then asked if we have a time limit on this moratorium and Mr. Carruth stated the way it is written is until the end of calendar year but it could be extended or even ended sooner if we want. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

INVOICES: City Manager Kevin Carruth presented invoices for payment totaling \$151,137.44 as follows:

1. City of Beaumont	City's pro rata share of SE Texas Regional Radio System cost and maintenance for Fire & Police Departments.	\$19,674.91
2. Coburn Supply Co., Inc.	Clamps & service brass for water lines.	\$8,655.70
3. DXI Industries, Inc.	Chlorine for Water Plant.	\$6,861.60
4. Groves Chamber of Commerce	Q4 2023 & Q1 2024 payments. Advertising reimbursements for 2023 Pecan Festival.	\$48,849.00
5. Republic Services, Inc.	January 2024 commercial dumpster service.	\$8,798.23
6. Sabine Equipment	Waste activated sludge pumps at Wastewater Treatment Plant.	\$12,780.00
7. Soutex Surveyors, Inc.	Payment for engineering services at Wastewater Treatment Plant Re: 2021 CLFRF Project.	\$30,800.00
8. Vantex Chemical, LLC	Sodium Hydroxide use for PH adjustment.	\$5,418.00



9. Vulcan Materials
BMT

A-1 Limestone Base Material, 200 TN.

\$9,300.00

Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams made a motion to approve the invoice list for February 12, 2024, for \$151,137.44 and Councilmember Dugas seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions. Councilmember Konidis asked if the commercial dumpster service is put on the customers water bill then we pay Republic Services on behalf of the customers and Mr. Ozley stated that is correct. Councilmember Dugas wanted to reiterate that the payment for the Chamber of Commerce is for two of the quarter payments and another \$18,849.00 for the Pecan Festival reimbursement. Mayor Borne asked if the A-1 limestone base is for our stock and Public Works Director Troy Foxworth stated it is. Mayor Borne then asked if we are still unable to get the hot mix and Mr. Foxworth stated we are still not able to. Councilmember Dugas then asked if the hot mix is what is used for fixing the potholes and Mr. Foxworth stated that is correct. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne then called for Councilmember comments. Mayor Borne asked Mrs. Knaus from the Chamber of Commerce to give an update on the event this coming Saturday which is called Love on Lincoln. Mrs. Knaus also stated that the Chamber is paying for the advertisement for this event with the money that was raised from their purse bingo event. Mayor Borne then congratulated Mrs. Knaus and the Groves Chamber of Commerce for receiving the Small Business Champion of the Year Award. There were no further Council Comments.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk

