

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – March 11, 2019

The City Council of the City of La Grange met in Regular Session on Monday, March 11, 2019 in the City Hall Council Chambers at 155 E. Colorado St. with the following members present: Mayor Janet Moerbe, Councilmember Bonnie Busch, Mayor Pro tem John J. Cernosek, Councilman John Eilert, Councilman Pat Janca, Councilman Ken Taylor, Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn and Councilmember Violet Zbranek. Staff present: City Manager Shawn Raborn, Chief David Gilbreath, and City Secretary Lisa Oltmann. Visitors: Rev. Matthew Kinney, Sarah Mabry, Dusty Littrell, Janae Littrell, Tom Hudson, Richard Chernosky, Mike Mabry DVM, Ralph Rosenberg, Buster Hill, Harvey E. Busch, Shirley Hudson, Mary Ann Powell, Marilyn Descours, Ken Dernehl, Neale Rabensburg, and others.

Mayor Moerbe called the meeting to order. Rev. Matthew Kinney of Sacred Heart Catholic Church gave the invocation.

Under petitions Ken Dernehl, Janet Moerbe, and Sarah Mabry addressed the council.

CONSENT AGENDA

Discuss and or consider approval of February 2019 minutes.

A motion was made by Councilman Janca and seconded by Councilmember Weishuhn to approve the Consent Agenda Item as presented. Motion passed.

REGULAR AGENDA

The first item was a report on Library Activities, Projects and Accomplishments. Library Director Allison Shimek updated the council on various items at the library & museum. It was noted that the library is one of fifteen (15) U.S. libraries selected to participate in “Small Libraries Create Smart Spaces” project. They are partnering with the Community & Economic Development Department as well as several local businesses for the Career Cruising Program which is for middle school & high school individuals. This program is designed to show individuals what jobs are available locally. The first two programs also included information on how to complete a job application as well as how to prepare for a job interview. There will be two additional programs in June. There have been over 7,000 issues of historic local newspapers uploaded to the Portal to Texas History. The museum also has an on-line catalog. Last year the Summer Reading Program had over 400 registered children & teens and had 17 community events. This year the staff intends to add new events to the program, one of which is the Dinosaur George Traveling Museum.

The next item was to discuss and or consider preliminary approval of replat request at 425 E. Milam owned by R & M Enterprises LLC (Rusty & Marilyn Freedman). A request was received from R & M Enterprises LLC to subdivide the property into two separate lots located at 425 E. Milam Street. Lot 1 would be approximately 85’ wide X 157’ deep. Lot 2 would be approximately 84’ wide X 157’ deep with both driveways exiting on Milam Street. Both lots meet the minimum size requirements required by the City of La Grange Ordinances. There were 25 letters sent to property owners within a 200’ radius of this

address asking if the owners are in favor of or opposed to the subdivision request. There were thirteen (13) letters returned in favor of granting this request, one (1) letter that was opposed to granting this request, and eleven (11) letters not returned. **Motion** Mayor Pro tem Cernosek, **Second** Councilman Taylor to approve the request. Motion carried.

The next item was to discuss and or consider approval of request from Tejas Health Care for a Temporary Special Use Permit at 753 E. Travis. A request was received from Tejas Health Care for a Temporary Special Use Permit to continue to have two 14' X 70' manufactured homes/buildings at 753 E. Travis St. until December 31, 2019. Tejas Health Care has purchased a new location at 890 E. Travis and is currently remodeling the building and will no longer require the manufactured homes/buildings after December 31, 2019. There is a Temporary Special Use Permit for the manufactured homes/buildings that expires April 30, 2019. There were 18 letters sent to property owners within a 200' radius of this address asking if the owners are in favor of or opposed to the Temporary Special use Permit request. There were nine (9) letters returned in favor of granting this request, one (1) letter that was opposed to granting this request, and eight (8) letters not returned. **Motion** Councilman Eilert, **Second** Councilman Taylor to approve this request. Motion carried.

The next item was to discuss and or consider applications received to fill the vacant Council position in Ward 3 until the May 4th Special Election. There were 4 letters received from individuals interested in the vacant Ward 3 Council position. The following residents of Ward 3 submitted letters of interest in the vacant council position by the March 7th deadline: Jessie A. "Buster" Hill III, Calvin Kuehn, Jan Dockery, and Dustin J. Littrell. Mayor Moerbe expressed her thanks for all those who had submitted letters.

Tourism Committee

Mayor Pro tem Cernosek reported on the Tourism Grant Committee meeting. The committee reviewed three applications for funding. The requests were from the Fayette County Fair Association in the amount of \$10,000, Texas Czech Heritage & Cultural Center in the amount of \$4,500 for the Slavnost/May Fest Celebration, and La Grange Roadrunners Square Dancers in the amount of \$1,500. The committee recommends that the requests be funded as follows, Fayette County Fair Association-\$10,000, Texas Czech Heritage & Cultural Center-\$3,500, and La Grange Roadrunners Square Dancers-\$1,500. **Motion** Mayor Pro tem Cernosek, **Second** Councilman Janca that the requests be funded as recommended. Motion carried.

City Council Committee Reports

The Library Board met recently and Mayor pro tem Cernosek noted that they are doing a great job at the library/museum/archives.

Chief of Police Update

Mitchell Maxwell, a La Grange High School Graduate, graduated from the Police Academy on Thursday and he was the Salutatorian of this Class. He has been sworn in and is now a full-time officer of the department. The SRO position has also been filled. The drug take back program is being well utilized, last month there were over sixty (60) pounds of opioids

taken off the street. The prior month there were over eighty (80) pounds destroyed. This week Thursday there will be a mandatory de-escalation training class for all officers in the department and county.

City Manager Update

This past Friday was the last day to file a bill for the current state legislative session. There were 7000 bills filed which is the highest since 2009. The new play scape at the Randolph Recreation Center has been completed and is open. The splash pad will be operational as weather allows. H & C Construction is in town working on the streets. The contractor is in town and working on the asbestos removal from the building which will be removed on S. Reynolds Street. The Trihalomethane letter was included in the utility bill this month because even though we met the requirements last month of being below the 80 parts per billion, with one being 57 parts per billion and one being 54 parts per billion, it is a four quarter rolling average. The next sampling is this week. Utility usage is flat. Sales Tax was up 11%.

At 6:26 PM as pursuant to Section 551.074 Personnel Matters, review applications received to fill the vacant Council position in Ward 3 until the May 4th Special Election council went into Closed Executive Session.

At 6:48 PM Council went into Open Session. **Motion** by Councilman Eilert, with a **Second** by Councilmember Weishuhn that we accept the appointment of Calvin Kuehn to fill the unexpired term of Mrs. Bradley based on his twenty something years of experience and plus he is the only one who is not intending to run in the Special Election and so we feel that it would not give anybody an unfair advantage, let the people choose the people that they want to serve for them. A roll call vote had been requested and was performed: Councilmember Busch-for, Mayor Pro tem Cernosek-for, Councilman Eilert-for, Councilman Janca-for, Councilman Taylor-for, Councilmember Weishuhn-for, and Councilmember Zbranek-for. Motion passed 7-0. Mr. Kuehn will be sworn in on the 25th and will serve until the newly elected councilmember will be sworn in at the end of May. Mayor Moerbe encouraged all those who had turned in letters of interest to please run for office.

At 6:51 PM a **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Zbranek, with a **SECOND** by Councilman Taylor that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

Lisa Oltmann, City Secretary
These Minutes Approved by City Council on:

Janet Moerbe, Mayor

The City Council of the City of La Grange met in Regular Session on Monday, March 25, 2019 in the City Hall Council Chambers at 155 E. Colorado St. with the following members present: Mayor Janet Moerbe, Councilmember Bonnie Busch, Mayor Pro tem John J. Cernosek, Councilman John Eilert, Councilman Calvin Kuehn, Councilman Ken Taylor, Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn and Councilmember Violet Zbranek. Councilman Pat Janca was absent. Staff present: City Manager Shawn Raborn, Chief David Gilbreath, and City Secretary Lisa Oltmann. Visitors: Dusty Littrell, Sarah Mabry, Mike Mabry, Buster Hill, Tom Hudson, Sarah Barksdale, Marilyn Descours, Leonard Leffler, Jan Dockery, Neale Rabensburg, Candy O'Meara and others.

Mayor Moerbe called the meeting to order. Pastor Dennis Hill of The Remnant Church gave the invocation.

Under petitions Sarah Mabry, and Tom Hudson addressed the council.

CONSENT AGENDA

REGULAR AGENDA

The first item was to swear in Calvin Kuehn as Council Member Ward 3. The ceremonial oath of office was administered by Mayor Moerbe.

The next item was a Public Hearing on the City of La Grange Curfew Ordinance. Texas Local Government Code Sec 370.002 requires the governing body of a home-rule municipality to review a juvenile curfew ordinance at least every three years; and to conduct a public hearing to review the juvenile curfew ordinance's effects on the community and on the problems the juvenile curfew ordinance was intended to remedy. The Public Hearing was opened at 6:13 p.m. Chief Gilbreath noted that last year the department used the curfew ordinance 9 times. They use it to help guide individuals. Members of the audience also participated in the Public Hearing by asking information of Chief Gilbreath relating to the use of the ordinance. The Public Hearing was closed at 6:17 p.m.

The next item was to discuss and or consider adoption of the current City of La Grange Curfew Ordinance. **MOTION** Councilmember Weishuhn, **SECOND** Councilmember Busch to extend the ordinance for another three years. Motion carried.

The next item was to discuss and consider approval of A Resolution Of The City Council Of La Grange, Texas, Authorizing The Submission Of A Community Development & Revitalization Hurricane Harvey Housing Application to the General Land Office; And Authorizing The Mayor And/Or City Manager to Act As The City's Executive Officer And Authorized Representative In All Matters Pertaining to The City's Participation In The Community Development & Revitalization Program. In January, the council approved a resolution to submit a CDBG-DR application for infrastructure funding. Staff is now requesting council to approve a resolution that will also allow for the submission of an

application for CDBG-DR funds for housing activities. The GLO CDBG-DR housing funds will be used as the local match requirement in the TDEM Buyout/Acquisition program grant that we submitted back in October of 2018. Staff is actively working on finalizing the CDBG-DR infrastructure application and are planning to submit by the end of April. Staff is requesting council approval of a resolution authorizing the submission of CDBG-DR application to the GLO for housing funding. **MOTION** Councilman Taylor, **SECOND** Mayor Pro tem Cernosek to approve the resolution. Motion carried.

The next item was to discuss and or consider appointment of Presiding Judge, Alternate Judge, EVBB Presiding Judge and EVBB Alternate Judge and setting the salary as relates to the City Officers Elections to be held on May 4, 2019. Terri Hefner, the County Elections Administrator has contacted Eufemia Galindo, Denise Speckels, Gale Mersiovsky and Audrey Huenefeld to inquire if they would be willing to be the Presiding Judge, Alternate Judge, the EVBB Judge, and the EVBB Alternate Judge of the City Officers Elections to be held on May 4, 2019. If approved, Ms. Galindo would be the Presiding Judge, Ms. Speckels would be the alternate Judge, Ms. Mersiovsky would be the EVBB Judge, and Audrey Huenefeld would be the EVBB Alternate Judge. It is recommended that the Presiding Judge receive \$15.00 per hour and all other workers receive \$10.00 per hour. **MOTION** Councilmember Zbranek, **SECOND** Councilman Taylor to approve the appointments and salary. Motion carried.

Chief of Police Update

There were over 300 calls for the department in February. There were 14 accidents, 59 animal control complaints, 22 business escorts, 52 business checks, 5 assaults, 17 alarms, 16 disturbances, 13 general complaints, 21 suspicious activities, and 4 welfare concerns.

City Manager Update

Kim Perkins with Rio Texas had been scheduled for tonight's meeting but had a change of schedule. This will try to be rescheduled for a later date.

LCRA's Steps Forward program will be one week from this Friday. Work will include having painting done at White Rock Park.

Spring Cleanup is the week of April 8th, bulk pickup and the "Shred It" event will be on April 13th.

Mowing was done at the fair grounds in preparation for the MS150. Tents are already set up by St. Mark's for the event and they are starting to be set up at the fair grounds.

The street paving project has finished with the 2nd course on the north side of town today and the 100 block of E. Crockett St., should be finished by the school on Tuesday morning.

Bids are being accepted at this time for the sewer line project (the main trunk line going down Lower Line St.).

The water line on Jackson Street which was damaged during the railroad project is being repaired. H&C is scheduled to complete the street repair right after the water line is repaired.

The Poor Farm Building has been torn down, finishing with the pad site at this time.

The Street Sweeper will not be sweeping the streets which have just been paved for 4-5 weeks. This is so the sweeper will not pick up the fresh rock which has just been placed.

At 6:31 PM a **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Weishuhn, with a **SECOND** by Councilman Taylor that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

Lisa Oltmann, City Secretary

These Minutes Approved by City Council on:

Janet Moerbe, Mayor