

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – December 14, 2020

The City Council of the City of La Grange met in Regular Session on Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020, in the City Hall Council Chambers at 155 E. Colorado St. with the following members present: Mayor Janet Moerbe, Mayor Pro tem John J. Cernosek, Councilmember Bonnie Busch, Councilmember Quenten Gonzalez, Councilmember Pat Janca, Councilmember Ken Taylor, Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn and Councilmember Violet Zbranek. Councilmember Jan Dockery was absent. Staff present: City Manager Shawn Raborn, Chief of Police David Gilbreath, and City Secretary Janet Bayer. Visitors: Tom Hudson and Pastor Candy O'Meara.

Mayor Moerbe called the meeting to order. Next were pledges to the US and Texas Flags. Pastor Marcia Kifer with Shared Lutheran Ministries gave the invocation.

### CONSENT AGENDA

Discuss and or Consider approval of November minutes.

A **Motion** was made by Councilmember Weishuhn, **Second** Councilmember Taylor to approve the Consent Agenda item as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

### REGULAR AGENDA

Discuss 2021 City Officer's Election Calendar. The 2021 Calendar presented gave dates and deadlines for applying for a place on the general election ballot for Mayor and 4 City Council positions. This calendar was informational and required no vote.

Discuss and or Consider Resolutions (1) to enable TexGas III to issue the Bonds, (2) to ratify and confirm the obligations of the City under the Cooperative Contract, the Purchase Contracts, the Flex Contracts, the Resale Contract, and a gas logistics agency agreement, and (3) to authorize the execution and delivery by the City of an Acknowledgment and estoppel certificate to confirm the current status of the Resale Contract. Staff requested council approval of a number of resolutions allowing for TexGas III to issue refunding Gas Supply Revenue Bonds. The same conditions that allowed for the city to see significant debt service savings are also available to TexGas III. TexGas III will be redeeming the Series 2012 Bonds and then issue the Series 2021 Bonds. **Motion** Councilmember Zbranek, **Second** Councilmember Taylor to approve the resolution to enable TexGas III (1) to enable TexGas III to issue the Bonds, (2) to ratify and confirm the obligations of the City under the Cooperative Contract, the Purchase Contracts, the Flex Contracts, the Resale Contract, and a gas logistics agency agreement, and (3) to authorize the execution and delivery by the City of an Acknowledgment and estoppel certificate to confirm the current status of the Resale Contract. Motion carried 7-0.

Discuss and or Consider a Resolution of the City Council of the City of La Grange, Texas, approving an agreement to contribute right of way funds (fixed price) with the State of Texas, acting through the Texas Department of Transportation, for right of way due to improvements on Highway No. BS 71E at Jackson Street; and making this Resolution a part of the agreement. Staff requested council approval of an agreement with TxDOT to contribute the 10% local match required for the acquisition of right of way needed to make signal improvements at BS 71E at Jackson Street. The local match for this project is \$600. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2022. **Motion** Councilmember Janca, **Second** Councilmember Taylor to approve the Resolution of the City Council of the City of La Grange, Texas, approving an agreement to contribute right of way funds (fixed price) with the State of Texas, acting through the Texas Department of Transportation, for right of way due to improvements on Highway No. BS 71E at Jackson Street; and making this Resolution a part of the agreement. Motion carried 7-0.

Discuss and or Consider a Resolution of the City Council of the City of La Grange, Texas, approving an agreement to contribute right of way funds (fixed price) with the State of Texas, acting through the Texas Department of Transportation, for right of way due to improvements on Highway No. US 77 at BS 71-E; and making this Resolution a part of the agreement. Staff requested council approval of an agreement with TxDOT to contribute the 10% local match required for the acquisition of right of way needed to make signal improvements and add a right turn lane on US 77 at BS 71. The local match for this project is \$3,500. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2022. It was stated that the main acquisition is the PharmHouse Drug corner with the other corners being “shaved” back. Under petitions, Tom Hudson with Subway addressed his concerns with the Council on this agreement. He stated his business would lose 1-5 parking spots and an entrance to his business. He stated that other local businesses stood to lose quite a bit of their property with this agreement, but none were present at the meeting. City Manager Raborn stated that TxDOT was at 60% with their proposed plans for this intersection right now. This conversation with TxDOT has been in the making for 10+ years now. The Mayor stated that we don’t want to encourage trucks in our downtown area, but need to make this intersection safer for our citizens. The City of La Grange cannot prohibit trucks from coming into our downtown area. **Motion** Mayor Pro tem Cernosek, **Second** Councilmember Weishuhn to approve the Resolution of the City Council of the City of La Grange, Texas, approving an agreement to contribute right of way funds (fixed price) with the State of Texas, acting through the Texas Department of Transportation, for right of way due to improvements on Highway No. US 77 at BS 71-E; and making this Resolution a part of the agreement. Motion carried 7-0.

#### TOURISM GRANTS

Next was a report on the earlier discussion and consideration of Allocation of Tourism Funds. The Tourism Grant Committee reviewed and considered four (4) requests for funding under the Tourism Grant Program. The following applicants were recommended for funding – Bugle Boy Foundation \$10,000 for operating support, Best Little Cowboy Gathering \$10,000 for advertising 11<sup>th</sup> annual Best Little Cowboy Gathering in Texas, Texas Quilt Museum \$2,800 for exclusive online marketing, and Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center \$3,000 for advertising 1<sup>st</sup> time Texas Blacksmith Conference & Texas Antique Gas Engine Reunion. **Motion** Councilmember Weishuhn, **Second** Councilmember Zbranek to approve funding the four (4) applicants under the Tourism Grant Program. Motion carried 7-0.

#### City Council Committee Reports

No reports.

#### Chief of Police Update

Chief of Police Gilbreath stated they received just under 400 calls in November. There were 30 calls for animal control in November which is a slow month. There were 19 wrecks; 136 for the year. Thefts have gone up which is usual during this time of the year. LGPD bought and replaced their rifle scopes. There were four (4) LGPD officers out with COVID-19 at various times in November. Chief Gilbreath also reported there were no glitches with Schmeckenfest this year; attendance was visibly down.

#### City Manager Update

City Manager Raborn stated that sales tax was up almost 18% believed to be because of early Christmas shopping. Sewer averaging started in December. The City encourages its citizens to be conservative with water usage during this time. We anticipate the street contractor to be back in February of 2021. The contractor will do some temporary fixes and still has work to do on Eblin Street to smooth out the rough areas.

Council did not go into Executive Session as the agenda had shown.

At 6:45 PM a **Motion** was made by Councilmember Zbranek, with a **Second** by Councilmember Taylor that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

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Janet Bayer, City Secretary  
These Minutes Approved by City Council on:

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Janet Moerbe, Mayor