

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – January 13, 2014

The City Council of the City of La Grange met in Regular Session on Monday, January 13, 2014 in the City Hall Council Chambers with the following members present: Mayor Janet Moerbe, Councilman Harvey Busch, Mayor Pro tem John Cernosek, Councilman John Eilert, Councilman Pat Janca, Councilman Calvin Kuehn, Councilman Arnold Romberg, Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn, and Councilmember Violet Zbranek. Staff present: City Manager Shawn Raborn, Chief of Police Jackie Skelton and City Secretary Lisa Oltmann. Visitors: Jeff Wick w/*Fayette County Record* and Karey Bresenhan with the Quilters' Museum.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Rev. J. Paul Bruhn of First United Methodist Church gave the invocation.

The first item discussed was a staff report on sidewalk concerns in the 100 block of West Colorado. There have been some concerns brought forward regarding the safety of the sidewalks in the 100 block of West Colorado St. City Manager Raborn reported the sidewalk in the 100 block of West Colorado is ADA compliant. Over the years the sidewalk has undergone the following improvements to assist individuals to draw their attention to the step(s) in this area. These improvements have included changing the one large step to two smaller steps. Then one hand rail was added to provide assistance to people. A yellow stripe was later added to the top curb to draw attention to the step up/down. Two additional railings were added along with a stripe across the bottom curb. "Watch Your Step" stenciling was added to the curb. At this time the city is adding "Watch Your Step" to three doorways in this block. Staff has also talked to the business owners to see if they would consider placing a "Sandwich Advertising Board" to help draw the attention of individuals to the steps. This board could have the business hours listed on them. Perhaps the owners could also place a "Watch Your Step" sign on the inside of their doors so individuals could see this as they are leaving the various businesses. Mrs. Bresenhan is the owner of one of the businesses within the 100 block of West Colorado and she is concerned that someone might be seriously injured if they fall. She has expressed a desire to have a Safety Engineer look at the design of the sidewalk and see if they might have some suggestions to offer. Mrs. Bresenhan also suggested that perhaps the coloring of the stripes and/or signage could be changed to make it more noticeable. It was noted that an engineer at BEFCO Engineering has recently reviewed the design. Staff will continue to monitor the area. Mrs. Bresenhan thanked the council on behalf of the various business owners for looking into this matter.

The next item was to discuss and or consider re-appointments to the Fayette Library Museum Board of Directors. The Fayette Library Museum Archives Board of Directors is composed of nine members who are appointed by the City Council. The Board serves as an advisor to the library staff in the operation and maintenance of the

library. The Library Board recommends that Elva Keilers, Sally Garrett and Nicole Ramirez be re-appointed for a three year term. **MOTION** Mayor Pro tem John Cernosek, **SECOND** Councilmember Violet Zbranek to approve the Library Board's recommendation. Motion carried. **Attachment #1**

The next item was to discuss and or consider approval of the December, 2013 minutes. **MOTION** Councilman John Eilert, **SECOND** Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

The next item was a staff report on the development of a Railroad Quiet Zone. City Manager Raborn reported that the application has been submitted to the Federal Railroad Administration, they now have 60 days to review the application. City Manager Raborn reported that delineators would need to be added at various railroad intersections within town. It is his recommendation that they be added to all of the intersections to provide consistency for residents and visitors. City Manager Raborn noted that council does have the authority to vote if they wish to have the City of La Grange as a Railroad quiet zone or not. Various council members have expressed concern over the aesthetics of the delineators and it is their recommendation that an additional public hearing be held at a later date to inform the citizens of this and allow them to have additional input in this matter.

The next item was a staff report on the Weikel-Schiller Ditch improvements. City Manager Raborn noted that the design work is complete and that there is still one easement to be acquired by the city from a property owner.

City Manager Update

The electrical project which includes the Bluff, Horton Street, and Crockett Street projects along with some miscellaneous areas has become very large. However, this should help to entice contractors to bid the project.

The new La Grange ISD Middle School located by Eblin Street opened this past week. Water/Sewer Supv. Doug Kristoff has retired from the City of La Grange effective Jan. 3rd. Karl Burris, who was previously hired to fill this position, is now the Water/Sewer Supv.

There are currently applications being accepted for two positions in the Electric Department and they are for a Meter Reader and an Electrical Lineman Trainee.

Sales tax received in January, which was for November sales were up 12%.

The City will once again partner with Fayette County in a Health Fair for all City and County Employees and Spouses. This will be held on January 21 & 23 from 7 A.M. till 10 A.M. each day.

City Council Committee Reports

The Beautification Committee awarded Yard of the Month to Walter & Sandra Stoeber at 453 E. Pearl St.

Main Street continues to make preparations for the wine tasting event “Uncorked” which will be held in March.

Chief of Police Report

There have been 3 forgery cases, 2 burglaries, and some criminal mischief cases over the past month.

At 6:45 PM a **MOTION** was made by Councilman Calvin Kuehn, with a **SECOND** by Councilmember Weishuhn that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

Lisa Oltmann, City Secretary

These Minutes Approved by City Council on:

Janet Moerbe, Mayor

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – January 27, 2014

The City Council of the City of La Grange met in Regular Session on Monday, January 27, 2014 in the City Hall Council Chambers with the following members present: Mayor Janet Moerbe, Councilman Harvey Busch, Mayor Pro tem John Cernosek, Councilman John Eilert, Councilman Pat Janca, Councilman Calvin Kuehn, Councilman Arnold Romberg, Councilmember Kathy Weishuhn, and Councilmember Violet Zbranek. Staff present: City Manager Shawn Raborn, Chief of Police Jackie Skelton and City Secretary Lisa Oltmann. Visitors: Jeff Wick w/*Fayette County Record*.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Rev. Ellis McKinzie of the Second Baptist Church gave the invocation.

The first item was the presentation of Racial Profiling data by the La Grange Police Department as required by Article 2.132 Texas Code of Criminal Procedures. Mayor Moerbe, on behalf of the council, congratulated the Police Department as they once again are within the required parameters. She also thanked them for a job well done. Chief Skelton then reviewed the report with the council. This covers the time period of January 1, 2013 thru December 31, 2013. As indicated by the data provided,

the La Grange Police Department does not have a problem regarding racial profiling practices. **Insert #1**

The next item was to discuss and or consider on First Reading An Ordinance amending Chapter 13, Garbage and Trash, CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF LA GRANGE, TEXAS, as Recodified on January 8, 2007 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 establishing in said subsection (1) a reduced rate for residences utilizing garbage containers of a capacity of 96 gallons and occupied by at least one (1) person sixty-five (65) years of age or older and an application procedure for qualifying for such rate; by amending Chapter 13, Section 13.05.014, by increasing the rates for premises other than residences utilizing containers of a capacity of 96 gallons as set forth in subsection (2); by amending Section 13.05.014 by increasing the rates for residences and premises other than residences for the collection, pick up and hauling of tree limbs, brush, and cuttings as set forth in subsection (5) of Section 13.05.014; and by amending Chapter 13, Sections 13.05.015, 13.05.016 and 13.05.017 by repealing same; and providing for an effective date. Staff is presenting for council consideration on first reading the solid waste utility rate change that will go into effect with the Mach 1st bill. The rate change is in accordance with our Allied Waste contract that we entered into in 2007. The base rate for residential and commercial service will increase by 2.5% in accordance with the contract. The base residential rate will increase from \$21.21 per month to \$21.47 per month. The senior citizen rate will increase from \$19.21 to \$19.74 per month. The additional cart charge will be increasing 14 cents per month from \$5.73 to \$5.87 per month. We are entering year seven of the seven year agreement we entered into with Allied Waste in 2007. The rate includes solid waste collection once a week, curbside recycling once a week, two free brush collections a year and three 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 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. The current contract with Allied Waste will expire in December of this year and staff continues to work future solid waste collection options. **MOTION** Councilmember Zbranek, **SECOND** Councilman John Eilert to approve this ordinance on first reading. A roll call vote was taken with the following results: Councilman Busch in favor; Mayor Pro tem Cernosek in favor; Councilman Eilert in favor; Councilman Janca in favor; Councilman Kuehn in favor; Councilman Romberg in favor; Councilmember Weishuhn in favor; and Councilmember Zbranek in favor. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

The next item was to discuss and or consider an Order Calling for Election of City Officers. Discutir y/o considerer la autorizacion para La Orden de Eleccion de Representantes del Consejo Municipal. **MOTION** Mayor Pro tem Cernosek, **SECOND** Councilmember Janca to approve an Order Calling for Election of City Officers. Discutir

y/o considerer la autorizacion para La Orden de Eleccion de Representantes del Consejo Municipal. Motion carried. **INSERT #2**

The next item was to discuss and or consider approval to replat property located at 143 N. Main Street. In October 2013, council gave preliminary approval to the replat of the property located at 143 N. Main. Staff is now presenting for final approval the request from Pioneer Bank to replat the property located at 143 N. Main Street. The request is to divide the existing 35,772 square foot tract into two tracts. The first tract will be 16,549 square feet and the second tract will be 19,223 square feet. **MOTION** Councilman Arnold Romberg, **SECOND** Councilman Calvin Kuehn to approve the replat. Motion carried.

City Council Committee Reports

Main Street continues to prepare for La Grange Uncorked which will be held in March.

Chief of Police Report

There have recently been 2 burglaries and 1 theft case. A traffic stop has also resulted in an arrest due to meth being located in the car.

City Manager Report

An agreement has been reached involving the La Grange Little League and the Optimist Club Soccer Program to allow the first Little League field at White Rock Park to be expanded by 30'. The sidewalk project is scheduled to begin this week dependent on weather conditions. The sidewalk in front of City Hall will be the starting point. The stenciling on the sidewalk in the 100 block of West Colorado has been completed. Staff continues to evaluate signage which will also be placed in this block.

At 6:25 PM a **MOTION** was made by Councilman Kuehn, with a **SECOND** by Councilmember Zbranek that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

Lisa Oltmann, City Secretary

These Minutes Approved by City Council on:

Janet Moerbe, Mayor