

## **SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – November 12, 2019**

The City Council of the City of La Grange met in Special Session on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 in the City Hall Council Chambers at 155 E. Colorado St. with the following members present: Mayor Janet Moerbe, Councilmember Bonnie Busch, Mayor Pro tem John J. Cernosek, Councilmember Jan Dockery, Councilman John Eilert, Councilman Ken Taylor, and Councilmember Violet Zbranek. Councilman Pat Janca and Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn were absent. Staff present: City Manager Shawn Raborn, Sergeant Travis Anderson, City Secretary Janet Bayer, and Recreation Center Director Janet Rangel. Visitors: Kristen Denham, Tiffany Denham, Jonathan Ellis, Sarah Mabry, Mike Mabry DVM, Tom Hudson, Kim Newton, Quenten Gonzalez, Britney Schielack, Brandon Schielack, and Mike Newton.

Mayor Moerbe called the meeting to order. Next were pledges to the US and Texas Flags. Councilman Ken Taylor gave the invocation.

Under petitions, Ken Dernehl of La Grange Citizens Alliance and Brandon Schielack spoke.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Discuss and or Consider second reading of an ordinance adding Article 6.05, to Chapter 6, of the City of La Grange Code of Ordinances, to prohibit camping in designated public places, imposing a fine of \$500.00 for the violation thereof; providing for a permit process for camping in city parks; repealing all conflicting ordinances; providing for enforcement, publication, codification and savings, and declaring an effective date.

Discuss and or Consider the appointment of Erica King to the La Grange Housing Authority Board. The La Grange Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners is recommending the appointment of Ms. Erica King as a Commissioner. If agreed by the City Council, she will be taking the vacant spot of Ms. Jan Dockery.

A motion was made by Councilman Eilert, second Councilmember Zbranek to approve the Consent Agenda Items as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

Report on the Adventure Park at White Rock Park. Janet Rangel gave a report on the Adventure Park that will be constructed at White Rock Park on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Site plans for the Adventure Park and presentation slides were included for review. Janet Rangel applied for the grant on July 11. The City of La Grange was awarded the 4800 square foot total build grant by August 27<sup>th</sup>, with a set build day for December 7<sup>th</sup>. Mayor and Council congratulated Rangel and her staff for all of their efforts. On build day, over 200 volunteers will be needed. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Discuss and or Consider amending City of La Grange Code of Ordinances, Section 1.10.003 Record of Lots. The General Services Committee met last week to review a Cemetery Ordinance regarding the number of interments allowed per space. The city cemetery ordinance currently stipulates that only one interment is permitted per space. The committee is recommending that the ordinance be changed to allow the following: Interments allowed in a single grave shall be: (1) One person's bodily remains; (2) Two people's bodily remains stacked; (3) One person's bodily remains and one person's cremated remains; and (4) Three (3) people's cremated remains. Motion Mayor Pro tem Cernosek, second Councilman Taylor to accept this ordinance as presented on First Reading. Before the roll call vote was taken, Councilmember Zbranek had a question about the stacking of two (2) bodily remains. A motion was made to amend Section 1.10.003 (b)(2) to state the lower body must be in a concrete vault. Amended Motion made by Mayor Pro

tem Cernosek, second Councilman Taylor to accept this amended ordinance. A roll call vote was taken: Councilmember Busch for, Mayor Pro tem Cernosek for, Councilmember Dockery for, Councilman Eilert for, Councilman Taylor for, Councilmember Zbranek for. Motion carried 6-0.

Discuss and or Consider approval of bid to purchase new police vehicles. The City of La Grange is purchasing two (2) police vehicles for the LGPD. Bid opening was held in the office of the Finance Director. Only one (1) vendor responded with a bid: that was from La Grange Ford in the amount of \$40,716.88 per vehicle. Total for the two (2) vehicles is \$81,433.76. Gary Skalka, Purchasing, recommended that the City of La Grange award the bid to La Grange Ford in the amount of \$81,433.76. Motion Mayor Pro tem Cernosek, second councilman Eilert. Motion carried.

#### City Manager Update

Sales Tax Collections are up 3%. Trick or Treat on the square went well again this year. Schmeckenfest is around the corner, set for Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. Holiday decorating for downtown La Grange begins November 25<sup>th</sup>. Cyber Security training required for staff must be completed by June 2020. Due to a hotter than normal October, electric sales were up 12% and water sales were up 37%. City Manager Raborn went over the quarterly investment report from Brett Wolff, our Finance Director, for the period ending September 30, 2019.

At 6:48 PM as pursuant to Section 551.072 Real Property Discuss and or Consider acquisition of real property, council went into Closed Executive Session.

At 7:12 PM Council went into Open Session. No action was needed.

At 7:13 PM a motion was made by Councilman Taylor, with a second by Councilmember Zbranek that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

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

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Janet Moerbe, Mayor

### **REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – November 25, 2019**

The City Council of the City of La Grange met in Regular Session on Monday, November 25, 2019 in the City Hall Council Chambers at 155 E. Colorado St. with the following members present: Mayor Janet Moerbe, Councilmember Bonnie Busch, Mayor Pro tem John J. Cernosek, Councilmember Jan Dockery, Councilman John Eilert, Councilman Pat Janca, Councilman Ken Taylor, Councilmember Violet Zbranek, and Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn. Staff present: City Manager Shawn Raborn, Chief of Police David Gilbreath, and City Secretary Janet Bayer. Visitors: Rhonda Kaltwasser, Lambert Heintschel, Tom Hudson, Mike Mabry DVM, Ralph Rosenberg, Jason Fowler, Kim Newton, Sarah Mabry, Sherri Tolbert, Neale Rabensburg, and others.

Mayor Moerbe called the meeting to order. Next were pledges to the US and Texas Flags. Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn gave the invocation.

Under petitions, Rhonda Kaltwasser, Lambert Heintschel, and Tom Hudson spoke.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Discuss and or Consider the reappointment of Mayor Moerbe as a Director of TexGas II for an additional term to expire on August 15, 2026.

Discuss and or Consider the reappointment of Diana Stevens and Violet Zbranek as Directors of TexGas III for an additional term to expire on August 15, 2026.

Discuss and or Consider the reappointment of John Cernosek and Ms. Janetta Morris as Directors of TexGas IV for an additional term to expire on August 15, 2026.

Discuss and or Consider the reappointment of Glen Pape as a Director of MuniGas for an additional term to expire on June 15, 2026.

Discuss and or Consider a Resolution to establish a banking account for the EDA grant.

Discuss and or Consider approval of October Minutes.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro tem Cernosek, second Councilman Taylor to approve the Consent Agenda Items as presented. Motion carried 8-0.

## REGULAR AGENDA

Discuss and or Consider on Second reading an ordinance amending Chapter 1, General Provisions, Article 1.10, Cemeteries, Section 1.10.001, city cemeteries designated; management and supervision, to allow for interment of more than one person's bodily remains in each cemetery space; amending section 1.10.003, of article 1.10, relating to records of lots, to enumerate the total number of bodily remains allowed for each place or grave in cemetery lots; and providing for an effective date. Staff presented on second reading the updated Cemetery ordinance regarding the number of interments allowed per space. The city cemetery ordinance currently stipulates that only one interment is permitted per space. The ordinance has been updated to allow the following: Interments allowed in a single grave shall be: (1) One person's bodily remains; or (2) two people's bodily remains stacked only if lower coffin is equipped with a concrete liner; or (3) one person's bodily remains and one person's cremated remains; or (4) three people's cremated remains. **Motion** Councilman Eilert, **Second** Councilmember Busch to approve this ordinance as presented on second reading. A roll call vote was taken: Councilmember Busch for, Mayor Pro tem Cernosek for, Councilmember Dockery for, Councilman Eilert for, Councilman Janca for, Councilman Taylor for, Councilmember Weishuhn for, Councilmember Zbranek for. Motion carried 8-0.

Discuss and or Consider on First reading an ordinance amending Chapter 3, Building Regulations, Article 3.02, Building Code, Section 3.02.004, permit fees, by repealing the existing section and replacing it entirely thereby creating a distinction for permit fees to be charged between residential and commercial construction; providing for a penalty for commencement of construction prior to obtaining a permit; and providing for an effective date. During the last legislative session H.B. 852 prohibited the use of the value of the work to be undertaken as a way to calculate a building permit fee. The City of La Grange, like most cities in Texas used the value of work to develop the permit fee. The use of value for commercial projects is still allowed and will not change. We are proposing to move to a per square foot basis for the development of the permit fee. Staff is proposing that we have a base permit fee of \$25.00 plus forty cents (\$.40) per square foot for new construction and thirty cents (\$.30) per square foot for a remodel project. **Motion** Councilmember Weishuhn, **Second** Councilmember Zbranek

to approve this ordinance as presented on first reading. A roll call vote was taken: Councilmember Busch for, Mayor Pro tem Cernosek for, Councilmember Dockery for, Councilman Eilert for, Councilman Janca for, Councilman Taylor for, Councilmember Weishuhn for, Councilmember Zbranek for. Motion carried 8-0.

Report on Active Projects. City Manager Raborn gave a status report for the month of November on all departmental active projects. The Electrical Department is continuing the conversion of street lights to LED as well as continued work with the contractor at the new elementary school to set new transformers. The Water/Wastewater Department has grant approval to upgrade the line between Well Station D and B and we should receive the contract from the GLO by the end of December. Well Station G is under construction and should be completed in early December. The replacement of the truck sewer line on Lower Line Street to the plant should be back under construction after Thanksgiving. Staff is beginning the process to identify and develop plans to relocate a number of sewer lines as well as electric lines in relation to the new bridge that is being installed over the Colorado River on Travis Street. TxDOT has requested that we have all utilities relocated by May of 2020. The wastewater line extension project from west of town towards Plum has been approved for funding by the EDA in the amount of \$1.8 million. Engineering should begin January of 2020, with project going out for bid in November of 2020. Construction should begin in early 2021. The Street Department is working with TxDOT on the replacement of traffic signals at the intersections of Travis and Main, Travis and Jefferson, and Jefferson and Colorado Streets. The survey work for the project was completed but the actual upgrade for the signals is not projected until 2022. The Parks Department has several improvements in the works. The White Rock Park restrooms are currently under construction. The KaBoom Adventure Course at White Rock Park is actively under way. The community build day for this project is Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. The City of La Grange is finalizing project(s) that we will submit to LCRA for their Steps Forward Project. The Police Department phones will soon be linked to the City Hall computer network. Colorado Valley is working on fiber service to their facility.

At 6:24 PM as pursuant to Section 551.071 Consultation with City Attorney and Section 551.072 Real Property, Discuss and or Consider acquisition of real property, council went into Closed Executive Session.

At 6:51 PM Council went into Open Session.

Back in open session, Council reviewed and discussed current City Ordinance, Chapter 10, relating to Subdivisions, and the existing platting process and considered whether or not revisions may be necessary. Ken Dernehl pointed out that the final plat for Hope Hill subdivision was not filed with the County Clerk's office within the required 30 days from the city's final acceptance of the plat making final approval invalid. Council mistakenly had given final approval prematurely. It is necessary for the infrastructure to be in place and for it to be constructed precisely to the preliminary plat. No final plat had received the necessary signatures as the engineers must sign off as the infrastructure is completed. Council will review all of our subdivision ordinances to make the wording clearer and bring them in line to House Bill 3167 passed this last legislative session. Only preliminary approval of the plat is necessary for work to begin on the infrastructure. Final approval will be required to begin building in homes.

#### Chief of Police Update

Chief of Police Gilbreath met with Brazos regarding E-citation, ticket writers. This process will provide for further safety of officers and ensure timeliness of information. Through this network, tickets automatically go to the courts ensuring accurate record keeping.

#### City Manager Update

Small Business Saturday is November 30<sup>th</sup>, encouraging consumers to shop local. Waste Management has a slide for the Thanksgiving holiday. Regular Thursday service will be Friday and regular Friday service will be Saturday. KaBoom build day is still on schedule for Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. Breakfast with Santa is scheduled for December 14<sup>th</sup>.

At 7:18 PM a motion was made by Councilmember Weishuhn, with a second by Councilman Taylor that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

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

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Janet Moerbe, Mayor