

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – June 13, 2016

The City Council of the City of La Grange met in Regular Session on Monday, June 13, 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, Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn and Councilmember Violet Zbranek. Councilman Arnold Romberg was absent. Staff present: City Manager Shawn Raborn, Chief Jackie Skelton, and City Secretary Lisa Oltmann. Visitors: Tom Hudson, Robin Hudson, Jackie Short, Mr. & Mrs. Donald Galow, Mr. & Mrs. Edmund Anders, Coach & Mrs. Arthur Behrend, Assistant Coach Kadie Dodd, Missy Zoch, Darby Fitzpatrick, Elana Ledwik, and Hatti Moore.

Mayor Janet Moerbe called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas was recited and Rev. Dennis Hill, Pastor of The Remnant Church gave the invocation.

The first item was to discuss and or consider a resolution honoring the 2016 Class 4A State Championship Softball Team. Mayor Moerbe noted that in addition to being the 2016 Class 4A State Champion team, they were also Number 1 in the national rankings by USA Today. Mayor Moerbe then read the resolution honoring the team and presented those in attendance with yellow roses. **INSERT #1**

The next item was to discuss and or consider directing staff to review the existing Changeable Electronic Variable Message Sign Ordinance. Council had requested that the issue of electronic variable message signs be presented for additional discussion. Included for council review was a copy of the current electronic variable message sign regulation that was approved in May 2008. Currently the city prohibits the installation of changeable electronic variable message signs (EVMS) except under special circumstances as outlined in the ordinance. The regulation of signage has and will continue to be a very controversial but important community issue. City Council was also given a white paper that points out various issues that will need to be addressed if council desires to allow for the installation of electronic signs. City Manager Raborn also noted that council may want to expand the discussion to the broader issue of signage regulation in general. Mr. Tom Hudson addressed the council, he noted that he does believe that the city should have control of regulations. He also noted that the ordinance could be made clearer; as he interprets the ordinance as long as a sign remains static it would be in compliance. The city interprets the ordinance any time a sign has the capability to scroll, or make any changes regarding the intensity it is prohibited. After a lengthy discussion, **MOTION** Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn, **SECOND** Councilmember Deborah Bradley to direct staff to begin the process with council to review the ordinance. Motion carried.

The next item was to discuss and or consider storm drain and sanitary sewer issues and concerns in the 700 block of North Main St. Staff is bringing back for council discussion the drainage issues in the 700 block of North Main. Over the past month the residents in the 700 block of North Main have experienced drainage issues that resulted in water in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Galow. The city has been working with Strand O'Malley engineering to evaluate options that may help alleviate some of the drainage issues. Staff has contracted with Global Hydro Vac out of Giddings to clean the storm drains along North Main and Hanacek Lane to make sure that the storm drains are free flowing. Global Hydro Vac is scheduled to begin work the week of June 13th. Staff will continue to evaluate options to assist the residents to help alleviate the flooding issues. During discussion it was noted staff is looking into the water runoff from the surrounding area to see if modifications could be made to help alleviate this problem. There will be a "smoke test" of the sanitary sewer lines to see where the rain water might be infiltrating the sanitary sewer lines. Mr. Galow addressed the council regarding this matter, it was noted that he has already installed a backflow valve at his residence; he has also had ditches dug in an attempt to keep his house from flooding. City Manager Raborn noted that staff will keep everyone informed during this investigation process to see what remedies might be available.

The next item was to discuss and or consider staff to proceed with the upgrade of the sanitary sewer line and water line along La Fayette Street from Washington to Madison. Staff is requesting council authorization to proceed with the engineering and bidding of the project to replace the sewer and water line along La Fayette Street from Washington to Madison. There are sewer issues along this line and as part of the line replacement, we will have to place the sewer and water lines on opposite sides of the railroad. The estimated cost of the project is \$369,000 and will be paid out of utility capital funds and water bond proceeds. This project will involve coordination with the railroad and with TxDOT. **MOTION** Councilmember Weishuhn, **SECOND** Councilmember Busch to authorize staff to proceed with the project. Motion carried.

The next item was to discuss and or consider a resolution canceling the July 25, 2016 regular scheduled council meeting. **MOTION** Mayor Pro tem John J. Cernosek, **SECOND** Councilmember Violet Zbranek to approve the resolution cancelling the July 25, 2016 regular scheduled council meeting. Motion carried. **INSERT #2**

The next item was to discuss and or consider approval of May 2016 minutes. **MOTION** Councilmember Zbranek, **SECOND** Councilman Pat Janca to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Mayor Pro tem Cernosek, chairman of the Tourism Committee reported that the committee met prior to the council meeting. The committee reviewed funding requests and recommends council authorize funding as follows: 1) Friends of Monument Hill/Kreische Brewery \$2,100 for advertising the Texas Heroes Day Event, 2) Juneteenth

On The Square \$2,250 to advertise their event , 3) Colorado Valley Quilt Guild \$2,650 to advertise and support the 2017 quilt show, and 4) Texas Quilt Museum to assist with Tourist Oriented Directional Signs the committee recommends tabling this request due to the possibility that the museum might not meet the qualifications from the state to obtain this signage. Mayor Pro tem Cernosek noted that the recommended amounts to be funded are not for the full amounts that had been requested from the organizations, this is due to the fact that the revenue from the hotel occupancy tax is down. **MOTION** Mayor Pro tem Cernosek, **SECOND** Councilman Janca to approve funding as recommended by the Tourism Committee. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Main Street will host movie night on the square on Friday, June 17th showing 101 Dalmatians. Pioneer Bank and Adamcik Insurance Agency will sponsor various activities/items during the movie.

The Mayan & Aztec Dance Extravaganza will be held at the Historic Casino Hall on June 25th.

City Manager Report

The graffiti on the Texas Quilt Museum appears to be more along the lines of a “tagging” of an artist and not gang related graffiti.

Parking on the square will be restriped on Sunday.

The Trailblazer event at the library was very well attended, there was an extra time slot made available to what had been originally scheduled and 150 people attended the event.

Juneteenth On The Square will be held this Saturday.

The Senior Citizen trip to the Unity Theatre in Brenham was enjoyed by those in attendance.

The Hot Rod Tour came thru La Grange today with an estimated 1000 vehicles.

There will be a budget workshop at the next council meeting.

At 7:00 PM as pursuant to Section 551.074 Personnel Matters, council went into closed executive session to discuss and or consider acceptance of retirement of Chief of Police and selection process of new Chief of Police.

At 7:35 PM Council went into Open Session. There was no action required.

At 7:37 PM a **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Weishuhn, with a **SECOND** by Councilman Janca that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

Lisa Oltmann, City Secretary

These Minutes Approved by City Council on:

Janet Moerbe, Mayor

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – June 27, 2016

The City Council of the City of La Grange met in Regular Session on Monday, June 27, 2016 in the City Hall Council Chambers with the following members present: Councilmember Bonnie Busch, Councilmember Deborah Bradley, Mayor Pro tem John Cernosek, Councilman John Eilert, Councilman Pat Janca, Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn and Councilmember Violet Zbranek. Mayor Janet Moerbe and Councilman Arnold Romberg were absent. Staff present: City Manager Shawn Raborn, Chief Jackie Skelton, and City Secretary Lisa Oltmann. Visitors: Jeff Wick, Tom Hudson, Jacki Short, Dr. Rick Spencer, Wm Koenig, and others.

Mayor Pro tem John Cernosek called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas was recited and Dr. Rick Spencer, Interim Pastor of Second Baptist Church gave the invocation.

Under Public Petitions Wm Koenig spoke in regards having the sign ordinance modified in regards to how CEVM signs for churches are handled.

The first item was to discuss and or consider blocking off the square for La Grange Oktoberfest. The Rotary Club of La Grange would like to host an Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 1, 2016. The event will begin at 3 pm and is expected to end by 8 pm. The Rotary Club of La Grange is requesting permission for the closing of the following locations to accommodate event set-up 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 along the various craft beer stations. **MOTION** Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn, **SECOND** Councilmember Deborah Bradley to approve this request. Motion carried.

The next item was to discuss the Sign Ordinance. Amending the sign ordinance involves taking stock of current signage within the community and considering what signage is desirable. This brainstorming process, along with public meetings and input, as well as review of other signage ordinances will help formulate any modifications to our current ordinance. Some questions that can be discussed to help in determining what should be part of an updated sign ordinance are: What are our favorite signs in the

community? What signs do we like the least? Are there any signs that we do not want to have in our community? How many signs should be allowed on each property? Where can signs be located? On premise only? What signs are appropriate in the historic business district? What signs are appropriate in residential areas? What signs are appropriate for entrance corridors? What signs are appropriate for industrial areas? What signs are appropriate for other areas of the community (i.e. shopping centers, gas stations, institutions)? Should signs be limited in size and height? What kind of illumination of signs do we want (i.e. external lighting on signs, internal sign illumination, and/or neon)? Do we need to address the materials of signs (plastic, canvas, metal, etc)? Billboards are currently prohibited. Do we want to revisit this issue? After discussion, it was suggested that perhaps a committee could be formed which might include members of council, business owners, church representatives, Main Street representatives, Historic District representatives, and others which would assemble information for the council regarding the sign ordinance.

Chief of Police Report

Dick Frenzel, a member of the CPAAA was attending a CPAAA conference last week and while there he had a heart attack and he is still in the hospital. Please keep him in your prayers.

City Council Committee Reports

Yard of the Month was awarded to Terry Belger at 606 S. Madison St.

On Saturday, June 25th the Casino Arts Association held a Mayan & Aztec dance performance. There were 200 tickets available for the event and it was sold out. The Associations next event will be a comedy musical on the story of Bonnie & Clyde.

City Manager Report

The Active Project Report was reviewed. Strand & Associates are working with Asst. City Manager Frank Menefee to resolve the trihalomethane issues in the water system. Once additional information is received it will be presented to council. The Summer Reading Program is currently being held at the Library, the feature this week is the Fire Department which will bring a fire truck there on Wednesday. Work began today on the second section of the Lynnwood Underground project. City Attorney Angela Beck has completed the request for a variance to the sanitary control easement which has been submitted to TCEQ for approval. Once this is received the drilling of Well Station B can move forward. The storm drain lines in the North Main/Hanacek LN are have been cleaned out, and Precinct 1 commissioner will clear the north side of Hanacek LN, this should help with the drainage in that immediate area. The remote lighting system at the baseball fields has been completed. The playground equipment for White Rock Park & Kruschel Park has been ordered and should be installed by the middle of September. Staff will be working on a TPWD grant for the boat ramp/park.

The Budget Workshop was then held. Some of the projects anticipated for the upcoming fiscal year include an upgrade on the water & sewer lines on La Fayette St., implementation of a Fiber Connection between city facilities. Staff will look at having an “assessable for all” play scape added adjacent to the splash pad which will be next to the Randolph Recreation Center. Providing a “Shred It” event two times a year instead of once a year to allow citizens more opportunities to dispose of sensitive documents. It is anticipated that there will be minimal increases for water, and sewer services as well as the electrical base rate and the residential garbage rate.

At 7:03 PM a **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Weishuhn, with a **SECOND** by Councilmember Bradley that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

Lisa Oltmann, City Secretary

These Minutes Approved by City Council on:

John J. Cernosek, Mayor Pro tem