

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – March 13, 2017

The City Council of the City of La Grange met in Regular Session on Monday, March 13, 2017 in the City Hall Council Chambers at 155 E. Colorado St. with the following members present: Mayor Janet Moerbe, Councilmember Deborah Bradley, Mayor Pro tem John J. Cernosek, Councilman John Eilert, Councilman Pat Janca, Councilman Arnold Romberg, Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn, and Councilmember Violet Zbranek. Councilmember Bonnie Busch was absent. Staff present: City Manager Shawn Raborn, Sgt. Steve Pohorelsky, and City Secretary Lisa Oltmann. Visitors: Jeff Wick, Ken Taylor, J. Paul Bruhm, Tom Hudson, Linda Oltmann, Garry Schellberg and W O Wood.

Mayor Moerbe called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas was recited and Pastor J Paul Bruhn of the First United Methodist Church gave the invocation.

There were no petitions presented.

The first item was a report on the new AMEN facility project. Representatives of the AMEN Board appeared before council to review the development plans for the new facility on Reynolds Street and give an overview of the services provided the organization to the community. Linda Oltmann provided the council with information related to process for individuals to be able to receive food from the AMEN Food Pantry. Individuals must register when arriving at AMEN, they then go thru the pantry with an assistant from AMEN and make their selections. The size of their family determines how many items they are allowed in the various sections such as vegetables, grains, etc. AMEN received food donations from individuals, businesses and various organizations. In addition to these donations, AMEN Food Pantry will also order items from the Central Texas Food Bank, so they also accept and appreciate monetary donations. When donations are brought into AMEN they are weighed and when individuals that are receiving food from the pantry are finished making their selections their items are also weighed. AMEN assists approximately 200 families per month. This year AMEN celebrates its 25th birthday as they were incorporated in January, 1992. Garry Schellberg then reviewed the proposed plans for their new facility on Reynolds Street. They anticipate having a large lobby which would include a waiting area which could accommodate up to 50 chairs. They plan to have additional shelving units installed in the food pantry grocery area as well as additional coolers which will allow them to be able to accept more items than they currently can due to the limited space they have at this time. The budget for this project is approximately \$120,000-\$150,000. Their goal is to design the new facility so it is easy to use and will be functional for many years. Thanks were extended from the council to the representatives and volunteers of the AMEN Food Pantry for all they do for the community and for their informative presentation. AMEN as well extended their thanks to the city for their assistance.

The next item was a report on 2017 Street Paving/Reclaiming Program. A list of the street projects which staff has identified to include in the 2017 Street Repaving Program was presented to Council. **Attachment #1**. The total investment this year in street repair and maintenance is estimated to be \$200,000. The funding for this project was included in the FY 2016-2017 Capital Improvement Fund Budget. This was presented for discussion purposes only.

The next item was to discuss and or consider final replat request from Grand Central Texas Development to subdivide property located at 997 E. Colorado Street. A request was received from Grand Central Texas Development Corporation to subdivide their property located at 997 E. Colorado Street. Lot 1 would be approximately 133.2' X 114.3'. Lot 2 would be approximately 106.3' X 114.00' and both driveways will be exiting on Horton Street. There were 21 letters sent to property owners within a 200' radius of this address asking if the owners were in favor of or opposed to the subdivision request. There were six (6) letters returned in favor of granting this request, four (4) letters that were opposed to granting this request and eleven (11) letters not returned. Council gave preliminary approval to this request at the January 9, 2017 council meeting. An updated replat showing corrected building setback lines was provided prior to the meeting. **MOTION** Councilman Romberg, **SECOND** Councilman Janca to approve this final replat. Motion carried.

The next item was to discuss and or consider approval of February 2017 minutes. **MOTION** Councilman Eilert, **SECOND** Councilmember Zbranek to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

The next item was the Tourism Committee meeting report and to discuss and or consider allocation of Tourism Funds. Mayor Pro tem Cernosek, Chair of the Tourism Grant Committee reported that the committee met prior to the council meeting and reviewed 6 requests. The requests were from the Texas Czech Heritage & Cultural Center in the amount of \$4,500 for advertising Slavnost/May Fest; Rotary Club of La Grange-Oktoberfest in the amount of \$6,000 to advertise Oktoberfest; Fayette County Tourism Association in the amount of \$6,300 to the Countywide Tourism Association for website operations; Texas Heroes Museum in the amount of \$1,840 to advertise & promote the museum; Fayette County Fair Association for the 2016 Fair in the amount of \$10,000, the annual request to promote the fair; and the Juneteenth on the Square committee in the amount of \$2,500 to advertise the event. It is the committee's recommendation that council fund the requests as follows: Texas Czech Heritage & Cultural Center in the amount of \$1,750 to advertise Slavnost/May Fest as they have once again failed to have the La Grange Main Street & Visitors Bureau logo on their advertising; Rotary Club of La Grange-Oktoberfest in the amount of \$6,000; Fayette County Tourism Association in the amount of \$2,500 which is the same as the City of Flatonia and \$500 more than the county itself; Texas Heroes Museum in the amount of

\$2,500 to assist them to get started with their promotion and advertising; Fayette County Fair Association in the amount of \$5,000 for 2016 due to the timeliness of the application as well as not including the La Grange Main Street & Visitors Bureau logo on their advertising. The committee also recommends funding the Fair Association \$10,000 for the 2017 Fair provided they meet all of the advertising requirements. The committee also recommends that the request from Juneteenth on the Square committee be funded in the amount of \$2,500. **MOTION** from Mayor Pro tem Cernosek to fund the requests as recommended by the Tourism Grant Committee. **MOTION CARRIED**

City Council Committee Reports

The Library Board met the prior week, information for February was included in the council packet. **Attachment #2**

The Beautification Committee awarded Yard of the Month to David & Laura Golden at 109 W. Vine.

Main Street will host “La Grange Uncorked” this weekend.

The Historic Casino Hall will have an open house on March 23rd.

Chief of Police Update

An individual has been arrested and charged with robbery as he had threatened a store manager when the individual was shoplifting at that store. The same individual has also has other charges against him due to incidents in the county.

City Manager Update

Sales tax is flat from this same time last year.

Curbside bulk pick up will be in April, the “Shred It” event, where individuals can dispose of documents which should be shredded, will be held at this same time.

The spring brush pick up will also be held in April. City staff is making contact with individuals to let them know the city does provide this service for a fee year round in addition to the free spring and fall brush pick up.

The street sweeper is back in operation.

At 6:30 PM a **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Zbranek, with a **SECOND** by Councilman Eilert that the meeting be adjourned. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Lisa Oltmann, City Secretary

These Minutes Approved by City Council on:

Janet Moerbe, Mayor

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – March 27, 2017

The City Council of the City of La Grange met in Regular Session on Monday, March 27, 2017 in the City Hall Council Chambers at 155 E. Colorado St. with the following members present: Mayor Janet Moerbe, Councilmember Bonnie Busch, Councilmember Deborah Bradley, Mayor Pro tem John J. Cernosek, Councilman John Eilert, Councilman Pat Janca, Councilman Arnold Romberg, Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn, and Councilmember Violet Zbranek. Staff present: City Manager Shawn Raborn, Sgt. Steve Pohorelsky, and City Secretary Lisa Oltmann. Visitors: Jeff Wick, Ken Taylor, Jason McBroom, Dusty Littrell, Chris Little, Tom Hudson, John Mickelson, Don Galow, and others.

Mayor Moerbe called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas was recited and Pastor Chris Little of the Second Baptist Church gave the invocation.

Sgt. Steve Pohorelsky introduced John Mickelson who was recently hired by the City Police Department. Officer Mickelson is currently going thru his FTO.

There were no petitions presented.

The first item was the presentation of the City of La Grange Annual Audit Report. Mr. Greg Trlicek of Trlicek & Co., P.C., auditor for the City of La Grange presented the results of the 2015-2016 annual audit report. Mr. Trlicek reported that the city is in good financial standing. He also thanked the city staff for their assistance while the auditors were gathering information for the audit.

The next item was to discuss and or consider acceptance of the La Grange Audit Report. **MOTION** Councilman John Eilert, **SECOND** Councilmember Deborah Bradley to accept the audit report. Motion carried.

The next item was to discuss and or consider a request from the First Baptist Church to close Lester Street to traffic for Easter Service. In previous years Lester Street by the First Baptist Church was closed from 8:30-11:30 on Easter Sunday, staff is recommending approval of this request. **MOTION** Councilmember Violet Zbranek, **SECOND** Councilman Arnold Romberg to approve staff's recommendation. Motion carried.

The next item was to discuss and or consider authorizing staff to request additional funding from the La Grange Economic Development Corporation to assist in funding of Splash Pad and park improvements adjacent to the Randolph Recreation Center. In April of 2015, the La Grange EDC agreed to partner with the City of La Grange to develop a new park adjacent to the Randolph Recreation Center. In an effort to leverage the

funding, we submitted a grant application to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Our application to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to build a splash pad adjacent to the Randolph Recreation Center was not approved. In order to get the project completed in a timely manner, staff is requesting council approval to request additional funding in the amount of \$200,000 from the EDC to complete the project. The total investment from the EDC will be \$400,000. The EDC funding will not be needed until the FY 2017-2018 Budget. We are estimating the total project cost at \$800,000. The budget is preliminary and is based on the figures used to develop the Texas Parks and Wildlife application and may be lower. The project will include a splash pad, changing rooms, Playscape for All and additional parking at the Recreation Center. The City portion of the project will come from budgeted Capital Improvement Funds for this project. **MOTION** Councilman Romberg, **SECOND** Councilman Pat Janca to approve staff's request to request additional funding from the EDC to complete the project. Motion carried.

City Council Committee Reports

The Library was recently featured in the Social Library and Art section of WebJunction. WebJunction provides online professional development and webinars for Libraries all over the world. The Library/Museum is also preparing a WWI exhibit, which will include a life-size rendition of a local serviceman who served in the army during the war. In a recent post, patrons are invited to "[Come have your picture taken with Charles Edwin Hausmann!](#)"

Councilman John Eilert noted that the recent Open House held at the Historic Casino was well received and well attended by the public.

Chief of Police Update

Sgt. Steve Pohorelsky presented the report to council. Sgt. Pohorelsky noted that recently there have been several burglaries of storage facilities. This has happened in the county as well as the city. There are also cases being reported regarding family violence assaults.

City Manager Update

The LCRA Step Forward program will take place this Friday. In La Grange work will be done at the pauper cemetery as well as White Rock Park. TXDOT has notified the city that there will be a preconstruction meeting held in April regarding repairs to the drainage channel next to the Hwy 71 River Bridge. Work is anticipated to begin in May on this project. Uncorked La Grange was held on March 18th, this was hosted by the La Grange Main Street Department.

At 6:20 PM as pursuant to Section 551.071 Consultation with Attorney, council went into Executive Session for consultation with City Attorney regarding Tom Hudson, Individually and Jator, Inc. vs City of La Grange, TX No. 2017V-053.

At 7:05 PM Council went into open Session. There was no action required at this time.

At 7:06 PM a **MOTION** was made by Councilman Janca, with a **SECOND** by Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

Lisa Oltmann, City Secretary

These Minutes Approved by City Council on:

Janet Moerbe, Mayor