

## **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 October 26, 2020 to discuss the following:

**Council Members in Attendance:**

**Councilman Tommy Walton**

**Councilman Stephen Casper**

**Councilman Joe Don Kennedy**

**Councilman Robert Smith**

**Council Members Not in Attendance:**

**Mayor Pro-Tem Ralph Bennett**

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 Casper to approve the minutes for the Regular Council Meeting September 28, 2020 as presented. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Walton. Motion carried with 4 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Mayor Richards addressed the citizens present if they wanted to speak regarding the Groveton EMS. There were a total of six people requesting to speak on behalf of the Ambulance service for the City of Groveton. Janet Langley, Stanley Reinch, Ronnie Allbright, Elizabeth Sethman, Julie Smith and Joe Bordner. All of these people expressed their situations where EMS had responded and received their services or even worked by their side on a call. They all praised the Groveton EMS services and the City of Groveton needs their service here.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:** Police Chief Raiford informed Council of the schedule he submitted for the police officers. They have received a lot of calls. Councilman Kennedy questioned Chief Raiford on the status of letter begin delivered to the owner of the old blue building located on Highway 287. He stated the owner has moved to Canada. He will be following up with Jason Due at the Citizens State Bank on getting information.

**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 September 2020. The total water purchased from TRA for September 2020 was 2,037,000 gallons, total water pumped was 1,347,000 gallons and flushed amount was 34,000 gallons. Mr. Brown stated the extra invoicing was for a problem at the water plant with a low psi with the digital pressure switch had no power. The repair was completed on this. A motion was made by Councilman Walton to approve the invoice as presented in the amount of \$6,939.55. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Kennedy. Motion carried with 4 ayes and 0 nays from Council.

Jack Paschetag stated for Council's information the City's water loss went from 45% to 8%.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Mayor Richards stated that George Valicek requested to be placed on the agenda regarding a new water connection outside the City. Mr. Valicek was not present for the meeting.

Councilman Casper addressed the audience and Council on the Groveton EMS Service for the City of Groveton. He stated he knows the Ambulance Service is very important for the City's citizens and would like the community to work together to get this resolved in an adult matter. The City has a budget and it has been set for 2020-2021 and finances are tight. The new proposed contract that Mayor and Council received earlier states an increase for the donation to the Groveton EMS from \$1,000.00 to 3,000.00 for five (5) years. He suggested to have an election and let the citizens vote to put the charge on their water bill with the City.

David Robison informed Council he had a new proposed contract for Council to review and consider to protect the City and citizens. This contract stated the monthly subsidy is for \$2,000.00 for seven (7) years. Mr. Robison would like the City to come an agreement today with the Groveton EMS Service. He stated without an agreement with the City, he would have to have another income starting November 1, 2020.

Councilman Walton stated the City asked at the last meeting for him to clean up the property that was burnt on Second Street. It was due to be cleaned by December 26, 2019. We are starting in the center of the town and are working with all the properties that need to be cleaned.

Jack Paschetag asked Mr. Robison about the property next to the City Hall with all the stuff. He stated that was his wife's property.

Mayor Richards stated Mr. Robison told him he would clean up the property when all the other people clean their properties.

Councilman Kennedy stated the City was working with other citizens to clean up their properties in the City, not just his property. On the contract he suggested Groveton EMS Services submit a financial report to the City of Groveton too, before Council consider the contract. There was some discussion on this matter. Councilman Kennedy would like Jack Paschetag, the City's accountant to review the financial report too.

**A motion was made by Councilman Casper to review the new contract that was presented to Council at the meeting and when the financial report is submitted, a Special Called Meeting if needed will be held to discuss and take action on the Groveton EMS contract within thirty (30) days. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Kennedy. Motion carried with 4 ayes and 0 nays from Council.**

**Also it was discussed to reinstate Groveton EMS Service's donation from the City of Groveton in the amount of \$1,000.00 that was suspended in September 2020. A motion was made by Councilman Walton to approve to reinstate the donation to Groveton EMS Services in the amount of \$1,000.00. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Kennedy. Motion carried with 4 ayes and 0 nays from Council.**

**Danny Hays with KSA Engineering was present at the meeting for the awarding the bid to the Contractor for the Pennington Water Supply Interconnection. Mr. Hays stated quotes were solicited from three (3) qualified contractors, two of which responded. Terry Black Construction provided the lowest quote for the base bid items at a total price of \$42,351.00. Mr. Hays informed Council that the City could place a metering vault for Groveton which would be 800 feet from the PWS Metering Vault. It is not a require item and the additional cost would be \$10,050.00 to install this meter. The City will always have access to the Pennington meter and can read the meter as desired. Mr. Hays stated he has not heard from Texas Water Development Board on reimbursing the City on this PWS Interconnection. He also stated they are waiting on feedback from the Texas Parks & Wildlife and the Corps of Engineers. It was suggested to contact Kevin Brady and Trent Ashby to see if they could get involved in this project for the City.**

**A motion was made by Councilman Kennedy to award the bid to Terry Black Construction for the Water Interconnection to Pennington Water Supply Co. in the amount of \$42,351.00. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Casper. Motion carried with 4 ayes and 0 nays from Council.**

**Mr. Hays informed Council the construction would take thirty (30) to forty five (45) days to complete the work.**

**Mayor Richards informed Council that the City needed to replace someone on the Groveton Housing Authority Board. Councilman Bennett was working on getting someone to fill this position.**

**The last item was the summary of the year end finances from Jack Paschetag, the City's accountant. Mr. Paschetag presented a report of cash flow projection for 2020-2021. There were several items with a change, the allocation of Crystal's salary expense from allocating 100% to Utility Fund to 50% a savings to the Utility Fund of \$21,261. Also the City will no longer buy surface water from TRA starting January 2021, thereby saving the cost of chemicals at the water treatment plant of \$5,642.71. In the 2020-2021 Budget Year cash used for capital expenditures of \$73,236.00 will be available for the year.**

**At the sewer plant ponds excess inventory expense and chemicals will be available for 2020-2021 in the amount of \$9,260.00.**

**The net gain of water purchases will be \$46,464 resulting in a savings of \$112,496.00 from TRA and water purchases from Pennington Water Supply of \$66,000.00.**

**A savings of \$3,615.00 will be for the 2020-2021 Budget Year because of no bad debt write offs.**

**The Capital Expenditures for long term debt will increase by \$65,000.**

**The 2020-2021 cash flow will improve by \$91,014 over the 2019-2020 fiscal year even though the Utility Fund will have a deficit of \$28, 850.**

**In the fiscal year 2021-2022 the cash flow will improve by \$104,311 over the 2020-2021 fiscal year with a net gain of \$75,460. This is the result of not buying water from TRA and by reducing the purchase of water from Pennington Water Supply due the new water well coming on line in March of 2022.**

**Mr. Paschetag stated by KSA Engineers not doing their job on the new water well project from TWDB it will cost the City \$54,000 more.**

**Mr. Paschetag informed Council to review the September Financial Report they received in their package.**

**Councilman Walton suggested the City check on the State Policy Chapter 343 for cleaning up the City in place of our Ordinance. He stated the County follows this policy and the City could adopt this same policy. Mayor Richards informed Council Councilman Kennedy had given them an Environmental Management Division Complaint Form and a letter to send on a public nuisance as defined by the Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 343 which is used by the County.**

**With being no further business on the agenda, a motion was made by Councilman Casper to adjourn the meeting. A second to the motion was heard from Councilman Walton. Motion carried with 4 ayes and 0 nays from Council. Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.**

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**Byron Richards, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

**Donna Dial  
City Secretary**

