

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 24, 2017 to discuss the following:

Council Members in Attendance: Councilman Tommy Walton
Councilman Joe Don Kennedy
Mayor Pro-Tem Ralph Bennett
Councilman Robert Smith
Councilman Stephen Casper

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 Bennett to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting June 26, 2017 as presented. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Casper. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

PUBLIC FORUM: No Citizens present for Public Forum.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Police Chief John Raiford submitted the citation and the call for service report to Council. He stated that forty three (43) citations were issued during the month of June 2017 and forty (40) calls for service. The Police Department has been doing security checks at the school, the road-side park and cemetery. Charlie Murray the part time officer has resigned. Police Chief Raiford stated that he is talking to a new applicant for this position.

The National Night Out is scheduled for Tuesday October 3, 2017 and is to start at 7:00pm. Chief Raiford informed Council that he is planning on having bouncy houses and to do a raffle on three (3) build a bear that were donated to the Police Department. Mayor Richards addressed the issue on the arrest of a person with no driver's license, no liability insurance and the towing of the vehicle. Chief Raiford stated that he would pass this information to his officers.

It was requested that the Police Dept. change their schedule ever so often for patrol through-out the city.

STREET & BRIDGES: A written report was submitted to Council to review of the street maintenance performed throughout the City. Mayor Richards stated that two (2) of the maintenance employees are working extra hours for mowing and weed eating.

WATER & SEWER: Mike Brown with STE 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 1,123,000 and total gallons from the well was 1,302,000. The flushing amount for the month was

216,500. Mr. Brown stated that the extra invoicing was for a sewer system investigation and meeting with the contractor on the water system. He stated that the City will be back with TRA purchasing water starting Tuesday July 25, 2017 along with our water well. Mr. Brown stated the STE North America has been bought out. Severn Trent Services has agreed to sell the North America business operation to a group led by our current U.S. management team and backed by U. S. Investors. They will continue to use the current name Severn Trent and conducting business as usual, but they plan to develop and launch a new name by the end of the year.

A motion was made by Councilman Walton to approve the invoicing of \$7,157.90 for Severn Trent Services. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Casper. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

NEW BUSINESS: The first item on new business was consider and take action on the renewal of medical insurance for the city employees. Mayor Richards presented the Blue Cross, Blue Shield renewal and it has increased. He stated that Mr. Paschetag has prepared an analogy of savings to the City and cost for employees. There was discussion with Council and Mr. Paschetag stated the three (3) different plans presented would save the City for the employee's health care. A motion was made by Councilman Kennedy to approve the Blue Cross, Blue Shield PPO Plan G622CHC for the city employee's medical insurance in the amount of \$875.40 per month. This would annually save the City 2,244.96 for the six employees. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Casper. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

The next issue was discussion on zoning on Highway 287. Mayor Richards stated that Councilman Kennedy was interested on this subject. Councilman Kennedy stated that Council needed to consider zoning for Highway 287. We have campers or RVS of all sorts parked on Highway 287 and we need to consider what we will allow on the Main Highway and also through-out the City. David Robison stated the city has a lot of dilapidated houses and junky trailer through-out the City. This will keep the property taxes down. Every establishment should have a foundation.

Mayor Richards stated that this matter zoning will be researched and be considered at the next regular meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Mayor Richards stated one item on unfinished business was for consideration with Council. He stated that he had contacted the City of George West regarding this Mobilitie Co. He informed Council that they put their equipment up without the approval of City Council from George West. Also the City of Huntington has not applied for the permit with Mobilitie. A motion was made by Councilman Walton not to approve this rights-of-way agreement with Mobilitie, LLC. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Bennett. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Richards informed Council that the City is at the end of the Water Project at Hickory Ridge.

They are starting to work on a street paving program. They will be getting bids from contractors to pave several of the streets in the City. Mayor Richards will meet with the commissions of Trinity County to ask for help with material for the streets.

The Trinity County Groveton Airport project is moving forward with KSA Engineers. Highway 94 Water Project is starting to move forward.

Mayor Richards informed Council that the old generator from the water plant will be inspected on the circuit board and the engine is still good. If it can be fixed it will be placed at the sewer plant for the aerators.

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 Kennedy. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council. Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

Byron Richards, Mayor

ATTEST:

**Donna Dial
City Secretary**