

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 May 21, 2018 to discuss the following:

Council Members in Attendance:

Councilman Stephen Casper

Mayor Pro-Tem Ralph Bennett

Councilman Tommy Walton

Councilman Robert Smith

Council Members Not in Attendance: Councilman Joe Don Kennedy

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

OATH OF OFFICE: Judge Angelia Evans administered the Oath of Office to the new elected Council Members. The elected Council Members were Ralph Bennett and Stephen Casper. Councilman Joe Don Kennedy was not present for the meeting. They will serve a two year term in office.

APPROVE MINUTES: A motion was made by Councilman Casper to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting April 23, 2018 as presented. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Walton. Motion carried with 4 ayes and 0 nays from Council. A motion was made by Councilman Casper to approve the minutes for the Special Called Meeting May 10, 2018 as presented. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Walton. Motion carried with 4 ayes and 0 nays from Council. A motion was made by Councilman Casper to approve the minutes for the Special Called Meeting May 14, 2018 as presented. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Walton. Motion carried with 4 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

PUBLIC FORUM: No Citizens present for the Public Forum.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Police Chief John Raiford informed Council fifty three (53) citations were written thru the month of April 2018 and also twenty three (23) calls for service were received. He stated that things are calming down. The Police Department are making arrest for no insurance and no driving license in the City. Police Chief Raiford informed Council that an Animal Control Truck has been purchased. It is a 2005 Ford Truck with aluminum boxes to transport animals It was purchased for \$5,900 and has less than 100,000 miles. A motion was made by Councilman Bennett to approve the purchase of the 2005 Ford Animal Control Truck in the amount of 5,900.00. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Casper. Motion carried with 4 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

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 there was one excursion for the month at the sewer plant. We had exceeded our average monthly flow. The total purchased water was 1,413,000 and total gallons from the water well was 1,614,000. The flushing amount for the month was 259,000. He stated that CSI Inspections were \$65.00 a flat fee. Mr. Brown stated that one of the booster pumps at the water plant was being repaired by EFS. A motion was made by Councilman Walton to approve the invoicing of \$4,500.00 for Inframark. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Smith. Motion carried with 4 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

NEW BUSINESS: Connie Due was present for the meeting regarding her water bill at her Apartments and RV Park. She stated her April usage was 83,200 gallons. The water meter was re-read, tested twice and showed to be registering correctly. Mrs Due informed Council that she had checked all the faucets and commodes for leaks and found none. If she has any outside faucets it was suggested to put locks on them. Mayor Richards informed Mrs. Due to keep a log of the readings and see if anything has changed week to week. The water reading has been read recently and it was back down to her normal usage. Mayor Richards stated the City of Groveton offers a payment plan for customers that have a high water bill.

Next on the agenda was Mr. Paschetag to discuss several item with Council. First he stated was the water source project for the City of Groveton. He had attended meetings with Pennington, Woodlake, and Centerville Water Supply. Woodlake could not supply, Centerville did not have enough capacity, Pennington has capacity for 50,000 gallons a day, but the cost and terms of a contract needs to be identified. Mr. Paschetag stated that he and Mayor Richards had attended a meeting with Trinity River Authority. This meeting was with all the entities that have a contract with TRA that expires in 2020.

He informed Council currently the members are billed on the basis of purchased water forecast by each member. The O & M is based on the forecasted percentage of purchase and is modified each year according to their records. Mr. Sims with TRA does not want to try to forecast future O & M cost.

Trinity River Authority wants to know which member want to continue buying water from TRA within the next three months. If the members want to continue a series of meetings will take place, whereas percentages of O & M cost by member will be determined, whether the member buys water or not. If a member does not buy the water, he will have to pay anyway for the availability of water.

The TRA attorney was present and is going to modify the contract with the proposed changes in sharing O & M expenses for the member's billing.

Also shared with the entities the original contract was executed on June 25, 1980 which amortized the debt service for forty years. On September 17, 1982 USDA Farmers Home Administration notifies TRA that the maturity schedule is forty three years not forty years. In 2020 the debt service for the City of Groveton will increase to \$1,366.21 a month. This was TRA mistake and the attorney says we have no choice, but pay it.

Members attending the meeting were informed if members did not continue with TRA, TRA would lock the doors and shut the plant down. Also they will have no use for their distribution lines to each member.

Mr. Paschetag put a call to Jay Savanich, General Manager of Trinity Rural Water who also attended the meeting. He informed Mr. Paschetag they are interested in pursuing a project where as members could buy water from TRW and they service off of a surface water treatment facility. He stated they could easily connect to the main trunk line that services all of the TRA members. Mr. Savanich would like to meet with the entities, after the TRA attorney provides their new contract.

Mr. Paschetag also addressed Council on the application submitted to TWDB for the construction of a new water well by the Engineering Co. KSA. He stated that he just received the application and is reviewing the application. The total cost of the project is \$2,195,000. Council received the estimated cost on this project for the categories of the engineering, construction and land acquisition.

It was suggested by several Council Members for Jack Paschetag to continue on these projects with Mayor Richards. They would like to pursue the new water well and to negotiate several other water sources for the City of Groveton to consider. Mayor Richards stated the TCEQ will need to be involved on questions for any water connections with other entities.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Richards informed Council that Entergy submitted a Statement of Intent and Application for approval to change rates. Council needs to approve an Ordinance to declining to approve the change in rates. This will need to be done by June 19, 2018, so a Special Called Meeting will be on Monday June 4, 2018 at 6:00pm to consider this item.

Also the City has received old material from TXDOT to use for street repairs. Mayor Richards stated he purchased a new material for pot holes and seems to be working well.

With there being no further business on the agenda, a motion was made by Councilman Walton to adjourn the meeting. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Casper. Motion carried with 4 ayes and 0 nays from Council. Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Byron Richards, Mayor

ATTEST:

Donna Dial
City Secretary