

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – October 9, 2017

The City Council of the City of La Grange met in Regular Session on Monday, October 9, 2017 in the City Hall Council Chambers at 155 E. Colorado St. with the following members present: Mayor Janet Moerbe, Councilmember Bonnie Busch, Councilmember Deborah Bradley, 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 of Police David Gilbreath and City Secretary Lisa Oltmann. Visitors: Jeff Wick, Tex Paul Parker, Sharon Kramer, and others.

Mayor Moerbe called the meeting to order. Councilmember Deborah Bradley gave the invocation.

Under Petitions Mr. Tex Paul Parker addressed the council.

The first item was to discuss the upcoming Main Street Programs and Activities. Stacey Norris and Kim Newton with La Grange Main Street addressed the council. Ms. Norris spoke on upcoming activities/programs which includes a partnership with the Rotary Club for their Oktoberfest event which was held this past Saturday. There were over 550 tickets sold for the event. The play “Prohibition” which will be held on Saturday, October 14th in partnership with the Casino Arts Association with a VIP Event 5:30PM-6:30PM and the performance starting at 7:00PM, a Historic Downtown Walking Tour which will be guided by Keith Lund who is one of the Main Street Board Members beginning at 9:30AM on October 14th, Pioneer Bank will partner with this event. The movie “Hocus Pocus” will be shown at the Historic Casino Hall on October 28. Trick or Treat on the Square will be held on Halloween from 4:00PM till 6:00PM. In previous years, there were approximately 1500 individuals coming to La Grange to trick or treat on the square. Individuals attending are from Fayette County, Bastrop County, Lee County and Colorado County. There are many partners for this event including Tejas Health Care, The Remnant Church, Second Baptist Church, Pioneer Bank, and the Rotary Club. There will be an Art Walk held on November 9th from 5:00PM till 8:00PM with approximately 30 merchants participating. A group of merchants approached Main Street asking Main Street to partner with them for this event. Shop Small Saturday will be held on the Saturday following Thanksgiving. La Grange was accepted into this program as a Community Partner. Pioneer Bank hosts a kick off breakfast the morning of the event and individuals can pick up a Coupon Book at that time. Last year there were approximately 200 individuals stopping by the Historic Casino Hall when they finished shopping to receive their goodie bag, but there were many more people shopping during the Shop Small Saturday event in addition to those who came by the Historic Casino Hall. Schmeckenfest will be held on December 7th. This will once again include a parade along with the lighting of the downtown Christmas Tree followed by Wassail tasting and the festival. The Remnant Church and the local Camps will partner with this

event by holding additional activities for children. In 2016 there were approximately 2,500 individuals in attendance.

Kim Newton then spoke of the services that their department had provided during the Hurricane Harvey Event. Many of the volunteer groups which came to assist those in need were very complimentary of the City of La Grange as to how everything was handled and organized, and the volunteer groups felt that they were being used effectively to help those in need. Their department began calling other cities which had previously gone thru a similar type of event to gather information on how to better assist individuals in time of a disaster. The Historic Casino Hall itself became a disaster relief center. People started dropping off donations there and those in need began going there to pick up needed items such as personal hygiene items, groceries, and water. Hundreds of calls were received at their office from August 31 thru mid-September asking where donations could be taken to and inquiring how individuals might be able to volunteer. They organized having meals available there thru the Mission U-Too organization which contracted with South Side Market to provide three meals a day for a whole week. They were set up to serve 2,000 meals a day. Many other organizations, churches, and individuals also provided meals. The Main Street department coordinated the volunteer efforts at the beginning of the event. They canvassed the impacted neighborhoods to determine what their immediate needs were in order to better assist the volunteer process. The park on West La Fayette Street became a sign in station where volunteers could sign up for the various projects and the home owners could also sign release forms from August 31-September 8. Volunteers showed up from as far away as California, Michigan, and Missouri. On Saturday, September 2nd there were over 900 volunteers assisting those impacted by Hurricane Harvey and the flooding. Meals were also available at the location on La Fayette Street for the volunteers as well as those impacted. La Grange ISD partnered with the city to provide child care services which allowed those impacted to be able to drop off their children, who were then supervised by teachers who donated their time, so the parents/guardians could do what they needed to while knowing that care was being given to their children. This child care service started as showing a movie at the Historic Casino Hall and grew into having many different activities available at the Randolph Recreation Center. There were over 120 children participating in this assistance program. Main Street was also the main point of contact for business organizations which came to help those impacted by making flyers and publicizing when they would be here. Main Street then helped these organizations by verifying addresses so assistance which was distributed was given to the impacted individuals. Austin Disaster Relief Center came in and they set up a relief center on S. Reynolds Street the Main Street/Visitors Bureau helped process individuals who went by there desiring assistance. Mayor Moerbe along with all the council extended their thanks for all that had been done.

The next item was to discuss and or consider a Resolution cancelling the December 25, 2017 City Council Meeting. **MOTION** Mayor Pro tem John J. Cernosek,

SECOND Councilman John Eilert to approve the resolution. Motion carried.

Attachment #1

The next item was to discuss and or consider a Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of La Grange, Texas, Authorizing The Submission Of A Texas HOME Investment Partnerships RSP Agreement Application Which Shall Include HRA, Persons With Disabilities And Disaster Program. Also A Submission For The Upcoming HOME Competitive Award Program Application Thru The Texas Department Of Housing And Community Affairs For Participation In The HOME Program Contract Award; And Authorizing The City Manager To Act As The City's Executive Office And Authorized Representative In All Matters Pertaining To The City's Participation In The Home Program RSP Agreement And The HOME Competitive Contract Award. The HOME Program has disaster relief money set aside, and after an event you must apply for disaster HOME funding. Funds are available for displaced individuals which meet the HOME program requirements, including eligibility and income requirements. Homes are required to meet the base flood elevation requirements. All property titling requirements must also be met. The city would have to commit to match \$4,000 per unit for up to 10 units for a total dollar amount of \$40,000. Staff is proposing to work with the EDC which has completed a home study program, and they could possibly match some of these funds for the HOME Program. If the EDC decides not to participate, City Manager Raborn will come back to council asking for authorization to use some of the grant monies which have been set aside in the Capital Improvement Fund for the matching funds. There is an established scoring criteria to determine which applicants would meet the criteria. City approval must be received prior to accepting any applications. **MOTION** Councilman Eilert, **SECOND** Councilmember Weishuhn to approve this resolution. Motion carried. **Attachment #2**

The next item was to discuss and or consider approval of September 2017 minutes. **MOTION** Councilmember Violet Zbranek, **SECOND** Councilman Pat Janca to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

The next item was a report on city activities related to Hurricane Harvey Recovery activities and the Active Project Report. City Manager Raborn reported that the TSA, Transitional Shelter Assistance, has been extended till October 24th. Community Development Coordinator Scott Byler continues to work on long-term housing needs by meeting with prospective developers for housing development. For intermediate needs, HUD is working on an agreement with the General Land Office of Texas, which would then contract with the Council Of Governments who in turn will work with the city to determine locations for housing units such as RV type units. This agreement has not been finalized at this time. The owners of Country Way Village, The Oakes 1 & 2 parks are gathering information from the tenants and it has been indicated that they want to clean up the parks. The city is still moving forward with the private property removal program. The city is waiting on the report following the insurance adjustors visit to the city

facilities which were damaged. Water issues continue, it is believed this is due to the damaged hydrostatic tank at Well Station H, Well Station G cannot be turned on at this time as the pressure in the lines would be too great. Work is being done on the hydrostatic tank so it can be brought back up and run. Bids are being received on fencing which was damaged at various locations. The parks have been cleaned and opened back up. There have been over 130 roll off containers filled with debris and we are slowly removing some of the roll off containers. They will be brought back in as needed. The La Grange Disaster Recovery Team has been formed and is working with the Austin Disaster Recovery Team to receive guidance and assistance. The La Grange team has received their 501C3 status. In regular active projects, this year the street seal coating project will take place prior to the street reclaiming project. The next project for the year is to have the Police Station painted.

The next item was to discuss and or consider allocation of Tourism Grant Funds. Councilmember Zbranek, Chair of the Tourism Grant Committee reported that the committee met earlier today and reviewed three funding requests. They were from the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center-Heritage Festival & Muziky in the amount of \$8,000, the committee recommends that this request be funded in the amount of \$4,000. Colorado Valley Quilt Guild's 21st Annual Best Little Quilt Show in the amount of \$3,250, the committee recommends that this request be funded in the amount of \$3,000. Fayette County Sheriff's Posse-Advertising 2017 Event in the amount of \$10,000, and the committee recommends funding this in the amount of \$4,650. **MOTION** Councilmember Zbranek, **SECOND** Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn to approve the funding requests as recommended by the committee. Motion carried.

Chief Of Police Update

The department was contacted by La Grange Ford and it is anticipated that some of the patrol cars will have a recall issued, Chief Gilbreath noted that we have not had any problems with our cars.

Chief Gilbreath will talk with the Chamber of Commerce on October 17th regarding some of the new laws which went into effect on September 1.

As a result of the Sandra Bland Act, wording on tickets needed to be changed and this has been done.

The complaint procedure for racial profiling has been updated.

City Manager Update

The quarterly curbside pickup has been scheduled for October 28th. The Shred It Day will also be on the 28th. Hours for the Shred It Day are from 9:00 AM until Noon at the Police Station.

City Council Committee Reports

The Beautification Committee awarded Yard of the Month to Daniel & Carolina Perales and their children Daniel and Katherine at 292 S College.

At 6:50pm 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

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – October 23, 2017

The City Council of the City of La Grange met in Regular Session on Monday, October 23, 2017 in the City Hall Council Chambers at 155 E. Colorado St. with the following members present: Mayor Janet Moerbe, Councilmember Bonnie Busch, Councilmember Deborah Bradley, Mayor Pro tem John J. Cernosek, Councilman John Eilert, Councilman Pat Janca, Councilman Ken Taylor, Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn and Councilmember Violet Zbranek. Staff present: Asst. City Manager Frank Menefee, Jr., Chief of Police David Gilbreath, Water Supt. Andy Blaha, and City Secretary Lisa Oltmann. Visitors: J Paul Bruhn, Joseph & Lucy Lamer, Tom Hudson, Jason McBroom, Andy & Judy Blaha, Sharon Kramer, Daryl Kinsey, Diana Wilson and others.

Mayor Moerbe called the meeting to order. Rev. J. Paul Bruhn of First United Methodist Church gave the invocation.

Dick Frenzel with the Citizens Police Academy introduced the recent graduates to the council. Graduates include Dawn Sedlar, Daryl Kinsey, Joe Lamer, James Lewis, J Paul Bruhn, and Erich Lehman, who was unable to attend the meeting. Mayor Moerbe then introduced Andy Blaha to the council, Mr. Blaha is the water department supervisor.

The first item was an update on status of water system repairs. Water Supervisor Andy Blaha and Asst. City Manager Frank Menefee, Jr. updated the council on the water system repairs. Mr. Blaha noted that the city has a total of seven water wells and four of these were lost as a result of the storm, Hurricane Harvey. One additional well as also lost at that time for unrelated reasons. At this time six wells are back on-line. Water Well H is off-line but it is anticipated that it will be back running within two to three weeks. Well H was the water well which had a trailer hit the well head. For a time the water department had to do everything manually in order for the wells to work. The electronics have been corrected so manual operation is no longer necessary. Mayor

Moerbe noted that Mr. Blaha had done an amazing job with the water wells. Mr. Blaha in return noted that the whole water department took part in this recovery effort. Members of the water department include Bruce Sulik, Jeff Cook, Brian Wood, and Billy Sampson. Mr. Menefee also noted that the department had done a great job. Thanks was expressed by council for all of their efforts to have the water system repaired and brought back on line.

The next item was to discuss and or consider a resolution for Municipal Court Week. Municipal court week is November 6-10, 2017. **MOTION** Councilmember Violet Zbranek, **SECOND** Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn to approve the resolution. Motion carried. **Attachment #1**

The next item was to discuss and or consider setting the 2018 City of La Grange Holiday Schedule. Mayor Moerbe noted that previously when the Christmas holiday is on a Tuesday, the Monday is also given as a holiday. **MOTION** Mayor Pro tem John J. Cernosek, **SECOND** Councilman Ken Taylor to approve the schedule. Motion carried. **Attachment #2**

Utility Manager Update

Fall Cleanup is taking place this week. The bulk pickup is scheduled for this Saturday. Citizens can take items to the rolloff containers located at the City Service Center, citizens simply need to bring their utility bill along with them to take part in this opportunity. There is a FEMA trailer in town, at this time the city has not been informed as to the location the trailer will be taken to. Country Way Village has started cleaning up debris at the park.

Chief of Police Update

The Medex box has been installed at the Sherriff's office; this now makes three locations in town where individuals can drop off unused medications. This Sunday is National Drug Take Back Day. The past week there were numerous wrecks within the city limits which were worked by the department. "Skimmers" have resurfaced in town, Chief Gilbreath reminded everyone not to use their ATM card with their pin number, but to use it as a credit card.

Mayor Moerbe noted that Trick or Treat on the Square will be next Wednesday, October 31, with street closures beginning at 3:30. This Saturday is also the Shred It Day and papers can be taken to the police department to be shredded. White Rock Park had received extensive damage to the walking trail and pier, and City Manager Raborn is working with LCRA and FEMA on making the necessary repairs to the walking path down to the canoe launch and the fishing pier. Everyone was reminded to "Like" the La Grange Volunteer Fire Department Facebook page for all Fire Department related news, updates and important announcements. Transitional Housing Assistance was reviewed and extended till November 7th. Councilmember Zbranek noted that she had heard that

the deadline to apply for FEMA had been extended till November 24th. Shawn Raborn and Scott Byler will be attending a meeting with FEMA and the General Land Office to discuss the long term housing options which are still being worked on.

At 6:17pm a **MOTION** was made by Councilman Janca, with a **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