

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 September 25, 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 Walton to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting August 28, 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 was not present for the meeting due to a family matter. A citation and arrest, call for service, crash and incident reports were presented to Council to review. Officer Shane Sandifer informed Council that he would be resigning from the City of Groveton Police Department as of September 30, 2017. He has accepted a position at the City of Crockett Police Department.

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

WATER & SEWER: Allen Jenkins 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 1,849,000 and total gallons from the well was 967,000. The flushing amount for the month was 168,500. The extra invoicing was for the removal of the generator for repair and general repair of the sewer treatment plant, water in the system. Also there was assistant on the installation of a tap on Second Street. The largest invoicing was the relocation of the generator to City Hall from the Elevated Storage Tank and reconnecting the generator to City Hall. A motion was made by Councilman Casper to approve the invoicing of \$15,367.28 for Severn Trent Services. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Bennett. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

NEW BUSINESS: Danny Hayes with KSA Engineering was present for the meeting to inform Council on the application submitted to TXDOT Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program for the Downtown Sidewalks. He stated that the application has been revised and resubmitted. A new resolution will need to be approved by City Council for this project. The total cost of the project is \$923,224 and the City's match is \$111,437.00. A motion was made by Councilman Walton to approve the Resolution to certify local funding and support of the City of Groveton Downtown Sidewalk Improvements to the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program for Funding Competition in the Texas Transportation 2017 Program Call for Projects. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Kennedy. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

The next item on the agenda was the discussion and action on zoning. Mayor Richards informed Council that he was not able to communicate with Robert Flournoy to be present to discuss with Council on this matter. It will be tabled until the next meeting.

Mayor Richards informed Council that four Resolutions were to be considered for the fiscal year 2017-2018. The first was to adopt Groveton Newspaper as the official newspaper for the City of Groveton. A motion was made by Councilman Bennett to approve to adopt Groveton Newspaper as the Official Newspaper for 2017-2018. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Casper. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

The next item was to adopt the Citizens State Bank as the official bank depository. A motion was made by Councilman Bennett to approve to adopt Citizens State Bank as the Official Bank Depository for 2017-2018. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Casper. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

The third item was the tax rate. Mayor Richards stated that last year's tax rate was 0.925700 per \$100.00 valuation. A motion was made by Councilman Bennett to approve to adopt the tax rate of 0.966200 per \$100.00 valuation for the fiscal year 2017-2018. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Casper. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

Mayor Richards stated that the final Resolution to consider was to adopt the Budget for 2017-2018. A motion was made by Councilman Kennedy to approve to adopt the Budget for 1,324,442 for the fiscal year 2017-2018. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Walton. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Richards informed Council that he received a letter from Entergy regarding the approval of an advanced metering system. This notice was included in last month Entergy electric bills.

STE has informed Mayor Richards that the 80KW Diesel generator for the sewer plant could be repaired for a cost of \$3,000.00. This generator will run the aerators.

Council was presented a letter from Legislative regarding three big issues for municipal court. The first was the court cost and fines, then texting while driving, and last the court security.

Mayor Richards informed Mr. David Robison that Council had approved \$1,000.00 a month for the ambulance service in the City of Groveton. This was placed in the Budget for the fiscal year 2017-2018.

An article was placed in the Groveton Newspaper for a reminder regarding the Ordinances that the City had adopted on new construction and remodeling of existing structures to comply with the building codes, permits, and applications. Mayor Richards stated that the Police Chief will be checking on these constructions.

Mayor Richards stated the he is checking on prices for a tractor and shredder for the City's street maintenance department. This information will be presented at the next regular Council Meeting.

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 7:05pm.

Byron Richards, Mayor

ATTEST:

**Donna Dial
City Secretary**