

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – June 8, 2020

The City Council of the City of La Grange met in Regular Session on Monday, June 8, 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, Councilman Quenten 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: Stacey Norris, Larry Jackson, Phil Oestreich, Joy Cameron, Pastor Candy O'Meara, and guest(s).

Mayor Moerbe called the meeting to order. Next were pledges to the US and Texas Flags. Pastor Candy O'Meara of St. Paul Lutheran Church gave the invocation.

Under Petitions/Public Comment, Joy Cameron spoke.

CONSENT AGENDA

Discuss and or Consider approval of May minutes.

A **Motion** was made by Councilman Janca, **Second** Councilman Taylor to approve the May Minutes as presented. Motion carried 8-0.

REGULAR AGENDA

Report from and Recognition of the Fayette County Disaster Recovery Team for service to the citizens of La Grange during time of need. Mayor Moerbe requested that representatives of the Disaster Recovery Team give a final report of the organizations' activities and recognize them for their service to the community during and after Hurricane Harvey.

Discuss and or Consider request from Erich and Lauren Lehmann to encroach into the public right of way to install columns to support new canopy at 109 North Main. The City of La Grange received a request from Erich and Lauren Lehmann to encroach into the public right of way for the purpose of installing a new canopy along the front of the building located at 109 North Main as part of the building renovation. The canopy poles will be fixed to the sidewalk. The owner has complied with all of the required reviews for modifications to structures in the Historic District. The final step in the process is for council approval to allow for the encroachment into the public right of way. A similar request on the West side of the square was approved for the property at 155 N Main, which is the current location of Pioneer Bank, in 2007. In addition, the Council approved a request for encroachment for the property at 130 N Washington, which is the current location of Kat's Antiques in 2008. **Motion** Mayor Pro tem Cernosek, **Second** Councilmember Weishuhn to approve the encroachment into the public right of way to install columns to support a new canopy at 109 N Main Street. Motion carried 8-0.

Discuss and or Consider cancelling the July 27th City Council Meeting. **Motion** Mayor Pro tem Cernosek, **Second** Councilmember Zbranek to approve Resolution 20-06 cancelling the July 27th City Council meeting. Motion carried 8-0. **Insert # 1**

Discuss refinancing of the City of La Grange - 2011 Certificate of Obligation. Staff will review with Council the request to refinance the 2011 Certificate of Obligation. In August, we have the first opportunity to call our existing bonds and refinance them at a lower total interest cost. The current outstanding par value of the 2011 CO is \$4,420,000 with a future interest cost between 3.00%-3.75% over

the remaining 10 years of the bond. In the current market, we believe that we can save between \$400,000 and \$500,000 in net interest cost over the next ten (10) years. We are proposing to bring back to Council at the next meeting, an ordinance authorizing the issuance of the Refunding Bonds in the event specific cost savings can be realized.

Report on COVID-19. City Manager Raborn gave a report on city facilities that are currently operating at less than full capacity. All facilities are being operated in accordance with the current mandates. The information is current as of Friday, June 5th. The library is open with the number of public computers limited due to social distancing requirements. The summer reading program has begun; the meeting rooms remain closed. The Recreation Center opened summer camp on Monday, June 1st at less than full capacity. The playscapes reopened on June 5th as well as the restroom facilities at White Rock Park. The Splashpad facility plans to open on June 9th with a limit on the number of visitors in order to maintain social distancing. The city pool opened on Saturday, June 6th, with COVID-19 protocols in place. We will be limiting pool capacity for the first few weeks. Beginning on June 10th, the pool will be open from 9:00-noon and then from 3:00-7:00 Wednesday-Saturday and 3:00-7:00 on Sunday. The Municipal Court will reopen on the next scheduled court date which is June 11th. We have completed the required COVID-19 Operating Plan for the Municipal Court; procedures will be in place to ensure the health and safety of everyone associated with the City of La Grange Municipal Court. The City of La Grange Police Station lobby will remain closed at this time. The drive thru is fully operational and we encourage our customers to utilize the drive thru window as much as possible.

Next was a report on the earlier discussion and consideration of Allocation of Tourism Funds. The Tourism Grant Committee reviewed and considered five (5) requests for funding under the Tourism Grant Program. The following applicants were recommended for funding – Texas Quilt Museum \$2,470 for exclusive online marketing, the Fayette County Sheriff's Posse \$7,500 to advertise the Rodeo in August, The Rotary Club of La Grange \$6,000 to advertise Oktoberfest, and Tourism Marketing Initiatives – La Grange is Open for Business \$8,000 which is a magazine insert with The Fayette County Record. The Office of Community Development and Tourism identified two (2) outdoor/billboard advertising locations that could be used to market the community. It was suggested to table/hold this request until further review/research could be done. **Motion** Councilmember Zbranek, **Second** Councilman Janca to approve funding for four (4) applicants under the Tourism Grant Program. Motion carried 8-0.

Chief of Police Update

Chief of Police David Gilbreath was approached about holding a protest around the downtown square over the weekend. Chief of Police Gilbreath suggested a community gathering instead at White Rock Park where all voices could be heard – it would serve a better purpose. It is tentatively being discussed for June 20th in the morning including members of the County, Fire Department, EMS, First Responders – all planning to meet and engage with the local community. Chief of Police Gilbreath went on to discuss the City of La Grange's Police Policy – not a biased base police agency and we follow the state law on use of force. The City of La Grange uses Texas Best Practice as our guide.

City Manager Update

The first summer drive-in movie event on June 5th was sold out and went well at the fairgrounds. The next summer drive-in movie is Blue Hawaii on June 19th. The Locals Love La Grange program is again being well received and ends Monday, June 15th. The receipt turn in deadline is June 22nd for credit on the July utility bill.

At 6:50 PM a **Motion** was made by Councilmember Weishuhn, with a **Second** by Councilman Gonzalez that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

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

Janet Moerbe, Mayor

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – June 22, 2020

The City Council of the City of La Grange met in Regular Session on Monday, June 22, 2020, in the City Hall Council Chambers at 155 E. Colorado St. with the following members present in person: Mayor Janet Moerbe, Mayor Pro tem John J. Cernosek, Councilman Quenten Gonzalez, Councilman Pat Janca, Councilman Ken Taylor, Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn, and Councilmember Violet Zbranek. The following members were present via teleconference: Councilmember Bonnie Busch and Councilmember Jan Dockery. Staff present: City Manager Shawn Raborn, Chief of Police David Gilbreath, and City Secretary Janet Bayer. Visitors: Stacey Norris, Paula Vogel, Jose Huerta, Neale Rabensburg, and Emily Gonzalez.

Mayor Moerbe called the meeting to order. Next were pledges to the US and Texas Flags. Pastor Kolbe Hill of the Remnant Church gave the invocation.

Under Petitions, Neale Rabensburg spoke.

REGULAR AGENDA

Discuss and or Consider approval of City Council Committee appointments. Mayor Moerbe recommended that the following City Council Committees be appointed as follows: **General Services Committee**-John Cernosek Chair, Violet Zbranek, Jan Dockery, and Kathy Weishuhn. **Utility Enterprise Committee**-Bonnie Busch Chair, Ken Taylor, Quenten Gonzalez and Pat Janca. **Tourism Partnership Grant Committee**-Kathy Weishuhn Chair, John Cernosek and Pat Janca. **Appraisal District Rep**-Arnold Romberg. **Main Street Committee**-Kathy Weishuhn. **Library/Airport**-John Cernosek. **Fire Department**-Violet Zbranek. **Motion** Mayor Pro tem Cernosek, **Second** Councilmember Zbranek to approve committee appointments. Motion carried 8-0.

Discuss and or Consider appointment to the La Grange Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors. The La Grange Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors is comprised of 7 members. At this time there is one vacancy on the La Grange EDC Board. It is the recommendation of Mayor Moerbe that Councilmember Jan Dockery be appointed to the La Grange EDC Board of Directors. **Motion** Councilmember Weishuhn, **Second** Councilman Taylor to approve the appointment of Jan Dockery as recommended. Motion carried 8-0.

Discuss and or Consider reappointment to the La Grange Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors. It is also the recommendation that Daniel Cernoch, John Eilert, and Janetta Morris of the La Grange Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors be reappointed. **Motion** Councilmember Weishuhn, **Second** Councilman Taylor that the recommendation(s) be approved. Motion carried 8-0.

Discuss and or Consider on First and Final Reading an Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of City of La Grange, Texas General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2020; Levying an Ad Valorem Tax in Support of the Bonds; Approving a Paying Agent/Registrar Agreement, a Purchase Agreement and an Escrow Agreement; Establishing Procedures for Selling and Delivery of the Bonds; and Authorizing Other Matters Relating to the Bonds. Staff is requesting council authorization to proceed with the process to refinance the 2011 Certificate of Obligation. In August, we have the first opportunity to call our existing bonds and refinance them at a lower total interest cost. The current outstanding par value of the 2011 CO is \$4,420,000 with a future interest rate between 3.00% - 3.75% over the remaining 10 years of the bond. In the current market, we believe that we can save between \$400,000 and \$500,000 in net interest cost over the next ten (10) years. The ordinance under consideration will authorize staff to proceed with the issuance of the Refunding Bonds. **Motion** Councilmember Weishuhn, **Second** Councilman Taylor to approve on First and Final Reading an Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of City of La Grange, Texas General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2020; Levying an Ad Valorem Tax in Support of the Bonds; Approving a Paying Agent/Registrar Agreement, a Purchase Agreement and an Escrow Agreement; Establishing Procedures for Selling and Delivery of the Bonds; and Authorizing Other Matters Relating to the Bonds. Motion carried 8-0.

Report on COVID-19. City Manager Raborn gave a report on city facilities that are currently operating at less than full capacity. Due to a staff member testing positive in the Recreation Department, the Recreation Center is closed until June 29th. All summer camp parents and staff were notified on Sunday, June 21st. The City Pool will be closed this Wednesday and Thursday to reopen on Friday, June 26th. Staff will scan for temperatures and staff will be required to wear mask when inside the facilities. The Splashpad facility has been well attended since opening this summer. The playscapes and Rec Center meeting rooms are being cleaned/sanitized throughout the day. Following the Governor's latest order released today, June 22nd, we are strongly encouraging citizens and staff to wear mask when out in public and to practice social distancing.

Chief of Police Update

Chief of Police David Gilbreath reported that the patrol cars are currently being re-stripped. Chief of Police Gilbreath stated that Saturday's community gathering at White Rock Park went really well. It was a nice showing of unity in the community. Gilbreath is also requiring his department to do a re-training on Use of Force protocols.

Jose Huerta, an intern in the "Home to Texas" program from the University of Texas, spoke about different grant programs he is currently researching – including the 2nd floor expansion plan project for loft living for buildings on the Square and the GAP Pilot Grant Program. He is currently interning with the City of La Grange.

Next was a report on the earlier discussion and consideration of Allocation of Tourism Funds. The Tourism Grant Committee reviewed and considered three (3) requests for funding under the Tourism Grant Program. The following applicants were recommended for funding –La Grange Chamber of Commerce \$3,900 for billboard advertising, The Office of Community Development and Tourism \$14,400 for two (2) outdoor/billboard advertising locations that could be used to market the community, and The Fayette County Fair Association funding was tabled until the submission of a formal request. **Motion** Councilmember Zbranek, **Second** Councilman Gonzalez to approve funding for two (2) applicants under the Tourism Grant Program. Motion carried 8-0.

Review Active Project Report

City Manager Shawn Raborn went over various active projects, many of which pertain to grants. The upgrade of the water line between Well Station D and B is still on schedule to go out for bid next month. Lamar Technical is working on the electrical distribution line relocation in relation to the new river bridge that is being installed over the Colorado River on Travis Street. The approved EDA grant project to extend the wastewater line service west of town towards Plum will go out for bid in March/April of 2021 with construction to begin in June 2021. The CDBG grant application for a water system upgrade is anticipated to be due in the spring of 2021. The RFQ project for Audit Services went out for bids and is due June 24th. We are evaluating Banking Services at this time. The LCRA project at White Rock Park to repair the canoe launch and remove debris from Hurricane Harvey has been completed. The grant request with the Tocker Foundation to install new shelving at the Library has been postponed due to possible funding issues. The goal of the project is to allow for more flexible space for library operations. The CDBG-DR Buyout program for residential property owners impacted by Hurricane Harvey has had very little response. We are working with Grant Works to make additional contact with impacted property owners. Staff is working to identify projects that will be included in the GLO-MIT Competitive and Non-Competitive grant applications due Fall of 2020 and Spring of 2021. The City of La Grange received the initial allocation in Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) to assist in offsetting the costs we have incurred due to COVID-19. All cost must be incurred by December 31st to be an eligible program expense.

The budget planning workshop was then held. The purpose of the workshop is to review budget priorities and plans with the City Council of La Grange for fiscal year 2020-2021. The FY 2020-2021 budget is infrastructure development and grant management driven. We have three (3) major utility projects in development and the rebuilding of the 100 block of South Vail Street planned for this fiscal year. We are also actively managing four (4) major grant programs and anticipate submitting four (4) new grant applications in FY 2020-2021. Develop and implement systematic review of City Operations to include organizational risks and opportunities to improve efficiencies and reduce expenses. Continue Shred It Program and Implement eCitation system for the Police Department. Continue Storm Drain cleaning program and annual reclaim program in the Street Department. Install shade structure over play structure at Recreation Center. Evaluate installation of Columbarium adjacent to the gazebo at the Cemetery. The Recreation Department will continue to provide quality recreation programs for the community at the Randolph Recreation Center and continue summer recreation camp programs. Facility Improvements include painting exteriors of both the Police Station and the Recreation Center, refresh interior of City Hall, and install new vehicle lift at Service Center. Coordinate implementation of Adopted Comprehensive Plan items and complete installation of Wayfinding Signage. The Library will implement Workforce Development Program- Career Cruising partnership with Community and Economic Development Department and continue community programs. Main Street/Visitors Center will continue community marketing efforts in all media outlets. Continue to upgrade those residential and commercial customer services that have become inappropriately sized over time. Continue tree trimming program. Replace ground storage tank at Well Station G. Continue Water Supply Development Program with Fayette Water Supply. Continue manhole rehabilitation program. Continue curbside recycling, brush collection, street sweeping services, and bulk curbside collection service for our citizens.

City Manager Update

The Locals Love La Grange program was very well received with receipt turn in deadline as of today, June 22nd. Our sales tax collections were down just under 5%, better than anticipated. We do believe the next few months will be much more difficult. The Shred It Program will be in October with the next clean up to also be held in the Fall.

At 7:18 PM a **Motion** was made by Councilmember Weishuhn, with a **Second** by Councilman Janca that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

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

Janet Moerbe, Mayor