

GROVETON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the City Council of the City of Groveton, Texas met in a Regular Session Meeting on Monday February 26, 2018 to discuss the following:

Council Members in Attendance:

Councilman Stephen Casper

Councilman Tommy Walton

Councilman Joe Don Kennedy

Mayor Pro-Tem Ralph Bennett

Councilman Robert Smith

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Mayor Byron Richards. The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were given.

APPROVE MINUTES: A motion was made by Councilman Casper to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting January 22, 2018 as presented. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Walton. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

PUBLIC FORUM: No Citizens present for the Public Forum.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Police Chief John Raiford presented to Council the Annual Racial Profiling Report Tier One. This report was reviewed by Council and submitted. The total stops of motor vehicles for the year were three hundred eighty nine (389). He also presented the citation report and the schedule for March 2018 for the Police Department. Police Chief Raiford informed Council that he has been searching for a Animal Control Vehicle. The used ones with 50,000-60,000 miles with several boxes for the animals run about \$4,500-5,300.00. The City's 1998 Animal Control truck has had several major repairs. He will continue searching for one.

STREET & BRIDGES: A written report was submitted to Council to review of the street maintenance performed throughout the City.

WATER & SEWER: Mike Brown with Inframark presented to Council the monthly report and invoicing for the water and sewer operations. He stated that there were no excursions for the month at the sewer plant. The total purchased water was 1,513,000 and total gallons from the well was 1,626,000. The flushing amount for the month was 250,000. There were several extra invoicing for the water and sewer plant. At the sewer plant a general repair at the lift station pumps #1 and #2. The water plant had a problem with the booster pumps which made the EST overflowing. A motion was made by Councilman Walton to approve the invoicing of \$13,063.37 for Inframark. A second

to the motion was heard from Councilman Bennett. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

NEW BUSINESS: Justin Meyer with Arx Advantage which is a comprehensive real estate development consulting firm was present for the meeting. They will be submitting an application to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs for the Groveton Senior Apartments located at 1110 E. First Street in the City of Groveton for rehabilitation. Groveton Elderly Housing, L.P. is requesting a waiver of development permit fees in the amount of \$250.00 for the Groveton Senior Apartments development as a commitment of development funding from the City of Groveton. A motion was made by Councilman Casper to approve the Resolution 022618 of support for the application for the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs for the Groveton Senior Apartments rehabilitation. A second to the motion was made by Councilman Walton. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

The next item on the agenda, was a presentation by Piney Woods Sanitation, Inc. Mike Wilson, the General Manager presented a solid waste collection and disposal pricing proposal for the City of Groveton to review and consider. It is a private owned Company by the Weber Family. The Company has grown to serve 17 counties and 7 municipalities surrounding Huntington. The company now serves over 36,000 customers each week and operates a fleet of 40 collection and service vehicles each day. The garbage service is not automated, but each truck has a person on the back of the truck that picks up the cart and dumps it into the vehicle. They have all sizes of dumpsters and provide a 90-96 gallon cart to each customer. Piney Woods Sanitation does provide bulk pick up for the customer.

There were several questions addressed to Mr. Wilson from the City's accountant Jack Paschetag. In the contract it was stated, if a customer is missed it could take up to 48 hours to be picked up. Also there were no roll off service rates presented. Mr. Wilson informed Mr. Paschetag all of these items could be addressed and resolved. The modification of rates, the rates may be adjusted to reflex the annual change in the Consumer Price Index for the region and this is a once yearly process. It was suggested by Mr. Wilson to check their references of other customers and see many have not had a price increase in years.

On the agenda the next item was Mrs. Liz Holcombe to address Council regarding her water bill. She stated that her water bill was very high and showed a usage of 40,000 gallons for one month. Mrs. Holcombe stated that she had no leaks and always check the toilet before she leaves the building. Mayor Richards suggested that could have been a commode running over the weekend. The water meter has been read recently and it was back down to her normal usage. Mayor Richards stated that the City of Groveton offers a payment plan for customers that have a high water bill. The City will contact her to make these arrangements.

The final matter was Mr. Paschetag updating Council on the finances of the City. He stated that the General Fund was pretty much on track with 2017-2018 Budget. The year to date revenue was up on property tax \$10,566 due to the increase on this item. The Police Department fines were down about 20% and the monthly sales tax was slightly down.

The Utility Fund compared to last year sales was down 3.45% or 9,554.00. The expenses for this fund were up 5.46% or \$13,835 compared to same time last year resulting in a negative change of \$23,390.69. There was an increase of chemicals purchased for the water plant. This will be checked with Mike Brown.

Mr. Paschetag presented water well expense vs TRA expenses analysis for the period of October 2016- September 2017 for Council to review. He informed Council that we do not know what TRA will be doing and the City's contract with TRA ends in 2020. The best solution will be to dig another well. Mayor Richards stated that we have submitted an application to TWDB and we are 24th on the list for forgiveness funds. There will be a meeting with TRA and the other five entities to see what each one plans on doing in the future.

Mayor Richards informed Council that Wade Ray has a well on the Old Avery Property that he uses occasionally. Mayor Richards will be visiting with him on this matter and see if it will help the City for another well. Another suggestion was to see if the other neighboring entities could provide a hook up for water if needed.

It was suggested by Councilman Kennedy to form a committee to address the water situation. They could get numbers together on the funding of another new water well, location and the contract with Trinity River Authority. A motion was made by Councilman Walton to approve to form a committee of Mayor Richards, Mayor Pro-Tem Bennett, Councilman Kennedy, and Jack Paschetag to address the water situation. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Bennett. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

Mr. Paschetag suggested that the City get bids when possible for a job that need to be done at the water or sewer plant.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Mayor Richards informed Council that the Highway 94 Water Improvement Project was underway.

ADJOURN: With there being no further business on the agenda, a motion was made by Councilman Casper to adjourn the meeting. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Kennedy. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council. Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Byron Richards, Mayor

ATTEST:

Donna Dial
City Secretary

