

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – March 9, 2020

The City Council of the City of La Grange met in Regular Session on Monday, March 9, 2020, in the City Hall Council Chambers at 155 E. Colorado St. with the following members present: Mayor Pro tem John J. Cernosek, Councilmember Bonnie Busch, Councilmember Jan Dockery, Councilman John Eilert, Councilman Pat Janca, Councilman Ken Taylor, Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn, and Councilmember Violet Zbranek. Mayor Janet Moerbe was absent. Staff present: City Manager Shawn Raborn, Chief of Police David Gilbreath, and City Secretary Janet Bayer. Visitors: Tom Hudson, Pastor Andy Smith, and guest(s).

Mayor Pro tem John Cernosek called the meeting to order. Next were pledges to the US and Texas Flags. Pastor Andy Smith of First United Methodist Church gave the invocation.

CONSENT AGENDA

Discuss and or Consider February minutes.

A **Motion** was made by Councilman Janca, **Second** Councilmember Zbranek to approve the Consent Agenda Item upon the correction for February 24, 2020, under regular agenda from State Highway 77 Bypass to say State Highway 71 Bypass. Motion carried 7-0.

REGULAR AGENDA

Discuss and or Consider award of street seal coating and reclaiming bid. Bids for the City of La Grange Street Reclaiming Project were received and opened at the office of the Assistant City Manager Tuesday, March 3rd, at 10:00 a.m. Three contractors responded with a bid. The City of La Grange is requesting contractors to furnish all labor, materials, and equipment to reclaim an estimated 150,833 sf of paved streets. Wagner Materials and Construction of San Antonio, Texas, was the low bid with \$1.30/sf. Several cities and engineering firms that were listed as references were called with two (2) responding that there were no issues or problems with their work. Wagner Materials' list of previous jobs and projects indicated that they had knowledge and experience to satisfactorily complete the city's street reclaiming project. It is Gary Skalka's, with the Purchasing Department, recommendation that the City award the Street Reclaiming Bid to Wagner Materials and Construction. **Motion** Councilman Taylor, **Second** Councilman Janca to approve Wagner Materials and Construction for the City of La Grange Street Reclaiming Project. Motion carried 7-0.

Discuss and or Consider approval of the Order of Cancellation for the General Election. *Discutir y/o considerar la aprobacion del Orden De Cancelacion*). The City of La Grange, Texas hereby cancels the election scheduled to be held on May 2, 2020, in accordance with Section 2.053(a) of the Texas Election Code. The following candidates have been certified as unopposed and are hereby elected as follows. *(El Ciudad de La Grange por la presente cancela la eleccion que, de lo contrario, se hubiera celebrado el 2 de mayo de 2020 de conformidad, con la Seccion 2.053(a) del Codigo de Elecciones de Texas. Los siguientes candidatos han sido certificados como candidatos unicos y por la presente quedan elegidos como se haya indicado a continuacion)*. Kathy Weishuhn – Councilmember Ward 1 (*Consejal Distrito 1*); Violet “Patsy” Zbranek – Councilmember Ward 2 (*Consejal Distrito 2*); Jan Dockery – Councilmember Ward 3 (*Consejal Distrito 3*); Quenten Gonzalez – Councilmember Ward 4 (*Consejal Distrito 4*). **Motion** Councilman Eilert, **Second** Councilmember Weishuhn to approve the Order of Cancellation for the General Election. Motion carried 7-0. **INSERT #1**

Discuss and or Consider request from CenterPoint Energy Entex on proposed gas rate increase. The City of La Grange has received a request from CenterPoint Energy Entex to increase the current base residential rate. Entex is proposing to increase the base residential gas rate by \$1.55 per month effective May 4, 2020. Entex is framing the issue as a gas reliability infrastructure program (“GRIP”) adjustment and not as a rate increase. The end result is that the customer bill will increase from the current rate of \$21.04 to \$22.59. The City has the opportunity to suspend the rate increase for 45 days and staff will bring back for formal action at the April 13th City Council meeting.

Discuss and or Consider blocking off the square for Movie Nights on the Square. The Advisory Board of La Grange Main Street is requesting permission for the closing of the following parking section, the inner parking area by the north entrance of the courthouse which will be utilized for the movie screen and equipment, to accommodate Movie Nights on the Square for the following dates – Friday, June 5th; Friday, June 19th; and Friday, July 10th, for the safety of the public. La Grange Main Street would like to begin blocking off the proposed street(s) at 5:00 p.m. for each Movie Night evening. **Motion** Councilmember Zbranek, **Second** Councilmember Dockery to approve blocking off the square for Movie Nights on the Square for three (3) above listed Friday’s during the summer. Motion carried 7-0.

Discuss and or Consider Appointments to the Fayette Public Library Museum Archives Advisory Board. The Fayette Library Museum Archives Board of Directors is composed of nine (9) members who are appointed by the City Council. The Board serves as an advisor to the library staff in the operation and maintenance of the library. Current members of the Board are: Elva Keilers, Arlene Zapalac, Sally Garrett, Jeff Kelly, Neale Rabensburg, Kathy Carter, Nicole Ramirez, Brianne Bernsen, and Greg Walker. The Library Board recommends that the following members whose terms expired on December 31, 2019, be re-appointed for a three-year term. Sally Garrett, Elva Keilers, and Nicole Ramirez. Board Chair, Elva Keilers, has resigned from her position but still wishes to serve on the board. An election for a new Chair will be held at the May 5, 2020, Board Meeting. **Motion** Councilman Eilert, **Second** Councilmember Busch to approve the re-appointment of three (3) board members for a three-year term to Fayette Public Library Museum Archives Advisory Board. Motion carried 7-0.

Next was a report on the earlier discussion and consideration of Allocation of Tourism Funds. The Tourism Grant Committee reviewed and considered five (5) requests for funding under the Tourism Grant Program. The following applicants were recommended for funding – La Grange Roadrunners for advertising, TX Czech Heritage and Cultural Center for Slavnost “May Fest”, Texas Heroes Museum for advertising, and Texas Quilt Museum for online marketing. The La Grange Area Chamber of Commerce request for billboard funding was tabled for further clarifications. **Motion** Councilman Eilert, **Second** Councilmember Zbranek to approve funding for four (4) applicants under the Tourism Grant Program. Motion carried 7-0.

Chief of Police Update

No current items to discuss.

City Manager Update

The City of La Grange staff are closely monitoring Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). There is no emergency in this area. Prevention is in washing your hands routinely and basic hygiene. TXDOT is working on their 2021 fiscal year and traffic signal updates. The City is looking at drainage channel updates along Franklin Street all the way to the river.

At 6:20 PM a **Motion** was made by Councilman Eilert, with a **Second** by Councilmember Zbranek that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

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

John “Honza” Cernosek, Mayor Pro tem

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING via teleconference – March 23, 2020

The City Council of the City of La Grange met in Regular Session on Monday, March 23, 2020, via teleconference with the following members present on the call: Mayor Janet Moerbe, Mayor Pro tem John J. Cernosek, Councilmember Bonnie Busch, Councilmember Jan Dockery, Councilman John Eilert, Councilman Pat Janca, Councilman Ken Taylor, and Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn, Councilmember Violet Zbranek was present on the call but inadvertently had muted from the conversation. Staff present: City Manager Shawn Raborn, Chief of Police David Gilbreath, City Secretary Janet Bayer, and City Attorney Angela Beck.

Mayor Janet Moerbe called the meeting to order. Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn gave the invocation.

REGULAR AGENDA

Discuss and or Consider a Resolution of the City Council of La Grange, Texas, ratifying, reinstating, continuing and renewing the Declaration of Disaster signed by the Mayor of the City of La Grange, Texas on March 16, 2020 and March 19, 2020, attached hereto, to be effective March 23, 2020 and to continue in effect until the date of a Presidential Declaration of Disaster for the City of La Grange, Texas or the expiration of sixty (60) days from and after March 23, 2020, whichever occurs sooner. **Motion** Councilmember Weishuhn, **Second** Mayor Pro tem Cernosek to approve the Resolution of the City Council of La Grange, Texas, ratifying, reinstating, continuing and renewing the Declaration of Disaster signed by the Mayor of the City of La Grange, Texas. Motion carried 7-0. **INSERT #1**

Next was a report on COVID-19. City Manager Raborn reported that all City of La Grange departments are in operation to meet the needs of the community. All departmental lobby doors are closed to the public, but staff is present and working with the outside community through drive-through windows as applicable, and via phone and email communication. There is no interruption to utility services, and permits and inspections are still being issued. The Library, Recreation Center, EDC, and Main Street are all closed to the public but have implemented curb-side pick-ups where there is a need and are helping to find financial resources for those small businesses effected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The City of La Grange foresees a significant reduction in sales tax and hotel/motel tax revenue into the next few months. It is anticipated there will be a sales tax revenue reduction around 25-30% with a 50-80% revenue reduction in hotel/motel taxes. The City anticipates cutting some capital, mainly naming the budgeted City Hall remodel that was proposed.

Chief of Police Update

Chief of Police David Gilbreath stated that all police officers are equipped with personal protection equipment to maintain their safety as well as the general public. The lobby doors are closed at this time to the La Grange Police Department, but the drive through window is open and staff are present

to answer calls and emails. Chief of Police David Gilbreath did state that there have been no reports of gatherings of more than 10 people in response to COVID-19 “social distancing”.

City Manager Update

Currently several large urban areas in Texas have or will implement a “shelter in place” order which is not a lockdown. This order technically is reinforcing what we as a City are doing now – social distancing, no more than 10 people in a public gathering, drive thru, and curbside pickup or delivery for food services. Sergeant Travis Anderson is our Emergency Management Coordinator who is working closely with Craig Moreau of Fayette County. As of this date, there are no confirmed cases in La Grange, with one (1) case confirmed in Fayette County and that individual is under self-quarantine. City Attorney, Angela Beck, stated that La Grange Municipal Court settings have been postponed to April 23rd.

At 6:12 PM a **Motion** was made by Councilman Eilert, with a **Second** by Councilman Janca that the teleconference meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

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

Janet Moerbe, Mayor