

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – January 11, 2016

The City Council of the City of La Grange met in Regular Session on Monday, January 11, 2016 in the City Hall Council Chambers with the following members present: Mayor Janet Moerbe, Councilmember Bonnie Busch, Councilmember Deborah Bradley, Mayor Pro tem John Cernosek, Councilman John Eilert, Councilman Pat Janca, Councilman Arnold Romberg, Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn and Councilmember Violet Zbranek. Staff present: City Manager Shawn Raborn, Chief of Police Jackie Skelton, City Secretary Lisa Oltmann, Main Street Manager Stacey Norris, and Tourism Ambassador Scot Briggs. Visitors: Andy Behlen with the Fayette County Record.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Dr. Jerry Hurst of the First Presbyterian Church gave the invocation.

Dr. Hurst invited all to attend the concert by Pianist Donald Doucet and Violinist Dominika Dancewicz which will be held at the First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, January 16th, at 6 p.m.

The first item was a review of upgrades to Street Lighting. City Manager Raborn reviewed with council the upgrade of the street lighting program to LED lighting fixtures. Over the past several years we have installed several LED fixtures in strategic and hard to access locations around town. The street light at the intersection of Travis and Jefferson is an example of a location that we have installed an LED fixture. The main visual difference is that the LED lights emit a white light whereas the current High Pressure Sodium (HPS) lights emit a yellow/orange light. We are now moving forward with beginning a system conversion to LED street lights as the older and less efficient HPS units fail and have to be replaced. The benefits of LED Street lights are numerous and include lower energy use, long lasting lighting which in turn means lower operation costs.

The next item was a review of the Lynnwood Underground Electric Service Upgrade Plan. City Manager Raborn reviewed with council the upcoming improvements to the underground electrical system in the Lynnwood neighborhood. The underground electrical service in Lynnwood was direct buried when it was installed in the late 1970's. The system upgrade will be done in three phases over the next year. This project will be disruptive to the neighborhood but staff will work closely with the contractor and the impacted residents to see that the project goes as smoothly as possible. **INSERT #1**

The next item was a report on Main Street and Tourism Activities. Main Street Manager Stacey Norris reviewed the past years activities with council. During 2015 their office had 5,096 visitors. The majority of the visitors from Texas were from Houston. Most of the out-of-state visitors were from North Caroling, and the foreign country which

brought the most visitors was Canada. Many of the visitors do try to plan their trip around the local events which include Schmeckenfest and Uncorked. During 2015 there were 700 tickets sold for Uncorked with 600 people in attendance, and they anticipate selling 800 tickets for the event this year which will be held on March 19th. Trick or Treat on the Square had an estimated attendance of 1200, this was the largest Trick or Treat on the Square so far even though that due to the weather and other community events being changed, the date was also changed for this event at the last minute. Main Street La Grange will be celebrating their 20th Anniversary in 2016 and as a result they are planning several special events thru out the year. The summer film series will feature films from 1996 and they include Flipper, 101 Dalmatians, and The Nutty Professor. Main Street has over 4000 followers on Face Book, and they are also on Instagram, Pinterest, and will soon be present on Twitter. They would also like to acknowledge and thank their many sponsors for the events which they host. This year they will be moving into the newly renovated/remodeled Casino Hall and there are several events planned for Casino Hall this spring already. City Councilmember Violet Zbranek also noted that sponsors have helped tremendously with hosting the Fayette County Opry. The Opry also has drawn a large number of visitors each month to their event.

The next item was to discuss and or consider approval of December 2015 minutes. **MOTION** Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn, **SECOND** Councilmember Zbranek to approve the minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

City Council Committee Reports

The Beautification Committee awarded Yard of the Month to Gerald and Joleen Hughes at 110 Rose Mayer Loop.

Chief of Police Report

Their department has responded to several calls the past few weeks. These calls have included one car being set on fire by a Molotov cocktail, 3 businesses being burglarized, 4 cars being vandalized by have tires slashed and/or being “keyed”, and one of the businesses which was burglarized was also vandalized. The truck with was stolen in November was recovered damaged in San Antonio.

City Manager Report

Sales tax was down, but within the expected range.

Water sales were also down for the year.

The City Wide Quarterly Bulk Item pickup will be held on January 23rd.

Thru the Main Street Program we are working to receive a Cultural District Designation.

There is also a water line replacement project on Walnut Street between Lester and Vail which is in progress.

At 6:46 PM as pursuant to Section 551.072 Real Property, council went into closed executive session to discuss and or consider acquisition of real property.

At 6:54 PM Council went into Open Session. There was no action required.

Council then went on a tour of the Casino Hall located at 255 N. Franklin

At 7:12 PM a **MOTION** was made by Councilman John Eilert, 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

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – January 25, 2016

The City Council of the City of La Grange met in Regular Session on Monday, January 25, 2016 in the City Hall Council Chambers with the following members present: Mayor Janet Moerbe, Councilmember Bonnie Busch, Councilmember Deborah Bradley, Mayor Pro tem John Cernosek, Councilman John Eilert, Councilman Pat Janca, Councilman Arnold Romberg, Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn and Councilmember Violet Zbranek. Staff present: City Manager Shawn Raborn, Chief of Police Jackie Skelton, and City Secretary Lisa Oltmann. There were no visitors present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Rev. J. Paul Bruhn of the First United Methodist Church gave the invocation.

The first item was to discuss and or consider Order Calling for Election of City Officers. Discutir y/o considerar la autorizacion para La Orden de Eleccion de Representantes del Consejo Municipal. **MOTION** Mayor Pro tem John Cernosek, **SECOND** Councilman Pat Janca to approve the Order Calling for Election of City Officers. Motion carried.

The next item was to discuss and or consider blocking off the square for La Grange Uncorked. La Grange Uncorked will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2016. The event begins at 4pm and is expected to end by 8pm. La Grange Main Street is requesting permission for the closing of the following locations to accommodate the performers and for the safety of the public. 1) The inner parking area by the north entrance of the courthouse which will be utilized for the tent set-up and band to perform. 2) The inner parking area by the east entrance of the courthouse which will be utilized as a seating area for participants. The food and music portion of the event will be under the tent serving and the various wineries will be placed inside the merchant shops. **MOTION**

Councilman Janca, **SECOND** Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn to approve this request. Motion carried.

The next item was to discuss and or consider Casino Hall Rental Agreement. The Historic Casino Hall Association has been working over the past year on the development of operational plans and programming for the Casino Hall. At this time, staff is presenting the proposed rental agreement that will be used by staff for council consideration. The agreement has been approved by the Historic Casino Hall Association for content and by the City Attorney as to form. During discussion, there were a few items which the council would like for the Casino Hall Association to reconsider. They would like for the association to consider having events end at 11PM at the latest. Council would like for the table, chairs, and kitchen to be included in the rental price and not have them as an extra fee(s) in addition to the rental amount. These concerns will be brought back to the committee at their next meeting which will be on February 9th at 2PM and the council is invited to attend. **MOTION** Councilman Janca, **SECOND** Councilmember Bonnie Busch to table this item and have it brought back at a later date. Motion carried.

The next item was to discuss and or consider on first reading An Ordinance Amending Chapter 6 Of The Code Of Ordinances, Health And Sanitation Of The City Of La Grange So As To Add Article 6.04 Mass Gatherings And Establish Permit Requirements, Application Process and Regulate Noise Levels From Such Events, Declaring A Public Purpose, Establishing A Penalty And Setting An Effective Date. Staff is bringing back for consideration an ordinance that will establish a process to permit mass gatherings in our community. The permit is not intended to limit mass gatherings, but to make sure appropriate procedures are in place to handle the crowds. A Mass Gathering is defined as: (a) "Mass gathering" means a gathering that is held inside the limits of the City of La Grange and that attracts or is expected to attract: (i) more than 1,500 persons; or (ii) more than 500 persons, if fifty-one (51) percent or more of those persons may reasonably be expected to be younger than twenty-one (21) years of age and it is planned or may reasonably be expected that alcoholic beverages will be sold, served, or consumed at or around the gathering; and (iii) at which the persons will remain for more than four (4) continuous hours; or for any amount of time during the period beginning at 10 p.m. and ending at 6 a.m. A permit would not be required for the following (a) Church events held on church property; (b) City, school, county or other governmental entity events held on property owned by the governmental entity (c) Weddings, family reunions, wakes, and funerals (d) Annual Fayette County Fair or the Best Little Cowboy Gathering; or (e) Any other exceptions approved by City Council. We currently do not have an issue with mass gathering but the development of a formal process would be helpful to staff in the future if additional large scale concerts are planned at the Fayette County Fairgrounds and are not associated by the Annual Fair. **MOTION** Councilman John Eilert, **SECOND** Councilmember Violet Zbranek to approve this ordinance on First Reading. A roll call vote was taken: Councilmember

Busch in favor, Councilmember Bradley in favor, Mayor Pro tem Cernosek in favor, Councilman Eilert in favor, Councilman Janca in favor, Councilman Romberg in favor, Councilmember Weishuhn in favor, Councilmember Zbranek in favor. Motion carried 8-0.

The next item was to discuss and or consider a Resolution Of The City Of La Grange, Texas, Designating The Municipal Court Meeting Room And Lobby Of Police Station As The Premises Of A Government Court Or Offices Utilized By The Court For Purposed Of Firearms Possession, Including By A Person Who Holds A License To Carry A Handgun. Staff is presenting this resolution that will clarify the specific locations that a person with a license to carry permit cannot possess a firearm. The resolution under consideration specifically identifies the Municipal Court meeting room and the lobby of the Police Station as areas that are off-limits based on the court exception. Staff has reviewed the resolution with City Attorney Ms. Beck. **MOTION** Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn, **SECOND** Councilmember Deborah Bradley to approve the resolution. Motion carried. **Attachment #1**

The next item was to discuss and or consider allocation of Tourism Grant Funds. Mayor Pro tem John Cernosek, chair of the Tourism Grant Committee, reported that the committee met prior to the council meeting and discussed and considered two funding requests. The first one was from the Fayette County Tourism Association; the committee had originally considered this request at their December meeting but had asked for additional information from the Fayette County Tourism Association. The request was in the amount of \$6,100 for website costs and for printing 2 event brochures. The committee is asking council to fund this request in the amount of \$5,500. The second request discussed and considered was from the Historic Casino Hall Association in partnership with the City of La Grange for the inaugural season performances at the Casino Hall in the amount of \$10,000. The committee is asking council to fund this request in the amount of \$10,000. **MOTION** Mayor Pro tem Cernosek, **SECOND** Councilmember Weishuhn to fund these two (2) requests as recommended by the Tourism Grant Committee. Motion carried.

City Council Committee Reports

Main Street celebrates its 20th Anniversary this year. The Fayette County Record had a nice article as relates to this.

Chief Of Police Report

They are working on some leads for the recent criminal mischief cases as well as theft cases which occurred recently. The criminal mischief cases have slowed down a bit in the recent weeks.

There was a sexual assault case reported this past weekend involving a juvenile.

City Manager Report

Work has started on the parking lot at Kruschel Park.
The ground storage tank at "B" is filled and we are waiting on test results to be sent back.
This past weekend was the quarterly bulk pick up and many citizens took advantage of this opportunity to get rid of their items.
The current recycling program has been in effect for one year.

At 6:55 PM a **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Weishuhn, 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