

## 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 September 28, 2020 to discuss the following:

**Council Members in Attendance:**

Councilman Tommy Walton  
Mayor Pro-Tem Ralph Bennett  
Councilman Stephen Casper  
Councilman Joe Don Kennedy  
Councilman Robert Smith

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm 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 Council Meeting August 24, 2020 as presented. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Kennedy. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** No citizens present for the public forum.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:** Mayor Richards informed Council Police Chief John Raiford was exposed to COVID 19 and is in quarantine. He is going to get tested for the virus on Tuesday September 29, 2020. Mayor Richards introduced the part time officer for the City of Groveton. Justin Cowart stated he has lived in Groveton for three years and has worked with Trinity County Sheriff's office for eight months. He is happy working part time for the City of Groveton.

**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 were no excursions at the sewer plant for the month of August 2020. The total water purchased from TRA for August 2020 was 1,340,000 gallons, total water pumped was 2,112,000 gallons and flushed amount was 52,000 gallons. Mr. Brown stated the invoicing was for a lot of leaks to repair and a problem at the water plant with a relay going out on the chlorine system. This was fixed and is working good now. A motion was made by Councilman Bennett to approve the invoice as presented in the amount of \$9,680.23. A

second to the motion was heard from Councilman Casper. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Jerrod Johnson was present for the meeting to discuss the water bill at 329 Bubba Anderson Road. He stated they have had water leaks amounting to \$1,200-\$1,500 before, but not one for 370,000 gallons owing \$4,341. The water line runs from the meter for about a mile to the house off the FM Road. The plumber had to go through roots of a tree and reroute the water line to fix the leak. It was suggested for the customer to check the meter so often. Mayor Richards stated the city has no City policy to adjust water bills on this situation and he was sorry this has happened.

The next item on the agenda was the property of David Robison. Mr. Robison stated he had ordered a three yard dumpster Monday AM and should be delivered in two days. Mayor Richards informed Mr. Robison now it is September 2020 and no progress has been made on the cleanup of this property at 210 W. Second. A public hearing was held in August 2019 and the Council had given him until December 2019 to clean up the property from the burnt building and debris. This has not been done. Mr. Robison stated he requested Mayor Richards put the information in a letter of what he exactly wanted done. Mayor Richards stated he wanted the property cleaned up.

Mayor Richards recommended the City of Groveton suspend the monthly donation to the Groveton EMS until the property is completely cleaned up. The City of Groveton has no contract with Groveton EMS on this service. A motion was made Councilman Kennedy to suspend the monthly donation to the Groveton EMS until the property is completely cleaned up. The second to the motion was heard from Councilman Walton. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

Mr. Robison informed the Mayor and Council they have just taken away from Groveton EMS and the citizens of the City of Groveton. He will be suing the City of Groveton and each Council Person that approved this in violation of a Penal Code.

The third item on new business was the TRA Contract renewal. Mayor Richards informed Council that only two entities have executed their contracts with TRA. He thought these were the City of Trinity and Westwood Shores.

Mayor Richards had visited with KSA today and the Pennington Water Supply interconnection has been approved by TCEQ. Hopefully it will be put out for bids and start with the contractor sometime in October 2020.

Mayor Richards informed Council that four Resolutions were to be considered for the fiscal year 2020-2021. The first was to adopt Trinity County New-Standard as the official newspaper for the City of Groveton. A motion was made by Councilman Casper to approve to adopt Trinity County News-Standard as the Official Newspaper for the fiscal year 2020-2021. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Bennett. 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 Casper to approve to adopt Citizens State Bank as the Official Bank Depository for 2020-2021. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Bennett. 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 0.959700 per \$100.00 valuation. A motion was made by Councilman Casper to approve to adopt the tax rate of 0.934100 per \$100.00 valuation for the fiscal year 2020-2021. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Bennett. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

Mayor Richards stated the final Resolution to consider was to adopt the Budget for 2020-2021. A motion was made by Councilman Casper to approve to adopt the Budget for \$1,386,260 for the fiscal year 2020-2021. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Bennett. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

Councilman Casper would like the water bill problem handled differently. We have a City policy for a payment plan if the customer meets the requirement and we should offer this policy. Customers come to the Council Meeting expecting Council to do an adjustment to the water bill.

Jack Paschetag informed Council the Water and Sewer Revenue was short for twelve month in the amount \$40,000.00. We may get refunded from TWDB for the Pennington Water Supply Interconnection, but there has been no answer yet.

**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 Smith. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays from Council. Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.

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Byron Richards, Mayor

ATTEST:

Donna Dial  
City Secretary