



CITY OF GREGORY

P.O. Box 297 – 206 W. Fourth St.
Gregory, Texas 78359

Fax: (361) 643-1335 Phone: (361) 643-6562
Email: norma.garcia@gregorytx.com

In accordance with order of the Office of the Governor issued March 16, 2020, the City Council of the City of Gregory will conduct a Videoconference meeting in order to advance the public health goal of limiting face-to-face meetings (also called “social distancing”) to slow the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

The Meeting was held on January 18, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Gregory City Hall located at 206 W. Fourth St.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95326385736?pwd=d3FVcm5kSldxRk9xaHkzckRwdzZpQT09>

Meeting ID: 953 2638 5736

Passcode: 956683

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,95326385736#,,,,*956683# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 953 2638 5736

Passcode: 956683

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/acWwZWB6G5>

The public was permitted to offer public comments Videoconference as provided by the agenda and as permitted by the presiding officer during the meeting. Written questions or comments may be submitted to City Secretary norma.garcia@gregorytx.com up to two hours before the meeting. There was none. A recording of the Videoconference meeting will be made and will be available to the public in accordance with the Texas Public Information Act upon written request.

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro-Tem Odilia Reyes at 6:31 p.m. with the following members present:

Alderman Pablo Martinez

Alderman Alvaro Lopez, Jr.

Alderman Christopher Flores

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE – None

PUBLIC HEARING – None

PRESENTATIONS –

Update presentation by Mr. Paul Fritsch, Site Manager for GCGV – Mr. Fritsch gave presentation to members. We are proud to have 10 million construction hours with no injury and traffic going through town is from approx. 3,500 construction employees. Our final vessel is expected by April or May of



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2021. The formation of La Quinta Channel Plant Manager Network was created with the local industries being GCGV, Voelstapin, Cheniere and Chemours Oxy for emergency response. A community advisory committee (CAP) was formed and joined with San Patricio Industry for mutual aid. We are being good neighbor and have sponsored programs during the holidays by providing toys for children, food banks for local residents, and furnished manual labor to the communities. Alderman Martinez questioned about the barriers along Hwy 181 and was told they were there through TxDOT and the heavy haul road would be turn over to the Port once project is complete.

CONSENT AGENDA

a) **Approval of minutes** – Special Called Meeting of January 11, 2021 – Motion was made by Alderman Martinez to approve minutes as presented.

ACTION ITEMS

a) **Discussion with possible approval of Municipal Advisory Agreement with Hilltop Securities, Presentation by Mr. Andre Ayala** – Mr. Ayala introduced to the members the services they provide. We are here to assist with economic development and make financial recommendation as to the needs of the City. There will be no fee only when a transaction is developed and closed. We do not handle bonds or sale of bonds. Special Counsel Cynthia Trevino has reviewed the agreement and would like to have the wording under the Limitation of Liability “to extent of Texas Laws”. The City has the right to hire our professional services without RFQ’s. We will be able to assist with the Somerset Development Alderman Martinez asked about the base fee but was told that no work would be done without council approval. Motion was made by Alderman Martinez to approve the agreement with the addition of wording to the Limitation of Liability section. Motion was seconded by Alderman Lopez and it carried with all ayes and 0 nays.

b) **Discussion with possible action on Statement of Objection to Ordinance 2020-12-02 to approve Annexation of 30.46 acres** – Mayor Pro-Tem Reyes held discussion with council members about the manner this was handled. She was questioned as to the absence of the initial meeting in which this was placed on agenda. She told members this could have been discussed in December’s meeting and on January 4th meetings but there weren’t quorums. She had requested a workshop, Mr. Viera, engineer and Mr. Jeronimo Garcia a citizen also requested the item be tabled and to hold a workshop to discuss this further. She said it was denied and Alderman Martinez stated “don’t recall denying it” did recall to have it tabled by Mr. Viera and Mr. Garcia. He said there was no reason given to hold the workshop. Mayor Pro-Tem Reyes said the impact numbers have not been submitted. She was told the RV park would discharge to the wastewater plant at a minimal. We need to hold a workshop to discuss the Somerset Development and I’ve been called by developers for hotels and a church. Alderman Flores advised there was no backing to table the discussion or to hold a workshop and you



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weren't present. She advised them that she had already requested absence because she would be on vacation and no member requested to cancel meeting when the letter was received. She had questions to ask members and told them they did not have to answer if they chose not to. Alderman Lopez stated it has already been voted on and would like to move on with the meeting. Alderman Flores asked why this is being done. She told members there was no workshop set to discuss this further. She was sent an impact study and it appeared misleading because on page 21 it stated it would create 265 jobs. Special Counsel Trevino told members that they are not required to answer. Motion was made by Alderman Flores to continue with the annexation. It was seconded by Alderman Lopez and it carried with 3 ayes and 1 nay Mayor Pro-Tem Reyes.

c) Consideration with possible action to review and approve applicant for the position of Public Works Director – Alderman Martinez told members Mr. Furzer has all the qualifications for the position. Mayor Pro-Tem Reyes asked if he was present and should there have been a contract for review. City Secretary told members he has been a contracted employee for several years and there would not be any contract because he would be a full time city employee and not a contractor. This position had already been budgeted. Motion was made by Alderman Martinez and seconded by Alderman Lopez. Motion carried with 3 ayes and 1 abstained Mayor Pro-Tem Reyes.

d) Consideration with possible action to review and approve applicant for the position of Municipal Court Associate Judge – Discussion was held and Alderman Martinez told members he wanted to appoint Judge Karen Diaz as presiding Judge. Mayor Pro-Tem Reyes questioned about applicant Greg Kindle and was not aware that Judge Diaz was up for discussion since Mr. Kindle was the only applicant for the position of Associate Judge. Alderman Martinez said that there wasn't a name stated on the agenda. Counsel Ms. Trevino told members they could not change the item for discussion from associate to presiding or primary judge. Alderman Martinez said we can have her as an associate judge for two weeks. She will be placed on agenda of February 1st for appointment of presiding judge if Judge Diaz accepts and she accepted. It will be placed on the agenda for a vote to place Judge Karen Diaz as presiding judge. Mayor Pro-Tem Reyes told members she didn't know it was up for approval. Alderman Martinez made the motion to appoint Judge Karen Diaz as associate Judge for 2 weeks until the next city council meeting of February 1 and it will be discussed for appointment of presiding judge. Motion was seconded by Alderman Lopez and it carried with 3 ayes and 1 abstained Mayor Pro-Tem Reyes.

e) Discussion to set workshop meeting date to discuss the infrastructure needs of Wastewater Plant – Alderman Martinez told members there needs to be workshop to discuss the needs of the wastewater plant to prepare for Somerset Development and possible 200 acres of proposed industrial, residential and commercial. We will need to have Mr. McIlwain and Philp Ramirez to discuss their



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projects. Counsel told members to have all professional services available and need to have an Engineer on contract or agreement for the city. It was decided to have it January 25, 2021 at 6 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS – None

REPORTS – Alderman Martinez said he was approached by splash pad vendor. He has not given them any response. Alderman Flores suggested that maybe they should come and give a presentation to members.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Need to have Ernest Garza and Bill give a financial report.

No further discussion was held so Alderman Martinez made the motion to adjourn at 7:57 p.m. and seconded by Alderman Flores. Motion carried with all ayes and 0 nays.

CITY OF GREGORY, TEXAS

Odilia Reyes, Mayor Pro-Tem

ATTEST:

Norma S. Garcia, City Secretary