

## 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 October 23, 2017 to discuss the following:

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

**Council Member not in Attendance:**  
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 September 25, 2017 as presented. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Bennett. Motion carried with 4 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** No Citizens present for Public Forum.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:** Police Chief John Raiford informed Council that the National Night Out was very successful. It was held at the Groveton Fire Dept. due to the weather and had a turn-out of 150 people. The Groveton Fire Dept. was really helpful on serving the food.

The citation and arrest, call service, crash reports were submitted for Council to review. Next Police Chief Raiford introduced Richard Steptoe with Council's approval to be hired to fill the full time officer's position. Mr. Steptoe stated that he had worked for Trinity County for fifteen (15) years, then Montgomery County, State of Texas, and is presently employed by Stephen F. Austin University Police Department. He informed Council that he lives in Pennington and plans on staying there. A motion was made by Councilman Walton to approve to hire Richard Steptoe for the position of the full time officer for the Groveton Police Department. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Bennett. 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:** 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 1,401,000 and total gallons from the well was 1,421,000. The flushing amount for the month was

251,000. The extra invoicing was for the calibration of the flow meter at the sewer plant. This is an annual procedure.

Mr. Jenkins stated that STE could offer a different contract for the City of Groveton's services. The basic service contract would have the operator check the water and sewer facilities each day and if the City had any work orders for the operator to do this would be overtime. The basic service for the City now is \$5,700.00 monthly and could be reduced to 4,500.00 a month. This could save the City of Groveton on their monthly fees to STE. Mr. Jenkins will get with Severn Trent Service office and get a quote for the City of Groveton for the next regular meeting.

Jack Paschetag had several questions regarding their billing and a work order on a Saturday. This water was to be turned on and the City was charged for drive time on this work order, but STE was already here to check the plants that Saturday. Mr. Paschetag questioned that the City should be charged only for the turn on fee. Mr. Jenkins stated that he would review the work order for that Saturday and credit if needed.

A motion was made by Councilman Walton to approve the invoicing of \$6,215.81 for Severn Trent Services. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Kennedy. Motion carried with 4 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Mr. Flournoy, the City's Attorney was present for the meeting. He was invited to inform Council on zoning in cities. He stated that he had forty years of experience with the City of Lufkin. It has its place and he recommended it if there is growth in the City. Mr. Flournoy stated that you have to have a master plan, very expensive and takes a lot of time. Zoning also has a lot of restrictions on the residents. The City of Lufkin has zoning, but the City of Houston does not have zoning. There were several questions addressed to Mr. Flournoy.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Richards stated the Trinity County Groveton Airport was submitting the final approval on the construction. This would start in February 2018.

He informed Council that the airport has been mowed. He also stated that he has someone that will mow it and bale it for hay for the cost of mowing. This will take place next year.

The Downtown Sidewalk Project has not been approved yet.

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 Smith. Motion carried with 4 ayes and 0 nays from Council. Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.

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Byron Richards, Mayor

ATTEST:

Donna Dial  
City Secretary

