

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held May 6, 2024 in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams, Councilmember Rhonda Dugas, Councilmember Paul Oliver, and Councilmember Pete Konidis in attendance. Mayor Borne called the meeting to order and welcomed all attendees. Representatives from the local VFW 4820 then led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 22, 2024 CITY COUNCIL MEETING: Mayor Pro Tem McAdams moved to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2024 City Council meeting as written and Councilmember Paul Oliver seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions or comments and Councilmember Dugas stated that the minutes do not reflect what was said in the meeting. Ms. Dugas then stated that these are lies printed in here that were perpetuated by Chris Borne, "who lied against me in that meeting and those lies were put on the minutes." Ms. Dugas also stated that these minutes should be either redone or amended and that her comments that were made during the Councilmember Comments were not included in the minutes. Mayor Borne asked Ms. Dugas if she would like to submit a list of things she would like the minutes to reflect and she said she does and will submit them after the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem McAdams made a motion to table the minutes and Councilmember Oliver seconded. Motion to table passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne stated that we are going to skip ahead to the presentation of a proclamation.

HEAR AND DELIBERATE ON PRESENTATIONS OF GROVES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MOTHER OF THE YEAR FOR 2024 AND MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION DECLARING MAY 6, 2024 AS "HANNAH JORDAN MCDONALD DAY.": Groves Chamber of Commerce Director, Letha Knaus, read the letter that was sent in by Mrs. McDonald's husband nominating her for Mother of the Year. Mayor Borne then presented Mrs. McDonald with her Proclamation declaring May 6, 2024 as "Hannah Jordan McDonald Day."

Mayor Borne then called for reports.

HEAR AND DELIBERATE PRESENTATION OF THE 2023 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT: Water Plant Operator Chris Cropper addressed Council about the 2023 Consumer Confidence Report. Mr. Cropper stated that this is a water quality report and is required annually by TCEQ. Mr. Cropper then informed Council that the City of Groves did not have any violations. This report is required to be presented to Council and also be available to the public. Mr. Cropper then stated that there will be a direct link on the water bills. There were no questions.

Mr. Ken Lofton from the local VFW 4820 then gave a report regarding who they are and what they are currently working on. Mr. Lofton stated that they are close to finishing the 2023/24 year which ends on the 30th of June. Mr. Lofton then stated that there are 258 VFW Posts in the State of Texas and they are ranked according to their accomplishments which are set by the State VFW Officials. This year VFW Post 4820 ended up #1 in the state out of all of the 258 VFW Posts in Texas. Mr. Lofton then stated that they have a leadership team that is focused on helping veterans within the community. Mr. Lofton also stated that on behalf of Commander Andy Arnold he would like to thank the City of Groves and the City Council for giving them this venue to help spread their message. Mr. Lofton then spoke about Loyalty Day. He stated the definition of loyalty is the quality of being faithful to someone or something else. He also stated that a good example of loyalty is how someone feels about their Country. In the United States Loyalty Day is meant for the reaffirmation of loyalty to our nation and for the recognition of the heritage of American freedom. Loyalty Day has been honored with an official proclamation every year since its inception as a legal holiday in 1958. There were no further reports.

Mayor Borne then asked for any citizen comments and there were none.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON ESTABLISHING A DATE FOR A JOINT PUBLIC HEARING WITH THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION ON A NEW APPLICATION FOR A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FOR A GAME ROOM AT 5235 39TH ST.: Councilmember Dugas made a motion to deliberate and act on establishing a date for a joint public hearing with the Planning and Zoning Commission on a new application for a specific use permit for a game room at 5235 39th St. Councilmember Konidis seconded. The recommendation for the joint public hearing was June 3, 2024 and no one had any problems with that date. Councilmember Dugas amended her previous motion to add the date of June 3, 2024 at 5 p.m. and Councilmember Konidis seconded. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON APPROVAL OF ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OPTION FOR FYE 2024 AUDIT SERVICES BY WATHEN, DESHONG & JUNCKER AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS: Councilmember Konidis made a motion to deliberate and act on approval of one-year extension option for FYE 2024 audit services contract by Wathen, DeShong & Juncker and authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute all necessary documents. Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. Finance Director Lamar Ozley addressed Council and informed them that this would

be the fifth and final year. Mr. Ozley also stated that the original contract term was a 3-year engagement with up to two one-year options. Mr. Ozley then stated that the first one-year option was exercised with this past audit that Council just received. This option would be for the current fiscal year we are in right now. Mr. Ozley also stated that this would be the fifth and final year so after this year we will have to go out for RFP's again. Mayor Borne asked if we have what the cost would be for the extension and Finance Director Lamar Ozley stated it would be \$36,500 plus any other incidental expenses. Mayor Borne asked if they have ever gone over in the cost provided before and Mr. Ozley stated they have but it's usually not much. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

INVOICES: City Manager Kevin Carruth presented invoices for payment totaling \$83,409.06 as follows:

1. Chameleon Industries, INC	Polymer for Water Plant.	\$33,125.05
2. City of Beaumont – Central Collections	Regional radio maintenance.	\$19,674.91
3. Newgen Strategies & Solutions	Utility rate consultant services.	\$8,097.50
4. PVS DX, INC	CL2 and SO2 for Waste Water Plant.	\$12,861.60
5. Wathen, DeShong & Juncker, L.L.P.	3 rd payment for City Auditor.	\$9,650.00

Councilmember Konidis made a motion to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$83,409.06 and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. Councilmember Konidis asked if the radios were for the maintenance cost and City Manager Kevin Carruth stated it is. There were no further questions. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne then asked for Councilmember Comments. Mayor Borne congratulated Mrs. McDonald for receiving Mother of the Year and also thanked the Chamber for taking care of all that.



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



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk

