

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – May 13, 2019

The City Council of the City of La Grange met in Regular Session on Monday, May 13, 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 Calvin Kuehn, Councilman Ken Taylor, Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn and Councilmember Violet Zbranek. Staff present: City Manager Shawn Raborn, Chief of Police David Gilbreath, and City Secretary Lisa Oltmann. Visitors: Stacey Norris, Bob Schmidt, London Gaskins, Mike Mabry, DVM, Candy O’Meara, Kim Newton, Jan Dockery, Dusty Littrell, Neale Rabensburg, and others.

Mayor Moerbe called the meeting to order. Pastor Candy O’Meara of St. Paul Lutheran Church gave the invocation.

Under petitions London Gaskins addressed the council.

REGULAR AGENDA

Discuss and or consider awarding of bid for replacement and upgrade of sewer lines to the Waste Water Treatment Plant. On May 2, 2019 bids were received for the replacement of the trunk sewer line to the wastewater treatment plant. Bids were received from M&C Fonseca Construction Co., Inc of Granite Shoals, Texas in the amount of \$808,237.50; Palasota Contracting, LLC of Bryan, Texas in the amount of \$1,133,060.00; Kieschnick General Contractors, Inc of Wellborn, Texas in the amount of \$1,326,975.00; Atlas Construction Corporation which was determined to be non-responsive. Staff recommends that the bid be awarded to M & C Fonesca the low bidder in the amount of \$808,237.50. The funds for this project were budgeted in the FY 2018-19 Capital Improvement Budget and included funding from the EDC. The project will not start until the fall of this year. Mr. Bob Schmidt, P.E. with Strand Associates, Inc. addressed the council regarding this item. Motion Councilman Taylor, Second Councilman Eilert to approve staff’s recommendation. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Discuss and or consider approval of April 2019 minutes.

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

REGULAR AGENDA

Presentation of La Grange Comprehensive Plan 2018-2038. Beginning in the Fall of 2017, the City of La Grange along with the Texas A&M Universities’ Target Communities project partnered to develop a guide for the future growth of the City. As part of the process, a task force of local community members was created to contribute to the planning process. This fifteen-month planning process ended in August 2018 with the completion of the La Grange comprehensive Plan, the official policy guide for the community’s growth over the next twenty years. This extensive document can provide guidance for a variety of development activities including 1) Communicate the City’s overarching vision; 2) Inform

and support capital improvement plans; 3) Serve as a basis for implementation of code and regulation review process; 4) Guide project development by exploring opportunities and building blocks for implementation. A special thanks to all of the task force members and Texas Target Communities planning team members for all of their hard work. Stacey Norris, Director of Community Development & Tourism introduced Jamie Masterson and Jeewasmi Thapa with Texas A&M University to the council. Jeewasmi Thapa provided an overview of the Comprehensive Plan to the council.

Discuss and or consider awarding of bid for replacement of Well Station G Aerator. On April 30, 2019 bids were received for the replacement of the aerator at Well Station G. Bids received were from Water Equipment & Treatment Services (WETS) of Sugarland, Texas in the amount of \$212,182; and Legion Development of Georgetown, Texas in the amount of \$427,991. Mr. Jimmy Dunham, P.E. of Dunham Engineering recommends WETS for award of the project contract. Staff concurs with the recommendation of Mr. Dunham to award the bid to Water Equipment & Treatment Services (WETS) the low bidder in the amount of \$212,182. Project will be funded out of Utility Capital Projects. The project will not start until the Fall of this year. Motion Mayor Pro tem Cernosek, Second Councilman Taylor to approve this recommendation. Motion carried.

Discuss and or consider request from CenterPoint Energy Entex on proposed rate increase. As discussed in April, CenterPoint Energy Entex is proposing to increase the current base residential gas rate by \$2.04 per month effective May 27, 2019 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 \$19.00 to \$21.04. The rate increase is for the entire South Texas Division and Entex is unable to separate the expenses and revenues associated with the specific cities within the South Texas Division.

Discuss and or consider a resolution to suspend the CenterPoint Energy Entex proposed rate until July 11, 2019. Staff recommends that council suspend the rate for 45 days in accordance with the rules governing rate adjustments. The new rate will then go in effect on July 11, 2019. Motion Councilman Taylor, Second Councilman Janca to approve staff's recommendation. Motion carried.

Discuss and or consider Final Replat of property at 425 E. Milam owned by R&M Enterprises, LLC. A request was received from R&M Enterprises LLC to subdivide the property into two separate lots located at 425 E. Milam Street. Both lots meet the minimum size requirements required by the City of La Grange Ordinances. Motion Mayor Pro tem Cernosek, Second Councilmember Weishuhn to approve the replat. Motion carried.

Discuss 2019 Budget Schedule. The proposed 2019-2020 budget schedule was presented to council.

City Council Committee Reports

The Library Board met the previous Tuesday and discussed the Summer Program. The first event will be Dinosaur George which will take place at the Historic Casino Hall on June 7th.

Chief of Police Update

Pastor Candy O'Meara has been appointed Chaplain of the Police Department. During the month of April the department responded to 386 various calls. No Trespassing signs have been placed at 812 E. Guadalupe. Office Koehne has completed Patrol Rifle Armor Training. The department has attended Low Light Training provided by James Preston. Instruction for this training was held both in La Grange and Schulenburg.

City Manager Update

Sales tax is down slightly for the month but is still up for the year. Water Sales are down and Electric Sales are flat. Summer Camps provided thru the Recreation Department are 75% full. Thanks was extended to The Fayette County Record for their 'Warn Central Texas' article.

At 6:48 PM as pursuant to Section 551.071 Consultation with City Attorney; Consultation with City Attorney regarding Tom Hudson, Individually and Jator, Inc. vs. City of La Grange, TX No. 2017V-053, council went into Closed Executive Session.

At 7:12 PM Council went into Open Session. No action was needed.

At 7:13 PM a **MOTION** was made by Councilman Janca, 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

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – May 15, 2019

The City Council of the City of La Grange met in Special Session on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 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, Councilman John Eilert, and Councilmember Violet Zbranek. Staff present: City Manager Shawn Raborn, and City Secretary Lisa Oltmann. Visitors: Jan Dockery.

The purpose of this meeting was to canvass election returns from the May 4, 2019 General Election and Special Election. Escrutinio de votos de la elección general y especiales del 4 de mayo de 2019. There was a total of 573 ballots cast. For Mayor, Janet Moerbe received 444 votes, Sarah Barksdale received 127 votes. For City Council Ward 1, Ken Taylor received 110 votes. City Council Ward 2, John "Honza" Cernosek received 73 votes. City Council Ward 3, Bonnie B Busch received 154 votes. City Council Ward 4,

Richard Chernosky received 32 votes, Marilyn Descours received 20 votes, Pat Janca received 117 votes. In the Special Election City Council Ward 3, Jan Dockery received 116 votes, and Dusty Littrell received 74 votes. The Return Sheets were canvassed and the report of the City Secretary was found to be correct. Motion Councilmember Zbranek; Second Councilman Eilert to approve the canvass and be declared official. Motion carried unanimously.

At 4:10 a Motion was made by Councilmember Zbranek, Second by Councilman Eilert that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

Lisa Oltmann, City Secretary

These Minutes Approved by City Council on:

Janet Moerbe, Mayor

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – May 28, 2019

The City Council of the City of La Grange met in Special Session on Tuesday, May 28, 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, Councilmember Jan Dockery, Councilman John Eilert, Councilman Pat Janca, Councilman Ken Taylor, Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn and Councilmember Violet Zbranek. Staff present: City Manager Shawn Raborn, Asst. City Manager Frank D. Menefee, Jr., Chief of Police David Gilbreath, and City Secretary Lisa Oltmann. Visitors: Rhonda Trousdale, Jeannette Faist, Liz Tannler, Bonnie Hrachovy, Britney Schielack, Brandon Schielack, Sherrie Talbert, Frankie Srubar, Todd Johnson, Harvey E. Busch, Ray Walther, Barry Harding, Neale Rabensburg, Michael Nolan, Linda Morrison, Joe & Thelma, Ken & Rita Dernehl, Mable Barfield, Debra & Carmelino E., Tami Pietsch, D A White, Tammy Hartfield, Londen Gaskins, Gene Carson, Krystle Bloodworth, Lari Hopkins, Tim Kneseck, Shirley Hudson, Courtney Mihatsch, Phil Oestreich, Michael Corker, Katrina Packard, Ray Williams Sr., and others.

Mayor Moerbe called the meeting to order. Councilman Pat Janca gave the invocation.

Under petitions, Britney Schielack, Londen Gaskins & Katrina Packard addressed the council.

CONSENT AGENDA

REGULAR AGENDA

The Oath of Office was administered to newly elected city officers: Janet Moerbe-Mayor, Ken Taylor-Councilman Ward 1, John “Honza” Cernosek-Councilman Ward 2,

Bonnie B Busch-Councilmember Ward 3, Jan Dockery-Councilmember Ward 3, Pat Janca Ward 4.

Discuss and or consider selection of Mayor pro tem. Motion Councilmember Weishuhn, Second Councilman Janca to nominate John Cernosek as mayor pro tem. Motion carried.

Discuss and or consider approval of request from the La Grange Volunteer Fire Department on purchase of new vehicle. Todd Johnson & Frank Menefee Jr. addressed the council regarding this item. The La Grange Volunteer Fire Department would like to purchase a new engine. The truck will be used for structural firefighting. The truck will be a Custom Cab type chassis with seating for six. The truck will have high side storage compartments on the drivers/operators side and the passenger side. The passenger side storage will include ladder, backboard and stoltz basket storage. The new engine will replace a year model 2000 Central States Freightliner that was ordered in 1999 and received and put into service in year 2000. The new truck will cost the department \$619,836.00. The department is requesting City Council's consideration to a 50% cost share. When ordered it will take a year for delivery. The truck will be: 1) Spartan Metro Star Custom Cab Chassis, Wheel Base 179.00"; 2) Cummins Diesel L9 450 h.p. 6 cylinder; 3) Allison 300 EVS Automatic Transmission; 4) Waterous CSU 1500 g.p.m Pump; 5) 1000-gallon Tank w/30-gallon Class A Foam Tank. The city share would be \$309,918.00. Several years ago, a Fire Department Reserve fund was established for the purchase of future fire equipment. The account is funded by an annual allocation of \$50,000 from the Capital Improvement fund. In the first few years after the fund was established \$25,000 was allocated per year. That amount was recently increased due to the high replacement cost of fire engines. The current balance in the reserve fund is \$263,363.82. In the FY 2019-20 budget, staff will be proposing that we allocate a total of \$100,000 into the account which would give a fund balance of over \$363,000. If approved by council, the account balance in the Fire Department Reserve fund after purchase of the new engine will be around \$53,000. Motion Mayor Pro tem Cernosek, Second Councilman Eilert to approve the request to a 50% cost share. Motion carried.

Presentation on proposed Fayette County Hospital District. Mr. Michael Corker and Mr. Kevin Reed gave a presentation on the Fayette County Hospital District Election.

Discuss emergency notification systems. Staff brought back for discussion the installation of an outdoor siren warning system. The City of La Grange has never had an outdoor siren warning system. The notification we had in the past was to alert members of the Volunteer Fire Department of the need to go to the station. The Volunteer Fire Department currently utilizes a paging system and also a cell phone paging system. The effectiveness of outdoor warning sirens has been an area of conversation and in certain parts of the country a point of contingency among government agencies, citizens, and emergency managers. Sirens are designed to be heard only in outdoor settings thus providing limited or no warning to citizens in buildings. There are numerous ways to receive severe weather alerts. Severe weather information is disseminated by the National Weather Service through a number of systems including Warn Central Texas Notification System, NOAA weather

radios, television, internet (www.weather.gov/ewx), Wireless Emergency Cellphone Alerts (WEA) and social media just to name a few. In our area, the City of Flatonia installed a system a couple of years ago at a cost of \$186,000 for five sites. The system was funded by a Hazard Mitigation Grant and has not been activated in an emergency capacity since it was installed. The system does operate on a daily basis at noon in the downtown location only and all five locations are tested the first Wednesday of each month. Staff has contacted Goddard Enterprises, the firm that designed the Flatonia system to assist in developing a cost estimate for a system in our community. The cost estimate and rough system design would be used to apply for grant funding for the system. City Manager Raborn has tasked our Emergency Management Coordinator to seek out and apply for funding for a system. Staff will obtain council authorization prior to submitting any grant request.

Discuss and or consider approval of preliminary replat request at 241 E. Guadalupe St. owned by Jerry and Rhonda Trousdale. A replat request was received from Jerry & Rhonda Trousdale, owners of 241 E. Guadalupe St. Their neighbors Paul & Jeannette Faist would like to buy the property from the Trousdale's so they could have a bigger back yard. The plan for the property is to square off both back yards and extend the existing wood fence between the two properties. Both properties meet the City Ordinance requirements for lot size. There were 21 letters sent to property owners within a 200' radius of this address asking if the owners are in favor of or opposed to the replat request. There were fourteen letters returned in favor of granting this request and seven letters not returned. Motion Councilman Janca, Second Councilmember Weishuhn to approve the request. Motion carried.

Discuss and or consider approval of request from the Juneteenth Committee to close a portion of the square for the Juneteenth Celebration on June 8th. A request was received from the La Grange Juneteenth Committee to block off the inside loop of the square for the Juneteenth Celebration from 4:00 pm until 10:00 pm on Saturday, June 8th. In addition, the Juneteenth Parade will take place on the square at 10:00 am on Saturday, June 8th. City Manager Raborn spoke with Ms. Mosley earlier today and she has indicated that only a portion of the east side of the square would need to be blocked off for the event. Motion Councilman Taylor, Second Councilmember Dockery to approve this request. Motion carried.

Chief of Police Update

In April there were 13 accidents worked by the department. Of these 13, several involved running a stop sign or yield sign. In April there were also 64 animal complaints. James Ulbig has left the La Grange Police Department and is now with the Fayette County Sheriff's Department. David Mohr had been a part-time officer with the city police department and he is now a full-time officer with the department.

City Manager Update

The City Pool will open this Saturday. City Staff is working on weedy lots and a large number of letters have been sent out related to weedy lots. Last week was 'Public Workers Week'. City Manager Raborn recognized the departments for all that they do for the city.

At 7:25 pm a Motion was made by Councilmember Weishuhn, Second by Councilmember Zbranek that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

Lisa Oltmann, City Secretary

These Minutes Approved by City Council on:

Janet Moerbe, Mayor