

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – September 14, 2020

The City Council of the City of La Grange met in Regular Session on Monday, September 14, 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, Councilmember Quenten Gonzalez, Councilmember Pat Janca, Councilmember Ken Taylor, and Councilmember Violet Zbranek. Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn was absent. Staff present: City Manager Shawn Raborn, Chief of Police David Gilbreath, and City Secretary Janet Bayer. Visitor: Pastor Marcia Kifer.

Mayor Moerbe called the meeting to order. Next were pledges to the US and Texas Flags. Pastor Marcia Kifer with Shared Lutheran Ministries gave the invocation.

CONSENT AGENDA

Discuss and or Consider approval of August minutes.

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, 2020 and ending September 30, 2021; 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 2020-2021 fiscal year which includes the General Fund, the Utility Enterprise Fund and the La Grange Economic Development Corporation Budget. **Insert # 1**

Discuss and or Consider on Second Reading of an Ordinance amending Chapter 13, Code of Ordinances, City of La Grange, Texas, as Recodified 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 based on water usage and/or conservation and subsection (2)(a) establishing and fixing the charges and fees for water service furnished to commercial locations within the city 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 \$27.45 to \$27.84 per month. The change is based on CPI (Consumer Price Index) adjustment of one point four percent (1.4%). The volumetric rate for residential water service will increase four 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 \$42.10 compared to \$34.92 in La Grange. We also compare favorably with cities our size with a monthly water consumption of 10,000 gallons, \$65.80 compared to \$46.72 in La Grange. **Insert # 2**

Discuss and or Consider on Second Reading of an Ordinance amending Chapter 13, Code of Ordinances, City of La Grange, Texas, as Recodified on , 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; 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. Staff is proposing to increase the base residential waste water rate from \$12.46 to \$12.63 per month. The volumetric rate for residential waste water service will increase three cents per thousand. The current rate charged our commercial customers for waste water service is a base rate of \$13.03 for the first 3,000 gallons of water usage and a \$2.14 fee per thousand gallons of water in excess of three thousand gallons per month. The proposal is to increase the base rate to \$13.21 and to increase the volumetric rate from the current \$2.14 to \$2.17 per thousand gallons in excess of the 3,000 gallon minimum. With the proposed rate modifications, La Grange is 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 \$32.71 compared to \$20.05 in La Grange. **Insert # 3**

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 base electric customer charge will increase from \$12.50 per month to \$13.50 per month. The rate change is needed to keep pace with inflation and due to the overall cost increases in providing this service. Staff is also reviewing the implementation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) as part of the FY 2020-21 Budget. **Insert # 4**

Discuss and or Consider on Second Reading an Ordinance amending Chapter 13, garbage and trash, Code of Ordinances, City of La Grange, Texas, as amended by amending chapter 13, section 13.05.014, charges for collections, 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; providing for an effective date of said amended Ordinance. Staff presented for council consideration a solid waste utility rate change that would go into effect with the November 1st bill. The rate change is in accordance with our Waste Management 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 \$24.47 per month to \$25.20 per month. The senior citizen rate will increase from \$22.34 to \$23.14 per month. The additional cart charge will be increasing from \$7.18 to \$7.40 per month. This is the fifth increase in the residential rate in six years and the fourth increase in commercial rate in six years. Commercial rates were reduced as part of the new agreement and have increased by three percent in accordance with the contract. The current contract will expire in December of 2021. 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. Holidays include New Year's Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. **Insert # 5**

A **Motion** was made by Mayor Pro tem Cernosek, **Second** Councilmember Janca to approve the Consent Agenda item(s) as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

REGULAR AGENDA

Discuss and or Consider Allocation of Funding to Social Service Agencies. In FY 2018-2019, the City of La Grange provided a total of \$27,000 to local social service agencies. In the FY 2019-2020 budget, council allocated \$27,000 to local social service agencies. All of the organizations that have requested funding provide needed and valuable services to the community. Staff recommends the funds for FY 2019-2020 be allocated as follows: Capital Area Rural Transportation (CARTS) - \$6,000; Family Crisis Center - \$5,500; Combined Community Action - \$7, 000; Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)- \$4,500; and The Children's Advocacy Center - \$3,500. **Motion** Councilmember Janca, **Second** Councilmember Busch to allocate \$26,500 in social service funding. Motion carried 7-0.

The next item was a Public Hearing on FY 2020-2021 Proposed Tax Rate. The Public Hearing was opened by Mayor Moerbe at 6:10 P.M. As part of the annual budget process, the City of La Grange is required to hold a public hearing on setting the proposed tax rate. Staff is proposing to set the tax rate at .2093, which is .0089 above the no new revenue rate of .2004. The proposed rate is the same as the FY 2019-2020 adopted tax rate. There being no comments from the public, the Public Hearing was closed at 6:13 P.M.

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 2020-2021 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 is presenting for council consideration an Ordinance establishing the tax rate to support the FY 2020-2021 annual budget. A property tax rate of \$.2093 per \$100 valuation is proposed. Of this rate, \$.1426 will be for maintenance and operations. The balance of \$.0667 is for debt service. **Motion** Councilmember Zbranek, **Second** Councilmember Taylor to approve this Ordinance on First Reading. A roll call vote was taken: Councilmember Busch for, Mayor Pro tem Cernosek for, Councilmember Dockery for, Councilmember Gonzalez for, Councilmember Janca for, Councilmember Taylor for, Councilmember Weishuhn absent, Councilmember Zbranek for. Motion carried 7-0.

Discuss and or Consider a Resolution authorizing the submission of a Community Development Block Grant - Mitigation Project Applications to the General Land Office; and authorizing the City Manager to act as the City's Executive Officer and Authorized representative in all manners pertaining to the City's participation in the Community Development Block Grant - Mitigation Program. The City of La Grange is currently in the process of developing two (2) grant applications to submit to the Texas General Land Office for funds under the Community Development Block Grant - Mitigation Program. Staff is proposing to submit GLO grant applications for the upgrade of drainage systems and for the upgrade of water and wastewater lines. The grant applications are due October 28th and we anticipate notice of funding

by March of 2021. The projects must benefit at least 51% low to moderate income residents to receive maximum points. The first project is for the upgrade of drainage structures on S. Franklin, N. Main, and Brown Streets with the grant application request totaling \$10.7 million. The second project is for the upgrade of a number of water and wastewater lines in the targeted area with the grant application request totaling \$9.8 million. By including a 1% match in the applications, the City of La Grange will receive additional points. The applications are competitive requirement and the points will be very important. The approximately \$225,000 match will be budgeted in the FY 2021-2022 Capital Improvement Fund Budget. **Motion** Councilmember Taylor, **Second** Councilmember Janca to approve the Resolution as presented. Motion carried 7-0. **Insert # 6**

Discuss and or Consider approval of the updated Citizen Participation Plan for the GLO Community Development Block Grant Programs. As part of the GLO grant submission, the City of La Grange needs to update our current Citizens Participation Plan. **Motion** Councilmember Zbranek, **Second** Councilmember Busch to approve the updated Citizen Participation Plan. Motion carried 7-0. **Insert # 7**

Discuss and or Consider and possible action to adopt/update the Procurement Policy/Procedures for the City of La Grange. Staff is requesting council approval of the City of La Grange Purchasing Policy. The Purchasing Policy is the one the City of La Grange has utilized for all purchases and grant projects. In the GLO application, it requires that the policy be approved by the governing body. **Motion** Councilmember Janca, **Second** Councilmember Gonzalez to adopt/approve the City of La Grange Purchasing Policy. Motion carried 7-0.

Discuss and or Consider a Resolution updating the Hazard Mitigation Action Plan. Staff is requesting council approval to include some additional items in our Hazard Mitigation Plan. The additions are requested so that they will be eligible for funding under the City of La Grange's proposed GLO-Mitigation grant application. The additional action items include drainage system improvements, standby generators for water facilities, water and wastewater system improvements, and the flood proofing of wastewater facilities. **Motion** Mayor Pro tem Cernosek, **Second** Councilmember Zbranek to approve the Resolution to update our Hazard Mitigation Action Plan as presented. Motion carried 7-0. **Insert#8**

Chief of Police Update

Chief of Police Gilbreath started by thanking Mayor Moerbe and Council for their support. Chief Gilbreath stated there were 417 calls in August, the majority were for animal control and business checks. Chief Gilbreath also stated that DPS donated their old rifle vests to the La Grange Police Department. The vests are 10 years old with a lifespan of 20 years. The department is thankful for the added protection. Mayor Moerbe and Council thanked Chief Gilbreath and his staff for their continued, dedicated patrol throughout the community.

City Manager Update

Active Project Update. The CDBG-DR water supply project has been delayed due to the need to update the Performance Statement to include sewer line relocations that are required by TCEQ spacing requirements. We are planning to now go out for bid in late October. Dean Construction began work on the relocation of the sewer force main that will be impacted by the new Hwy 71 river bridge. Survey work for the new wastewater line extension west of town towards Plum will begin within the next 60 days. SBS Construction is currently working on Cedar Street storm drain improvements. Wagner Materials is scheduled to begin street paving work towards the end of September, including the streets impacted by the storm drain improvements. The new shade structure is complete at the library park. Work will begin shortly on the installation of the butterfly garden and rain collection system.

Water consumption is down. The recent rains contributed to the decrease. Our Fall shredding event as well as the next quarterly bulk pick up is scheduled for Saturday, October 24th. We are working out the brush pick up schedule, looking at the week of October 19th-23rd. Chief Gilbreath worked out the logistics with LGISD to lessen traffic congestion on Travis Street before and after school. Entex will be doing pipeline work in this area the next couple of weeks; the containers have been stored at the KC Hall.

At 6:53 PM a **Motion** was made by Councilmember Janca, with a **Second** by Mayor Pro tem Cernosek that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

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

Janet Moerbe, Mayor

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – September 28, 2020

The City Council of the City of La Grange met in Regular Session on Monday, September 28, 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, Councilmember Quenten Gonzalez, Councilmember Pat Janca, Councilmember Ken Taylor, and Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn. Councilmember Violet Zbranek was absent. Staff present: City Manager Shawn Raborn, Chief of Police David Gilbreath, City Secretary Janet Bayer, and City Attorney Angela Beck. Visitors: Pastor Candy O’Meara, Karen Mahoney-Woods, Gary Nietzsche, Tom Hudson, and Tim Patrick.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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 2020-2021 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 is presenting for council consideration an Ordinance establishing the tax rate to support the FY 2020-2021 annual budget. A property tax rate of \$.2093 per \$100 valuation is proposed. Of this rate, \$.1426 will be for maintenance and operations. The balance of \$.0667 is for debt service. **Insert #1**

Discuss and or Consider request for rezoning the property at 475 E. Lafayette from Industrial to Residential. It was noted that the address provided by Mr. Konetzke was listed incorrectly. It should be listed as 775 E. Lafayette.

Discuss and or Consider request for rezoning one tract at 2155 N. Von Minden from Residential to Commercial.

A **Motion** was made by Councilmember Weishuhn, **Second** Councilmember Taylor to approve the Consent Agenda item(s) as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

At 6:02 PM as pursuant to Section 551.071 Consultation with City Attorney, 1. Consultation with City Attorney regarding Tom Hudson, Individually and Jator, Inc. vs. City of La Grange, TX No. 2017V-053, council went into Closed Executive Session.

At 6:23 PM Council went into Open Session. No action was needed.

REGULAR AGENDA

Discuss and or Consider authorizing staff to donate obsolete computer equipment to La Grange Computers for All. The City is working with the organization on a computer lab at the Randolph Recreation Center and staff is wanting to expand our relationship with the organization to include the donation of used equipment. The computers that will be donated are obsolete and will have information cleaned from the hard drives. Old computers will be provided a new life. **Motion** Councilmember Taylor, **Second** Councilmember Janca authorizing staff to donate obsolete computer equipment to La Grange Computers for All. Motion carried 7-0.

Discuss and or Consider Employee Medical Insurance coverage with TML Health. Staff is

proposing that the City provide our employee group the TML Health Collective II Plans. The Collective II Plans continue to allow the City to select a “defined contribution” amount and allow the employee to then select one of the four available plans. We have budgeted \$675 per employee towards the cost of insurance for the next Fiscal Year. Our renewal rate will go into effect on January 1st of 2021. The City allocation will allow the employee to select the one HSA plan with a \$3,000 deductible with no out of pocket expense. The traditional Collective II Plans do include an office visit copay and \$0 telemedicine benefit. The use of the telemedicine program is provided under the HSA option with a \$40 office visit copay. We will continue to use Fayette Savings Bank as the provider of the HSA, if the employee selects that option. We continue to provide wellness opportunities for our employees as we recently hosted an onsite biometric screening event. Mayor Pro tem Cernosek asked how many employees are eligible – 51 total. **Motion** Councilmember Janca, **Second** Councilmember Taylor to approve TML Health for Employee Medical Insurance coverage. Motion carried 7-0.

Discuss and or Consider Amendment(s) to the FY 2019-2020 General Fund Budget. Staff is requesting approval to amend the FY 2019-2020 General Fund Budget to reduce the Fire Department Budget by \$310,000 due to the delay in receiving the new Fire Apparatus this fiscal year. Staff will bring back an amendment to move the purchase of the Fire Apparatus to the FY 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Budget. The latest arrival estimate is still 5 to 6 weeks out; in essence a 14 month delivery schedule. **Motion** Mayor Pro tem Cernosek, **Second** Councilmember Busch to amend the FY 2019-2020 General Fund Budget to reduce the Fire Department Budget due to the delay in new Fire Apparatus. Motion carried 7-0.

Discuss and or Consider a Resolution authorizing the submittal of a Local Park Grant Program application to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. In July, council authorized staff to proceed with the development of a Texas Parks and Wildlife grant application for the development of a new park in the Hope Hill subdivision. The maximum grant award is \$750,000 and would require a local match of \$750,000 in order to obtain the maximum grant award. Staff is requesting formal council authorization to submit an application to Texas Parks and Wildlife. We are working on finalizing elements in the new park. The application is due November 6th. The grant award notification is not expected until March of 2021. **Motion** Councilmember Weishuhn, **Second** Councilmember Dockery authorizing a Resolution for the submittal of a Local Park Grant Program application to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Motion carried 7-0. **Insert # 2**

Discuss and or Consider a Resolution of the City of La Grange, Texas, resolving to prevent mining and drilling on city property being utilized for a Texas Parks and Wildlife Park development project. As part of the process to submit the Texas Parks and Wildlife grant application, the City must assure the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department that we will not allow mining or drilling on the proposed park property. **Motion** Councilmember Weishuhn, **Second** Councilmember Janca to approve the Resolution preventing mining and drilling on city property being utilized for a Texas Parks and Wildlife Park development project. Motion carried 7-0. **Insert # 3**

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 – Faison Preservation Society \$3,000 for funding kiosk and payment of docents, Fayette County Tourism Association \$2,400 for website upgrades, Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center \$4,000 for advertising Heritage Festival and Muziky, Texas Quilt Museum \$2,470 for exclusive online marketing, and Friends of Monument Hill/Kreische Brewery for advertising 14 night Trail of Lights. **Motion** Councilmember Janca, **Second** Mayor Pro tem Cernosek to approve funding the five (5) applicants under the Tourism Grant Program. Motion carried 7-0.

Chief of Police Update

Chief Gilbreath stated that CAPCOG partnered with Virtual Academy to cover all police training in a 2 year cycle. Examples of virtual training are Use of Force and Courtroom Testimonies. City of La Grange is working to get these trainings at a reduced rate for officers. Required hands on trainings will still continue. The City of La Grange Police Department still has five (5) certified instructors. They conduct their own firearms training.

City Manager Update

Both the Fall Shred-It event and the next quarterly bulk pick up are scheduled for Saturday, October 24th. Brush pick up will be the week of October 19th-23rd. The street reclaiming project is slated to start the week of October 5th starting around Meyer and Eblin Streets. The City of La Grange has again been selected to do partner projects with University of Texas. UT students participate in a Home to Texas program which involves community outreach. Interns

study a problem and try to create solutions for the community. With the current environment, we really have to look at what a small town becomes.

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

Janet Bayer, City Secretary

These Minutes Approved by City Council on:

Janet Moerbe, Mayor