

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 August 27, 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.

NEW BUSINESS: Mayor Richards informed Council of the Proclamation that needed approval. Carson Ray and his family were present for this event. The 16 year old High School Junior was recognized and praised for his achievement for the title of world champion in the cutting division. Carson wanted to thank everyone that made this possible for him. A motion was made by Councilman Walton to approve the Proclamation (The Making of a Champion) Carson Ray's achievement. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Casper. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

APPROVE MINUTES: A motion was made by Councilman Casper to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting July 23, 2018 as presented. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Kennedy. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council. A motion was made by Councilman Casper to approve the minutes for Special Called Budget Meeting August 20, 2018 as presented. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Kennedy. Motion carried with 5 ayes and nays from Council.

PUBLIC FORUM: No citizens were present for the meeting.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Police Chief Raiford informed Council of the National Night Out on October 2, 2018. This will be the City's Seventh National Night Out. It will take place at the Groveton Fire Department and baked potatoes will be served. He informed Council the new police car was donated by the Hines for the reserves to use when patrolling. Chief Raiford is having a schedule made for the reserves two people a week for calls and citations. He also introduced the two new reserves for hiring. Andre Hines has worked 24 years in the Houston Metro and Kimberley Hines has 27 years in Law Enforcement. A motion was made by Councilman Casper to approve the hiring of the two new reserves, Andre Hines and Kimberley Hines. A

second to the motion was heard from Councilman Bennett. Motion carried with 5 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 no excursion at the sewer plant for the month. The total purchased water was 1,760,000 and total gallons from the water well was 1,238,000. There were several extra work orders for replacing, checking meters for high usage and CSI inspections. Mr. Brown informed Council on the bid he received from South Texas Utility Co. on repairing the manhole on MLK. The cost will be \$1,500.00. A motion was made by Councilman Kennedy to approve the invoicing of \$6,665.22 for Inframark. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Casper. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

NEW BUSINESS: Debbie Wilson the Animal Control Officer for the City of Groveton was present to address Council on a spayed and neutered program. She stated the name of the Organization was Trinity County Pet Fixers and funds are needed for this program. In 2017 the program in Lufkin, Texas was discontinued. This program would drop the population of cats and dogs in the City and also the County. She is requesting a donation of \$1,000 for this program from the City and she will be attending the County's Budget Meeting to make a request there too. A Mobile Unit comes once a month to Trinity, Texas for the spaying and neutering. Mrs. Wilson stated that several large cities are making it mandatory for spaying and neutering of their animals. A motion was made by Councilman Bennett to approve the donation of \$1,000 for the spaying and neutering program for the City of Groveton. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Smith. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

Mayor Richards informed Council on the Resolution on the agenda. A motion was made by Councilman Bennett to approve the Resolution of the 2018 Tax Roll as Certified to City Council by Gary Gallant, Chief Appraiser for the Trinity County Appraisal District. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Casper. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

There were five items on the agenda for GEDC. First was to approve the board of directors. A motion was made by Councilman Casper to approve the action of the Board electing Gordon Bergman, Benny McClain and James Alford for two years terms as Directors for the period from October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2020-GEDC. A second to the motion was made by Councilman Smith. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

The second was the electing of the officers. A motion was made by Councilman Casper to approve the action of the Board electing the officers for the period October 1, 2018 to

September 30, 2019-GEDC. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Smith. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

A motion was made by Councilman Casper to approve the action of the Board electing Susie Hammond, Joe Don Kennedy, Rita Danford and Charlotte Y'Barbo for one year terms as advisory directors-GEDC. A second to the motion was made by Councilman Smith. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

Next on the agenda to consider were the Budgets for GEDC 4-A and 4-B. A motion was made by Councilman Kennedy to approve the proposed budgets for the fiscal year 2018-2019 for Committees 4-A and 4-B GEDC. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Walton. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

The last item for GEDC was a second reading on a Grant to Jillian's Dance Studio and Deli Counter. A motion was made by Councilman Bennett to approve the 4-B Grant for Jillian's Dance Studio and Deli Counter for the amount of \$12,500 GEDC. This is the second reading. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Casper. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

The City of Groveton property tax rate for 2018 was up for consideration. A motion was made by Councilman Casper to approve this year's effective tax rate of 0.959700/\$100 for 2018. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Walton. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

The next item was the 2018-2019 Proposed Budget for the City of Groveton. Jack Paschetag stated he would include the \$1,000 spayed and neutered program in the Budget. Also the merit award was split half in the General Fund and half in the Utility Fund. The total amount of the new Budget was \$1,332,820.56. A motion was made by Councilman Walton to approve the 2018-2019 Budget for the City of Groveton as presented. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Casper. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

Mayor Richards stated the City charges \$300.00 on water and sewer taps. It was recommended the City consider increasing this charge. A motion was made by Councilman Kennedy to approve to increase the water or sewer tap to \$500.00 each and this will go in effect 10-1-18. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Casper. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Richards informed Council he met with TXDOT employees on the sidewalk project. They walked the square, reviewed notes, and discussed the different areas of the sidewalks. This project will precede into the design phase.

At the Trinity County Groveton Airport, the street maintenance crew has mowed and cleaned out drainage ditches. Mayor Richards stated it was looking good.

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

Byron Richards, Mayor

ATTEST:

**Donna Dial
City Secretary**