

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – January 11, 2021

The City Council of the City of La Grange met in Regular Session on Monday, January 11th, 2021, 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 Jan Dockery, Councilmember Quenten Gonzalez, Councilmember Pat Janca, Councilmember Ken Taylor, Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn and Councilmember Violet Zbranek. Staff present: City Manager Shawn Raborn, Chief of Police David Gilbreath, and City Secretary Janet Bayer. Visitors: John Hill and Pastor Candy O’Meara.

Mayor Moerbe called the meeting to order. Next were pledges to the US and Texas Flags. Pastor Candy O’Meara with St. Paul Lutheran Church gave the invocation.

CONSENT AGENDA

Discuss and or Consider approval of December minutes.

A **Motion** was made by Councilmember Janca, **Second** Councilmember Taylor to approve the Consent Agenda item as presented. Motion carried 8-0.

REGULAR AGENDA

Discuss and or Consider awarding the management/administrative services contract for the preparation of the City of La Grange’s 2021-2022 Texas Community Development Block Grant Program’s (TxCDBG) Community Development Fund Application and subsequent contract administration if application is funded. This year as part of the grant application process, the City of La Grange has to select the grant administrator prior to the submission of the TxCDBG Community Development Fund Application. The request for administrative services were due on Tuesday, January 5th, and only one (1) proposal was received from Langford Community Management Services. Staff requested council authorization to enter into an agreement with Lanford Community Management Services to administer the TxCDBG Fund Application and subsequent contract administration if the application is selected for funding. The grant application is due May 7, 2021. The City of La Grange has utilized the services of Langford for the past twenty plus (20+) years on Community Development, GLO, HOME and Texas Capital Funds projects and have been very satisfied with the services provided. **Motion** Councilmember Weishuhn, **Second** Councilmember Zbranek to award the management/administrative services contract for the preparation of the City of La Grange’s 2021-2022 Texas Community Development Block Grant Program’s (TxCDBG) Community Development Fund Application and subsequent contract administration if application is funded to Langford Community Management Services. Motion carried 8-0.

Discuss and or Consider an Ordinance authorizing and allowing, under the act governing the Texas Municipal Retirement System, Restricted Prior Service Credit to employees who are members of the system for service previously performed for various other public entities for which they have not received credited service; and establishing an effective date for the Ordinance. Restricted Prior Service Credit is used to satisfy length of service requirements for “vesting” and service retirement eligibility; it has no monetary value. The benefit of authorizing Restricted Prior Service Credit is to the employees of the City of La Grange who previously worked for a non-TMRS public entity in satisfying length of service requirements for “vesting”. The benefit to the City of La Grange is it helps in the recruiting process for hiring new staff that may be coming from another public entity. Several surrounding cities in and around Fayette County have honored this credit for a decade or more. **Motion** Councilmember Taylor, **Second** Councilmember Janca to approve this Ordinance on First Reading. A roll call vote was taken: Councilmember Busch for, Mayor Pro tem Cernosek for, Councilmember Dockery for, Councilmember

Gonzalez for, Councilmember Janca for, Councilmember Taylor for, Councilmember Weishuhn for, Councilmember Zbrank for. Motion carried 8-0.

City Council Committee Reports

Mayor Pro tem Cernosek stated the Library Board met on January 5th. They approved renewals of three (3) board members which will be presented to Council in the next few weeks.

Chief of Police Update

Chief of Police Gilbreath stated the month of December was very active; lots of calls. There were 44 calls for animal control in December. Chief Gilbreath said January is off to a bad start as there have already been 11 vehicle burglaries as of January 11th. The first batch of burglaries was in the Lynnwood addition and the second batch has been in hotel parking lots. In all of 2020, there were 17 vehicle burglaries.

City Manager Update

City Manager Raborn stated sales tax is up 10%. Electric usage was down a little bit, but with the cold weather we're having, next month we will see some change. Water usage was up in December which is a little unusual for that time of year. The City of La Grange had two (2) major leaks this morning (January 11th) – a break at Cottonwood Inn and another near Tejas Clinic. Both leaks have been isolated. Under active projects: engineering and easement acquisition is continuing in regards to both the wastewater line extension west of town and the wastewater line construction to serve the new La Grange Springs Development located at the corner of Hwy 77 N and FM 2145. The traffic signal replacements at Travis and Main and at Jefferson and Colorado Streets has been approved by TxDOT. The City is hoping to work up a design and the cost process for a Columbarium in the City Cemetery adjacent to the cemetery gazebo. Both the Fayette Public Library and the Randolph Recreation Center are working on summer programs and are “planning as usual, pre-Covid”. The new street sweeper is arriving this Thursday and will go into operation after training on the new equipment. The City of La Grange will need to do lots of tree trimming in the near future – both for the taller street sweeper clearance and for school buses which have been having issues with low-lying branches. The next bulk pick up is set for Saturday, January 23rd. MS150 is a one-day event this year to be held on May 1st with cyclists either starting here in La Grange and ending at Kyle Field or starting in Houston and ending at Kyle Field.

At 6:30 PM as pursuant to (1.) Section (551.073) Deliberation Regarding Prospective Gift, Discuss and or Consider donation of real property; **and** (2.) Section (551.072) Real Property, Discuss and or Consider the sale and/or conveyance of City owned real property, council went into Closed Executive Session.

At 7:00 PM Council went into Open Session. No action was needed.

At 7:02 PM a **Motion** was made by Councilmember Janca, with a **Second** by Councilmember Zbrank that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

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

Janet Moerbe, Mayor

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – January 25, 2021

The City Council of the City of La Grange met in Regular Session on Monday, January 25th, 2021, 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 Jan Dockery, Councilmember Quenten Gonzalez, Councilmember Pat Janca, Councilmember Ken Taylor, Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn and Councilmember Violet Zbranek. Staff present: City Manager Shawn Raborn, Chief of Police David Gilbreath, and City Secretary Janet Bayer. Visitors: Mark Kimball, Father Brian Phillips, and Dr. Mike Mabry.

Mayor Moerbe called the meeting to order. Next were pledges to the US and Texas Flags. Father Brian Phillips with Sacred Heart Catholic Church gave the invocation.

CONSENT AGENDA

Discuss and or Consider on Second Reading an Ordinance authorizing and allowing, under the act governing the Texas Municipal Retirement System, Restricted Prior Service Credit to employees who are members of the system for service previously performed for various other public entities for which they have not received credited service; and establishing an effective date for the Ordinance.

Discuss and or Consider Re-appointments to Fayette Public Library Museum Archives Advisory Board. Re-appointments for a three (3) year term are: Jeff Kelly, Neale Rabensburg, and Arlene Zapalac.

A **Motion** was made by Councilmember Zbranek, **Second** Councilmember Taylor to approve the Consent Agenda item(s) as presented. Motion carried 8-0.

REGULAR AGENDA

The first item was a presentation by Mark Kimball, President and CEO of St. Mark's Medical Center. Mr. Kimball spoke about his past work experience and areas served. The goal for St. Mark's Medical Center is more access to healthcare closer to home. The main problem for St. Mark's, according to Mr. Kimball, is "leakage". People are going elsewhere for medical care. His solution is to reintroduce St. Mark's and its services, such as emergency, surgical, and inpatient acute care, by getting more involved in the community – media, government, schools, Chamber of Commerce events, etc.

The next item was to Discuss and or Consider revisiting the creation of a railroad Quiet Zone. The city reviewed the process back in 2014 and after a number of public hearings and working with Union Pacific and BEFCO Engineering, it was decided to hold off on proceeding with the implementation. City Manager Raborn spoke with Tim Saunders with BEFCO Engineering to review the current process of establishing a Quiet Zone today versus the process in 2014. Additional requirements have been added which have made the process harder and more costly. The latest requirement states the city must engage an outside consulting firm that will represent Union Pacific in the evaluation process and pay for the consulting firm. The consulting fees are up to \$20,000 and this fee is in addition to the cost that the city would have to incur on behalf of Union Pacific for any identified improvements. From the Federal Railroad Administration, "Train horns may be sounded in emergency situations or to comply with other railroad or FRA rules even within a quiet zone. Quiet zone regulations also do not eliminate the use of locomotive bells at crossings. Therefore, a more appropriate description of a designated quiet zone would be a 'reduced train horn area'". A concern for the Mayor was the question of liability in the event of an accident. Quiet zones have to be reapplied for every two (2) years to comply with safety guidelines. What makes the City of La Grange unique to other cities that have implemented Quiet Zones is that every single crossing in the city would be affected, not just some as in other cities. **Motion** Councilmember Gonzalez, **Second** Councilmember Janca to table the creation of a railroad Quiet Zone. Motion carried 8-0.

The final item was a preliminary report on the Charter Review Process. The General Services Committee began reviewing the City Charter in March of 2020 and is in the process of finalizing the proposed changes to recommend to council. A current draft of the proposed charter amendments was reviewed. Once council finalizes the propositions and election language, The Bojorquez Law Firm will assist in preparing a simple document explaining the amendments in plain English. This document will be placed online, in the paper, and used as talking points at future council meetings for the voting public to review in advance. The plan is for the council to order the Charter election at the February 8th meeting in order to meet the statutory deadline. Requirements are to publish a copy of the amendments at least 14 days prior to the May 1, 2021, election for two (2) successive weeks. Staff is planning to publish the notice on April 12th and April 19th.

City Council Committee Reports

None

Chief of Police Update

Chief of Police Gilbreath stated he is working on his End of Year Report as well as his Racial Profiling Report to present to council next month.

City Manager Update

Bulk pick-up on Saturday, January 23rd, went very well. Lots of furniture and appliance items were out across town. Fayette Public Library is looking to re-open and expand their hours effective February 2nd. Days and times will be posted. Wifi hot spots through the library are in and will be available to check out next week. The new street sweeper is in operation. Contractors with the City of La Grange have begun tree trimming throughout La Grange. In the next several weeks, the City of La Grange will begin re-striping parking spaces in the downtown Square area weather permitting.

At 6:48 PM as pursuant to (1.) Section (551.073) Deliberation Regarding Prospective Gift, Discuss and or Consider donation of real property; **and** (2.) Section (551.072) Real Property, Discuss and or Consider the sale and/or conveyance of City owned real property, council went into Closed Executive Session.

At 7:07 PM Council went into Open Session. No action was taken.

At 7:08 PM a **Motion** was made by Councilmember Janca, with a **Second** by Councilmember Weishuhn that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

Janet Bayer, City Secretary

These Minutes Approved by City Council on:

Janet Moerbe, Mayor