

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 July 23, 2018 to discuss the following:

Council Members in Attendance:

Councilman Stephen Casper
Mayor Pro-Tem Ralph Bennett
Councilman Tommy Walton
Councilman Joe Don Kennedy
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 Walton to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting June 25, 2018 as presented. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Casper. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

PUBLIC FORUM: Donald Thornton informed Council that a local person Carson Ray had won the 2018 World Champion High School Boys Cutter. He stated that this person should be recognized for this accomplishment.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Police Chief John Raiford was not present at the meeting due to attending Police Chief Classes for the week.

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 no excursion at the sewer plant for the month. The total purchased water was \$1,844,000 and total gallons from the water well was \$1,153,000. There were several extra work orders. One was for the Consumer Confidence Report required by TCEQ to the customers yearly. The others were a sewer system problem and two water leaks that were repaired. Mr. Brown will be requesting a bid from South Texas Utility to repair the manhole on MLK. A motion was made by Councilman Kennedy to approve the invoicing of \$6,651.96 for Inframark. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Bennett. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

NEW BUSINESS: Nathan Galloway with the Groveton Volunteer Fire Department was present for the meeting with several other members. He presented a proposal for

the financing for the City of Groveton and Trinity County on a purchase of a new Ferrara Pumper Fire Truck. Mr. Galloway informed Council the main line engine is down and it is fifteen (15) years old. The bid presented for a new truck was \$450,000.00 with 10 Annual Payments of \$55,315.33 and a fixed interest rate of 3.94%. This payment amount would be split between Trinity County and City of Groveton. The question was asked if they had applied for grants. Mr. Galloway informed Council that grants were hard to get and they were going down. They have several members that are not certified with the NIMS Program.

Mr. Shaine Reeder, the territory manager apparatus with Lone Star Emergency Group was present for the meeting too. There were several questions addressed to him on this fire truck and he informed Council on the foam procedure. It was stated after September 17, 2018 the price for the truck will be going up.

Council informed them this would be funded through the General Fund. The revenue for the General Fund is sales tax which has not increased and also the property taxes for the City. It was stated this proposal for the new fire truck will be considered and reviewed. The City of Groveton will soon be working on their budget too.

Mayor Richards informed Council the employee's health insurance was up for renewal. The total year increase will be \$2,007.36 for the renewal with Blue Cross Blue Shield. A motion was made by Councilman Bennett to approve the renewal of Blue Cross, Blue Shield for the employee's medical insurance. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Casper. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

The next item on the agenda was to consider a Resolution for the Transportation Alternative Set-Aside Project. The Mayor is authorized to enter into an Advance Funding Agreement (AFA) with TxDOT for this project. A motion was made by Councilman Walton to approve the Resolution Authorizing Execution of an Advance Funding Agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation for a Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Project. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Kennedy. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

Jack Paschetag, the City's Accountant addressed Council on several items. He stated they had met with Danny Hayes, KSA Engineer and he informed them the connection with Pennington Water Supply would be a wholesale water connection. Mr. Paschetag stated the City would like to get funding to set this up through TWDB Loan/Grant Funds. The City has not heard from Trinity River Authority on the new contract or what their plans are for the future.

The City has submitted an application to TWDB for a loan and grant for the amount of \$2,195,000 to add a second water well. The City of Groveton is ranked number 26 overall and is ranked number 12 amongst the entities designated as disadvantages communities. The total project cost times the Disadvantage % identifies the amount of principle forgiveness that an entity can receive, but is limited to \$4,000,000 with one exception. Some communities based on the Household Cost Factor can receive up to \$5,280,000. In Mr. Paschetag's conclusion that in either case, the City should be eligible for funding.

The next subject Mr. Paschetag reviewed was a grant the City of Groveton will submit for street improvements. We will need an administrator and engineering for the completion of this project through the TXCDBG Project. The street savings bank account may have \$200,000 by the time the project starts, if the City of Groveton receives this grant. Mr. Paschetag informed Council that the selected street contractor for this project will have the knowledge and expertise to extend the construction of streets without incurring an engineer and administrator cost. He will like to suggest at the appropriated time, the contractor be given the opportunity to bid on street construction that are not defined in the TXCDBG Project. The City will not have the additional cost of the engineer and administrator.

The final item was approval of transferring funds from the Utility Fund to General Fund to be deposited into the Street Maintenance Fund. This is paying the debt back to General Fund from the Utility Fund. A motion was made by Councilman Casper to approve the transfer of funds from Utility Fund to General Fund to be deposited into the Street Maintenance Fund. Each month the excessive funds will be transferred leaving a balance of \$20,000 in the Utility Fund Water Savings account until the debt is paid in full. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Walton. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

ADJOURN: 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 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council. Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Byron Richards, Mayor

ATTEST:

**Donna Dial
City Secretary**