

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – October 12, 2020

The City Council of the City of La Grange met in Regular Session on Monday, October 12, 2020, 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, and Councilmember Violet Zbranek. Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn was absent. Staff present: City Manager Shawn Raborn, Chief of Police David Gilbreath, and City Secretary Janet Bayer. Visitors: Pastor Candy O'Meara, Judith Balch, Martha Langford, William Bernsen, Brianne Bernsen, Katelyn Bernsen, Polly Cisneros, Bethany Roberts, Patty Reid, and others

Mayor Moerbe called the meeting to order. Next were pledges to the US and Texas Flags. Pastor Martha Langford with First Presbyterian Church gave the invocation.

Under petitions, William Bernsen, Brianne Bernsen, Judith Balch, Brandon Schielack, and Myeva Armstrong spoke.

CONSENT AGENDA

Discuss and or Consider approval of September minutes.

A **Motion** was made by Councilmember Taylor, **Second** Councilmember Janca to approve the Consent Agenda item as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

REGULAR AGENDA

Discuss and or Consider amending the FY 2020-2021 General Fund Budget. Staff is requesting approval to amend the FY 2020-2021 General Fund Budget to increase the Fire Department Budget by \$310,000 to include funding for the purchase of the delayed Fire Apparatus. **Motion** Mayor Pro tem Cernosek, **Second** Councilmember Taylor to amend the FY 2020-2021 General Fund Budget to increase the Fire Department Budget due to the delay in new Fire Apparatus. Motion carried 7-0.

Discuss and or Consider setting the 2021 City of La Grange Holiday schedule. Staff is bringing for council consideration the 2021 City of La Grange Holiday schedule. After consulting with the County Clerk for the Fayette County Holiday schedule and the City of Schulenburg which follows the County schedule, the draft of the 2021 Holiday schedule is proposed to add President's Day in February and December 23rd since Christmas Day falls on a Saturday in 2021. The Mayor requested the 2021 Holiday schedule be amended to add Texas Independence Day on March 2nd and Columbus Day on October 11th so we were in line with the County and surrounding cities. **Motion** Councilmember Janca, **Second** Councilmember Busch to set the 2021 City of La Grange Holiday schedule with amended holiday dates. Motion carried 7-0.

Discuss and or Consider a Resolution cancelling the December 28th City Council meeting. Staff is bringing for council consideration a Resolution to cancel the December 28th City Council meeting. With Christmas Day falling on Friday this year and New Years' Eve the following Thursday, the second meeting in December is difficult for both citizens and staff to attend. **Motion** Councilmember Zbranek, **Second** Councilmember Taylor to approve the Resolution cancelling the December 28th City Council meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

Discuss and or Consider authorizing staff to proceed with engineering work with regard to the closure of Beef Head Ditch. Staff is requesting council authorization to proceed with the preliminary engineering work to close Beef Head Ditch between Travis Street to where it is currently covered below Lower Line Street. The open drainage channel is showing its age and the covering of the drainage channel will reduce long term maintenance.

Staff will bring back this project for formal approval once the City obtains a better understanding of the project cost and possible funding sources. Councilmember Taylor asked if it is City property and it is. The ditch is aging and deteriorating rapidly. **Motion** Councilmember Zbranek, **Second** Councilmember Janca authorizing staff to proceed with engineering work with regard to the closure of Beef Head Ditch. Motion carried 7-0.

Mayor Pro tem Cernosek stated the Library Board hasn't met due to COVID-19 restrictions, but wanted to point out the grant the Fayette Public Library in partnership with the Seattle Public Library and the DC Public Library received through an IMLS CARES grant for \$247,307. The project will engage teens in designing virtual reality (VR) experiences and developing programs that have a positive impact on mental health. There were over 1,200 applicants with only 47 recipients of these grants.

Chief of Police Update

Chief Gilbreath stated that September was a very busy/active month for the Department. They responded to 20 alarm calls, 10 Criminal mischief calls, 18 suspicious person calls, and 18 Theft C and above calls. There were 11 accidents in September. There were 2 DWI arrests along with 3 possession of marijuana arrests. Police Department staff will begin their online virtual training sessions this Friday.

City Manager Update

Both the Fall Shred-It event and the next quarterly bulk pick up are scheduled for Saturday, October 24th.

At 6:40 PM as pursuant to Section 551.072 Deliberation Regarding Real Property and Section 551.073 Deliberation Regarding Prospective Gift, council went into Closed Executive Session.

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

At 7:13 PM a **Motion** was made by Councilmember Zbranek, with a **Second** by Councilmember Taylor that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

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

Janet Moerbe, Mayor

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – October 26, 2020

The City Council of the City of La Grange met in Regular Session on Monday, October 26, 2020, 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 Jan Dockery, Councilmember Ken Taylor, Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn and Councilmember Violet Zbranek. Councilmember(s) Bonnie Busch, Quenten Gonzalez, and Pat Janca were absent. Staff present: City Manager Shawn Raborn, Investigator Troy Stevens, and City Secretary Janet Bayer. Visitors: Pastor Andy Smith, William Bernsen, Brianne Bernsen, Polly Cisneros, Mike Clann, Brandon Schielack, and others.

Mayor Moerbe called the meeting to order. Next were pledges to the US and Texas Flags. Pastor Andy Smith with First United Methodist Church gave the invocation.

Under petitions/public comment, all those signed up to speak elected to address council during agenda item #4 to allow for response.

REGULAR AGENDA

Discuss and or Consider authorizing staff to work with Arts for Rural Texas in a community fire hydrant painting program. Staff reviewed the program along with Michael Clann, ARTS for Rural Texas President, and have developed a couple of guidelines that will be part of the program. Guidelines include: 1.) the bonnet color (top of the fire hydrant) will remain the current color 2.) the selected design will be reviewed with the adjacent property owner and that the City reserves the right to repaint the fire hydrants once the color fades and the design is no longer visually appealing. The City would contact ARTS for Rural Texas to see about repainting the hydrant prior to the City repainting. Requests for businesses and individual supporters for ARTS programs in La Grange will be solicited to underwrite the painting of fire hydrants with designs done by students in the ARTS programs – approximately 2,400 students per year participate in these programs. **Motion** Councilmember Weishuhn, **Second** Councilmember Taylor to approve Main Street & Visitors Bureau to work with Arts for Rural Texas in a community fire hydrant painting program. Motion carried 5-0.

Discuss and or Consider a Resolution in Recognition of Municipal Court Week. Staff presented for council approval a Resolution in recognition of Municipal Court Week which is November 2nd-6th of 2020. This Resolution recognizes the importance of Municipal Courts, the rule of law, and the fair and impartial administration of justice. **Motion** Councilmember Zbranek, **Second** Councilmember Dockery to approve the Resolution recognizing Municipal Court Week. Motion carried 5-0.

Discuss and or Consider affirming the Resolution authorizing the submission of a Local Park Grant Program application to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. In September, Council approved the Resolution authorizing staff to submit a Texas Parks and Wildlife grant application for the development of a new park in the Hope Hill subdivision. The Hope Hill subdivision has a 6.19- acre tract that was set aside for park development. The donation of the land from Samaritans Purse (appraised at \$348,000) will be used as part of the grant match. The land donation will be contingent on the successful award of the grant. The maximum grant award is \$750,000, and would require a local match of \$750,000 in order to obtain the maximum grant award. The City has received a letter from the Fayette County Disaster Recovery Team donating \$50,000 to the park project that will also be used as part of the local match. A public hearing was held just prior to the council meeting and helped confirm the submission of the grant application which is due November 6th. The grant award notification is not expected until the end of March of 2021. **Motion** Councilmember Taylor, **Second** Mayor Pro tem Cernosek reaffirming the Resolution to submit a Local Park Grant Program application to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Motion carried 5-0.

Discuss status of Ordinance establishing the requirement that face coverings be worn by certain persons in the territorial limits of the City of La Grange, Texas, in accordance with the Executive Order of Greg Abbott, Governor of the State of Texas, approved by council on July 13, 2020. The Mayor stated that County Judge Joe Weber applied for and received the ability to opt out of the face covering requirement due to the number of active cases falling below the established threshold of 20 cases, but has not implemented the lifting of the face covering requirement. At which time Judge Weber issues an Order lifting the requirements for mask coverings based on the TDEM guidelines, the City requirement for face coverings would also no longer be in effect. The Mayor then allowed Matt Hamborsky of West Point, Brianne Bernsen of Plum, Polly Cisneros of Fayette County, Katie Hamborsky of West Point, and William Bernsen of Plum to address council on this agenda item (#4) regarding the mask Ordinance. No action was taken at this time.

Chief of Police Update

Investigator Troy Stevens had nothing to report.

City Manager Update

The Fall Shred-It event and the quarterly bulk pick up on Saturday, October 24th, were a success. Over 3 tons of documents/paper were shred. The next bulk pick up will be in January of 2021. 227+ loads of brush were picked up by the Parks Department during the semi-annual clean up. On November 9th, our legislation begins the pre-filing of bills. On January 12th, the 87th Legislature begins. After receiving the 2020 Census numbers, work will begin on redistricting council wards. These potential new boundaries will take effect the May 2022 elections. City Manager Raborn then went over the recently approved CDBG – water grant from HUD/Department of Agriculture. We should have the contract by February of 2021. The City just recently submitted/applied for two (2) CDBG-MIT competitive grants that address water and drainage infrastructure concerns. As discussed earlier, the Parks grant will be submitted next week to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

At 6:55 PM a **Motion** was made by Councilmember Zbranek, with a **Second** by Councilmember Taylor that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

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

Janet Moerbe, Mayor