

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING via teleconference – July 13, 2020

The City Council of the City of La Grange met in Regular Session on Monday, July 13, 2020, via teleconference with the following members present on the call: Mayor Janet Moerbe, Councilmember Bonnie Busch, Mayor Pro tem John J. Cernosek, Councilmember Jan Dockery, Councilman Quentin Gonzalez, 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 Janet Bayer. Visitors that announced they were on the call: Katie Hamborsky, Brandon Schielack, William Bernsen, BJ Murphy, James Elias, Tom Hudson, and others.

Mayor Janet Moerbe called the meeting to order. Councilman Ken Taylor gave the invocation.

Under Petitions, Brandon Schielack, William Bernsen, Katie Hamborsky, and BJ Murphy spoke.

CONSENT AGENDA

Discuss and or Consider approval of June minutes.

A **Motion** was made by Councilman Janca, **Second** Councilman Gonzalez to approve the Consent Agenda Item as presented. Motion carried 8-0.

REGULAR AGENDA

Discuss and or Consider an Emergency Ordinance of the City of La Grange, Texas, 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; providing for exceptions thereto; establishing a range of penalties for the violations thereof not to exceed \$250.00; declaring an emergency, and establishing an effective date. Staff is presenting for council consideration an ordinance that will allow for the city to enforce the wearing of masks as directed by Governor Abbott in Executive Order GA-29. The ordinance is just a tool for the city to use in the event that we don't receive voluntary compliance from the community in following the Governor's order. The main question was about how law enforcement will go about enforcing this. The Police Department will enforce this ordinance if our attention is called to it, but they will not go around looking for violations. Chief Gilbreath stated they have been called to WalMart four (4) times already. **Motion** Mayor Pro tem Cernosek, **Second** Councilmember Busch to approve this Emergency Ordinance requiring face coverings. A roll call vote was taken: Councilmember Busch for, Mayor Pro tem Cernosek for, Councilmember Dockery for, Councilman Gonzalez against, Councilman Janca against, Councilman Taylor against, Councilmember Weishuhn for, and Councilmember Zbranek against. The vote was 4-4. Mayor Moerbe voted for. Motion carried 5-4.

Discuss and or Consider selection of firm to provide Financial Audit Services. Only three (3) firms responded to the City of La Grange Request for Proposal for Professional Audit Services. The following firms responded: Park Fowler and Company of Corpus Christi; Beasley, Mitchell and Company of El Paso; and Trlicek and Company of La Grange.

Discuss and or Consider engaging the services of Trlicek and Co. to conduct the audit for the City of La Grange for the years ending September 30, 2020, 2021 and 2022. Trlicek and Company is our current auditor with the audit fee for 2019 at \$14,850. Their proposed audit fee for 2020, 2021, and 2022 is \$18,600. The aforementioned firms of Park Fowler & Company came in at \$57,500 and Beasley, Mitchell & Company came in at \$30,930 for 2020. All firms are qualified to conduct and complete the audit for the City of La Grange. **Motion** Mayor Pro tem Cernosek, **Second** Councilmember Weishuhn to approve

Trlicek and Company to conduct the City of La Grange audit for the years ending September 30, 2020, 2021, and 2022. Motion carried 8-0.

Discuss and or Consider authorizing staff to proceed with the development of a Parks and Wildlife grant application. Staff is requesting council authorization to proceed with the development of 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 City of La Grange has an opportunity to partner with Samaritans Purse and others to develop a new community park. 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 value of the land can be used as part of the grant match and others have already expressed interest in supporting the project financially. The grant application is due November 6th. Prior to grant submission, a number of details have to be worked out and our Parks Master Plan has to be updated. The City of La Grange would retain ownership of the park. The city would get community input on what to include within the park. The proposed site does not have to be within the city limits, but there might be a request for voluntary annexation. **Motion** Councilmember Zbranek, **Second** Councilmember Dockery to proceed with the development of a Parks and Wildlife grant application for the development of a new park in the Hope Hill subdivision. Motion carried 8-0.

Discuss and or Consider request from the Fayette County Fair Association for tourism grant funding. This item was brought directly to council for consideration since it was the lone request. The following applicant was recommended for funding –Fayette County Fair Association \$10,000 for advertising of the 2020 Fayette County Fair. **Motion** Mayor Pro tem Cernosek, **Second** Councilman Gonzalez to approve funding for the Fayette County Fair Association contingent that the 2020 fair is actually held. The fair must proceed in order to receive requested funds. Motion carried 8-0.

Report on COVID-19. In regards to the Recreation Center, summer camp is now closed for the year. We are working on procedures to open the after-school program in August. The city is mirroring school and state guidelines. The splashpad is back open after being closed for a few days due to mechanical issues. We are requesting that visitors maintain social distancing. The swimming pool is currently operating at 50% capacity. The lobby facility at City Hall is open by appointment only at this time. The drive thru window is open and all services are being delivered.

Chief of Police Update

Chief of Police David Gilbreath gave his report for June 2020. There were 377 total calls in June with 8 accidents; 52 accidents for the year so far. There were 8 new criminal investigation cases opened in June, with 67 cases closed since the beginning of the year. There were 80 animal control calls in June. Councilman Taylor and Councilmember Zbranek complimented the Chief on the police presence they have witnessed. The patrols have been very noticeable and it is appreciated.

City Manager Update

Saturday, July 25th is residential bulk pick up for La Grange Utilities customers. Sales tax is up just over 4% from last year at this time. Both KWH (electric) and water usage are up quite a bit for the month. We are monitoring water usage and implementing voluntary Phase I Water Conservation efforts. We currently have one well (Well G) that is out of service. Councilman Taylor asked if the new street sweeper had been ordered. Going back to the budget workshop held last month, Council will discuss this purchase at the 1st or 2nd meeting in August to approve the purchase of a new street sweeper. Fayette County is currently under a burn ban.

At 7:12 PM a **Motion** was made by Councilman Taylor, with a **Second** by Councilmember Busch that the teleconference meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

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

Janet Moerbe, Mayor