

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – September 12, 2016

The City Council of the City of La Grange met in Regular Session on Monday, September 12, 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, Councilman Arnold Romberg, Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn and Councilmember Violet Zbranek. Staff present: City Manager Shawn Raborn, Chief Jackie Skelton, City Secretary Lisa Oltmann, and Lorri Freudenberg. Visitors: Bob Schmidt, Shirley Hudson, Jackie Short, Jeff Wick and members of the La Grange Little League Junior All-stars and their supporters.

Mayor Moerbe called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas was recited and Father Matthew Kinney of Sacred Heart Catholic Church gave the invocation.

The first item was a presentation of a resolution honoring the 2016 La Grange Little League Junior Softball All-Stars. This group of all-stars participated in the Little League Junior Softball World Series in Kirkland, Washington. Mayor Moerbe read the resolution and presented a yellow rose to the members, their coach and manager. Mayor Moerbe also noted that the team in addition to playing for themselves, they dedicated their games in honor of Emily Fritsch. **Attachment #1**

The Public Hearing on the Proposed Tax Rate was opened at 6:09pm. This was the second of the two required public hearings on the proposed tax rate. Staff is proposing to set the tax rate at .2093, which is .0092 above the effective rate of .2011. There being no comments. The Public Hearing Closed at 6:10 pm.

The next item was a report on methods to reduce TTHM in the water system. Mr. Bob Schmidt with O'Malley Strand Associates will give an update on the aeration plan we are proposing to reduce the TTHM levels in the water system. Mr. Schmidt reviewed the letter from O'Malley Strand Associates which was sent to city staff in response to questions council had presented at the previous meeting. **Attachment #2** Council reviewed the proposed aeration plan with Mr. Schmidt.

The next item was to discuss and or consider authorizing staff to proceed with pilot project to reduce TTHM at the Horton Booster Station. Staff is requesting council authorization to proceed with a pilot project to add additional aeration at the Horton Street Booster Station location in order to evaluate the effectiveness of TTHM removal. It is estimated that the pilot project will cost \$100,000 and will be funded out of bond proceeds. **MOTION** Councilmember Weishuhn, **SECOND** Councilmember Busch to approve staff's request. Motion carried.

The next item was to discuss and or consider approving a Resolution to submit an Outdoor Recreation Grant application and if awarded, accept a grant from the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife for a project in the La Grange Randolph Park. Staff is requesting council authorization to submit an application to Texas Parks and Wildlife for the development of a playground for all on the property adjacent to the Randolph Recreation Center. The playground will be used in conjunction with the after school program and the summer recreation program. The project would require a fifty percent match and the application is due October 1<sup>st</sup>. Staff is proposing to apply for a grant thru the Local Parks Non-urban Outdoor Recreation Grant Program. **MOTION** Councilman Eilert, **SECOND** Councilman Janca to approve a resolution to submit an Outdoor Recreation Grant application and proceed with submitting an application to Texas Parks and wildlife for the development of a playground for all on the property adjacent to the Randolph Recreation Center as per staff's request. Motion carried. **Attachment #3**

The Public Hearing of FY 2016-2017 Annual Budget was opened at 6:38 pm. The proposed FY 2016-2017 Operating Budget is \$12,866,344. The Public Hearing Closed at 6:39pm.

The next item was to discuss and or consider on First Reading of an Ordinance making appropriations for the support of the City of La Grange for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2016 and ending September 30, 2017; appropriating money to a sinking fund to pay interest and principal due on the City's indebtedness; and adopting the annual budget of the City of La Grange for the 2016-2017 fiscal year which includes the General Fund, the Utility Enterprise Fund and the La Grange Economic Development Corporation Budget. The proposed FY 2016-2017 Operating Budget is \$12,886,344. This includes a General Fund of \$3,257,132, Utility Fund of \$9,437,000, and a Debt Service Fund of \$192,212. **MOTION** Councilmember Zbranek, **SECOND** Councilman Janca to approve this ordinance on first reading. A roll-call vote was taken: Councilmember Busch in favor, Councilmember Bradley in favor, Mayor Pro tem Cernosek in favor, Councilman Eilert in favor, Councilman Janca in favor, Councilman Romberg in favor, Councilmember Weishuhn in favor, Councilmember Zbranek in favor. Motion carried 8-0.

The next item was to discuss and or consider on First Reading of an Ordinance Levying Ad Valorem taxes for use and support of the Municipal Government of the City of La Grange, Texas for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year; providing for apportioning each levy for specific purposes; providing when taxes shall become due and when same shall become delinquent if not paid; providing for the levy and collection of occupation taxes. Staff presented for council consideration an ordinance establishing the tax rate to support the FY 2016-2017 annual budget. A property tax rate of \$.2093 per \$100 valuation is proposed to fund the FY 2016-2017 Budget. Of this rate, \$.1447 will be for maintenance and operations. The balance of \$.0646 is for debt service. **MOTION** Councilman Romberg, **SECOND** Councilmember Zbranek to approve this ordinance on first reading.

A roll-call vote was taken: Councilmember Busch in favor, Councilmember Bradley in favor, Mayor Pro tem Cernosek in favor, Councilman Eilert in favor, Councilman Janca in favor, Councilman Romberg in favor, Councilmember Weishuhn in favor, Councilmember Zbranek in favor. Motion carried 8-0.

The next 4 items are as follows: Discuss And Or Consider Second Reading Of An Ordinance Amending Chapter 13, Code Of Ordinances, City Of La Grange, Texas, As Recodified On January 8, 2007, By Amending Article 13.02 Section 13.02.031 Subsection (1)(A) Establishing And Fixing The Charges And Fees For Water Service Furnished To Residential Locations Within The City Limits Based On Water Usage And/Or Conservation; By Amending Article 13.02 Section 13.02.031 Subsections (2)(A) And 2(B) Establishing And Fixing The Charges And Fees For Water Service Furnished To Commercial Locations For Single Businesses And Multi-Business Buildings, Respectively, Within The City Limits Based On Water Usage And/Or Conservation; Authorizing The City To Collect Same; And Providing For An Effective Date. Staff is proposing to increase the base residential water rate from \$23.46 to \$24.40 per month. The change is based on a four percent increase to recognize the debt service required to develop additional water supplies and recognize the 1 percent change in the Consumer Price Index for the previous 12 months. The volumetric rate for residential water service will increase eight cents per thousand gallons based on the volume of water used. With the proposed rate modification we are still below the average rates for cities our size in the State of Texas according to the annual TML water survey. The average bill for cities our size with a monthly consumption of 5,000 gallons is \$35.38 compared to \$30.52 in La Grange. We also compare favorably with cities our size with a monthly water consumption of 10,000 gallons, \$56.05 compared to \$40.75 in La Grange.

Discuss And Or Consider Second Reading Of An Ordinance Amending Chapter 13, Code Of Ordinances, City Of La Grange, Texas, As Recodified On January 8, 2007, By Amending Article 13.03 Section 13.03.001 Subsection (a) Establishing And Fixing The Charges And Fee For The Sewer Service Furnished To Certain Residential Locations; By Amending Chapter 13, Article 13.03, Section 13.03.001 (a)(1)(B) By Amending The Rate For The Use Of Standard Fixtures In A Single Dwelling Within The City Limits; By Amending Chapter 13, Article 13.03, Section 13.03.001 (a)(3)(B), By Amending The Rate For The Use Of Standard Fixtures In A Single Dwelling Outside The City Limits; And By Amending Chapter 13, Article 13.03, Section 13.03.001 (a)(3)(B), By Amending The Rate For The Use Of Water In Excess Of 3,000 Gallons To Commercial Locations; And Authorizing The City To Collect Same; And Providing For An Effective Date. As part of the budget process this year staff is proposing to increase waste water rates by 4 percent. Staff is proposing to increase the base residential waste water rate from \$10.97 to \$11.41 per month. The volumetric rate for residential wastewater service will also change by 4 percent or twelve cents per thousand. The current rate charged our commercial customers for waste water service is a base rate of \$11.49 for the first 3,000 gallons of water usage and \$1.85 fee per thousand gallons of

water in excess of three thousand gallons per month. The proposal is to increase the base rate to \$11.95 and to increase the volumetric rate from the current \$1.85 to \$1.95 per thousand gallons in excess of the 3,000 minimum. With the proposed rate modification we are still below the average rates for cities our size in the State of Texas according to the annual TML waste water survey. The average bill for cities our size with an average consumption of 5,000 gallons is \$27.42 compared to \$18.11 in La Grange.

Discuss And Or Consider On Second Reading An Ordinance Amending Chapter 13, Code Of Ordinances, City Of La Grange, Texas, As Recodified On January 8, 2007, By Amending Article 13.04 Section 13.04.031, Subsection (1)(B) And (2)(B) Establishing And Fixing The Charges And Fees For Electric Service Furnished To Residential And Master Meter Dwelling Units; By Amending Article 13.04 Section 13.04.031, Subsections 3(C) Establishing And Fixing The Charges And Fees For Electric Service Furnished To Commercial Locations, Based On Electric Usage; Authorizing The City To Collect Same; And Providing For An Effective Date. As part of the budget process this year staff is proposing to modify the electric customer charge. The customer charge will increase from \$8.50 per month to \$9.50 per month. The rate change is needed to keep pace with inflation and due to the overall cost increases in providing this service.

Discuss And Or Consider On Second Reading An Ordinance Amending Chapter 13, Garbage And Trash, Code Of Ordinances, City Of La Grange, Texas, By Amending Chapter 13, Section 13.05.014, By Increasing The Rates For Residences Utilizing Garbage Containers Of A Capacity Of 96 Gallons As Set Forth In Subsection (1) Of Section 13.05.014, And Providing For An Effective Date. Staff is presenting for council consideration a solid waste utility rate change that will go into effect with the November 1<sup>st</sup> bill. The rate change is in accordance with our Republic Services contract that we entered into in 2014. The base rate for residential service will increase by 3% in accordance with the contract. The base residential rate will increase from \$21.74 per month to \$22.39 per month. The senior citizen rate will increase from \$19.74 to \$20.39 per month. The additional cart charge will be increasing from \$6.38 to \$6.57 per month. This is the first increase in the residential rate in two years and the commercial rate was reduced as part of the new agreement and will remain the same this year. The rate includes solid waste collection once a week, curbside recycling every other week, quarterly bulk curbside waste collection, two free brush collections a year and two additional cleanup opportunities a year. In addition after a holiday three extra bags, boxes or bundles that are outside the cart are collected at no additional charge. Holidays include New Year's Day, Memorial Day, July 4<sup>th</sup>, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

**MOTION** Councilmember Weishuhn, **SECOND** Councilman Eilert to approve the second reading of these 4 ordinances. A roll call vote was taken: Councilmember Busch in favor, Councilmember Bradley in favor, Mayor Pro tem Cernosek in favor,

Councilman Eilert in favor, Councilman Janca in favor, Councilman Romberg in favor, Councilmember Weishuhn in favor, Councilmember Zbranek in favor. Motion carried 8-0. **Attachments 4, 5, 6, 7**

The next item was to discuss and or consider approval of August 2016 minutes. **MOTION** Councilmember Zbranek, **SECOND** Mayor Pro tem Cernosek to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

#### City Council Committee Reports

The Library Board met the previous Tuesday; Director Allison MacKenzie reviewed the June, July, and August reports with the board as they do not meet during the summer months. These reports were included in the council packet.

Main Street will once again be sponsoring Trick or Treat on The Square. The event will be held on Halloween, October 31, 2016. Their next event will be Schmeckenfest which will be held on Thursday, December 1, 2016. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help with either of these events, they are encouraged to contact the Main Street Office. The Beautification Committee awarded Yard of the Month to Betty Smith at 24A W. Bluff View.

The Casino Arts Association's next event will be the Bonnie & Clyde Musical. The General Services Committee held a public hearing regarding a sign ordinance with approximately 35-40 people in attendance. The committee then held a meeting last Tuesday with approximately 8 people in attendance. There was no conflict at either of these two events, there were different points of view expressed. Staff has information to begin working on a sketch of an ordinance. This process will take some time to be complete.

#### Chief of Police Report

National Night Out will be on October 4<sup>th</sup>. There are several parties already booked and it is anticipated that a few more might still sign up.

#### City Manager Report

The Chief of Police position has been posted.

City Manager Raborn expressed thanks to all the staff that assisted in any way during the Fayette County Fair Parade for everything from putting out trash cans and picking them up to sweeping the street, to security. It was a job well done.

If there are any mosquito concerns, please have the individuals contact the city so staff can take appropriate measures.

Utility sales were down.

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

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Lisa Oltmann, City Secretary

These Minutes Approved by City Council on:

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Janet Moerbe, Mayor

### **REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – September 26, 2016**

The City Council of the City of La Grange met in Regular Session on Monday, September 26, 2016 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, 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

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

The first item was to discuss and or consider a request to close streets for Trick or Treat on the Square and Schmeckenfest. The Advisory Board of La Grange Main Street requested permission for the closing of the following street sections to accommodate Trick or Treat on the Square (Monday, October 31) and Schmeckenfest (Thursday, December 1) for the safety of the public. 1) The entry to North Washington Street at Travis. 2) The 100 & 200 blocks of West Colorado Street at Hwy 77 North to the intersection of North Washington. 3) Travis Street (Highway 71 Business) from Highway 77 West to Water Street. Traffic will be detoured one block south to West Crockett to South Water, then back onto Travis. 4) One half of the 200 block of North Washington to the Prosperity Bank parking lot entrance. They are requesting to begin blocking off the proposed streets at 3:30 pm for Trick or Treat on the Square and 4:00 pm for Schmeckenfest. **MOTION** Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn, **SECOND** Councilmember Bonnie Busch to approve this request. Motion carried.

The next item was to discuss and or consider renewal of lease with Colorado Valley Communications for use of tower space. Staff is requesting council approval of an update to our current agreement with Colorado Valley Communications to utilize space on the tower located behind the Fire Station and the Water Tower on North Jefferson. The primary change in the agreement is to extend the time in which CVC

would have to relocate its facilities off of the towers from 90 days to 180 days. Key provisions of the agreement: Purpose: Use of Space on Fire Tower and Water Tower. Term: 5 years. Consideration: Broadband Wireless Internet Service to seventeen City Facilities at no cost. Hosting of City Web page at no cost. The estimated value of the services provided to the city in exchange for tower space is approximately \$1,500 per month. **MOTION** Councilman Pat Janca, **SECOND** Councilmember Violet Zbranek to approve staff's request. Motion Carried. **INSERT #1**

The next item was to discuss and or consider employee Medical Insurance. In working with TML Employee Benefits Pool we have moved our anniversary date to a calendar year. We have extended our current plan for the month of December at \$608.50 per employee. Beginning in January of 2017, City Manager Raborn is proposing that we implement a defined contribution insurance program. Staff is proposing that we utilize the Consumer Centered Pool Plans (CCPP) offered by the TML as the way we will provide health care coverage for our employees. The intent of the CCPP plans is to allow the City to select a "defined contribution" amount and allow the employee to then select one of the seven plans available in the CCPP. An advantage of the CCPP is that we don't have to pick a plan (the employee does that), we only need to pick the City contribution amount. Staff is recommending that we allocate \$600 this year. The proposed level will allow the employee to select a plan that is very similar to the plan currently offered. In moving to a defined contribution model we will be able to better control the total dollars we allocate to health care in the future. Included in the defined benefit allocation will be dollars for the employee to purchase dental insurance and we will no longer pay fifty percent of the employee dental cost. The Consumer Centered Pool Plans do not include an office copay but the office visit payment will count toward the deductible amount and the max out of pocket amount. The use of the telemedicine program which has a \$10 copay can help reduce the impact of no longer having an office copay amount. We will continue to use Fayette Savings as the provider of the Health Savings Accounts if the employee selects that option. City Manager Raborn will continue to work with staff to assist in controlling our insurance cost and the Be Well at IEBP wellness program included as part of the insurance coverage will allow us to expand our wellness program for the benefit of the employees. After discussion and consideration, **MOTION** Councilmember Weishuhn, **SECOND** Councilman Pat Janca to approve Employee Medical Insurance as proposed by staff as a defined contribution insurance program and utilizing the Consumer Centered Pool Plans offered by TML beginning January of 2017. Motion carried.

The next item was to discuss and or consider on Second Reading of an Ordinance making appropriations for the support of the City of La Grange for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2016 and ending September 30, 2017; appropriating money to a sinking fund to pay interest and principal due on the City's indebtedness; and adopting the annual budget of the City of La Grange for the 2016-2017 fiscal year which includes the General Fund, the Utility Enterprise Fund and the La Grange Economic Development

Corporation Budget. The proposed FY 2016-2017 Operating Budget is \$12,886,344. This includes a General Fund of \$3,257,132, Utility Fund of \$9,437,000, and a Debt Service Fund of \$192,212. **MOTION** Councilman John Eilert, **SECOND** Councilmember Zbranek to approve this ordinance on second reading. A roll-call vote was taken: Councilmember Busch in favor, Councilmember Bradley in favor, Mayor Pro tem Cernosek in favor, Councilman Eilert in favor, Councilman Janca in favor, Councilman Romberg absent, Councilmember Weishuhn in favor, Councilmember Zbranek in favor. Motion carried 7-0. **Insert #2**

The next item was to discuss and or consider on Second Reading of an Ordinance Levying Ad Valorem taxes for use and support of the Municipal Government of the City of La Grange, Texas for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year; providing for apportioning each levy for specific purposes; providing when taxes shall become due and when same shall become delinquent if not paid; providing for the levy and collection of occupation taxes. Staff presented for council consideration an ordinance establishing the tax rate to support the FY 2016-2017 annual budget. A property tax rate of \$.2093 per \$100 valuation is proposed to fund the FY 2016-2017 Budget. Of this rate, \$.1447 will be for maintenance and operations. The balance of \$.0646 is for debt service. **MOTION** Councilman Pat Janca, **SECOND** Councilmember Busch to approve this ordinance on second reading. A roll-call vote was taken: Councilmember Busch in favor, Councilmember Bradley in favor, Mayor Pro tem Cernosek in favor, Councilman Eilert in favor, Councilman Janca in favor, Councilman Romberg absent, Councilmember Weishuhn in favor, Councilmember Zbranek in favor. Motion carried 7-0. **Insert #3**

The next item was to discuss and or consider allocation of Tourism Grant Funds. Mayor Pro tem Cernosek reported that the Tourism Grant Committee met earlier, it was noted that there is still a downturn in hotel occupancy tax. The committee reviewed two funding requests. One was from the Texas Czech Heritage & Cultural Center for advertising the Heritage Festival & Muziky to be held on October 14-15<sup>th</sup>. The committee recommends council funding of this request in the amount of \$4,000. The second request reviewed was from The Best Little Cowboy Gathering in Texas for advertising the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Best Little Cowboy Gathering in Texas which will be held on March 9-12, 2017. The committee recommends council funding of this request in the amount of \$8,000. **MOTION** Mayor Pro tem Cernosek, **SECOND** Councilmember Weishuhn to approve the Tourism Grant Committee's funding recommendations. Motion carried.

The next item was the Active Project Report. City Manager Raborn reviewed the active project report, some of the item mentioned included: A variance request was received from TCEQ and the notice to proceed has been issued for Well Station B; The smoke testing of the North Main Street area is complete and the report should be received back from the engineer any day; The Historic Casino Hall is open to the public, however, work continues on the final check list items; the city will be able to use the purchase of



the property adjacent to the Randolph Recreation Center as part of the TPWD Randolph Park project. Not having obtained the property will increase the chances of getting funding due to the fact that the city will receive additional points for adding park land; Closing should take place by the end of September on the Mode Lane property; and Due to the construction of a new bridge in 2019 in the area of the boat ramp, staff is putting any improvements to the boat ramp on hold at this time. There will be access to the boat ramp, but we will not make major improvements at this time.

The Shred-It Day will be held on October 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am till noon at the La Grange Police Department. The Quarterly Bulk Pick Up provide by Republic Waste will be on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The City Wide Clean Up will be October 24-October 28.

The Sherman Griffin Memorial Dedication will take place at Northside Park on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. This will also be a Celebration of Life Event.

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

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Lisa Oltmann, City Secretary

These Minutes Approved by City Council on:

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Janet Moerbe, Mayor