

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held on October 27, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Groves City Council Chamber, with Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Pete Konidis, Councilmember Brandon Holmes, and Councilmember Rae Shauna Gay in attendance. Councilmember Mark McAdams was absent. Mayor Borne called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees. Mayor Borne then led the prayer and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Borne asked for reports, and City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that there were none.

Mayor Borne then called for citizen comments, but there were none.

DELIBERATE AND ACT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 13, 2025, CITY COUNCIL MEETING: Mayor Pro Tem Konidis made a motion to deliberate and act to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2025, City Council Meeting. Councilmember Gay seconded. There were no questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

HEAR AND DELIBERATE ON A PRESENTATION REGARDING THE OCTOBER 7, 2025, NATIONAL NIGHT OUT EVENT: City Marshal Christopher Robin addressed the Council regarding the 2025 National Night Out. Marshal Robin stated that he wanted to update the Council on the outcome of the event with the street closure. Marshal Robin noted that we had a record turnout with zero incidents. Marshal Robin estimated 737 attendees, which is the highest he could actually verify, but believes there was in excess of 1,000 participants. Marshal Robin gave a shout-out to Chick-fil-A, Courtyard Café, Domino's and Stacked; these establishments provided a ton of food and beverages for the attendees. Marshal Robin also gave a shout-out to Gulf Credit Union, which is by far the biggest contributor at every event we have. Marshal Robin then thanked the Council, all city employees who helped, and the community. There were no questions from the Council.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON A REQUEST BY GROVES PECAN FESTIVAL FOR HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX FUNDS FOR TOURISM-RELATED ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION OF THE CITY: Councilmember Gay made a motion to deliberate and act on a request by Groves Pecan Festival for Hotel Occupancy Tax Funds for tourism-related advertising and promotion of the City. Councilmember Holmes seconded. Chamber Director Letha Knaus then spoke on behalf of the Groves Pecan Festival, stating that the festival is requesting \$22,000 in H.O.T. Funds to certify that our City's Pecan Statue is the official Guinness World Record holder for a fiberglass sculpture of a seed. The funds would be used to pay for the Guinness

World Record package of services that includes dedicated account management and record application support, along with an adjudicator to verify and certify the record. They will come down, and we will have an official ceremony, and they will give us the seal of approval. We also receive the rights to use their trademark in a local press release, along with one promotional video, and up to 1,000 printed items, for a two-week period to promote the event. We have already received a package from Lucky Go Media for two different spots for a TV commercial on KBMT and KFDM, which would feature 75 and 73 30-second commercials, offering an opportunity for 400,000 household impressions. The Chamber will cover the cost of this media package, valued at \$3,000, and will also cover the expenses for the representative from Guinness, including flight, hotel, and rental car. Councilmember Holmes inquired about the \$23,000 in the packet, and Ms. Knaus stated that it would have been the price if we had wanted it done within two weeks. However, if we waited 30 days, the cost would be \$22,000. Councilmember Holmes then asked if it would be for the Groves Pecan Festival as an organization, and Ms. Knaus stated it would go through them since they are the ones who sponsored the actual pecan being built. Councilmember Holmes then asked if we have to pay a yearly maintenance fee, and Ms. Knaus stated that we do not; rather, it is a one-time fee. Mayor Pro Tem Konidi wanted to make it clear that this money is not coming out of the general fund; it is strictly coming from the Hotel Motel funds. Mayor Borne asked Finance Director Lamar Ozley to provide a rundown of the approved uses of Hotel Motel Funds, and Mr. Ozley stated that there are a variety of items. Still, essentially, they are usually related to heads in beds. What kind of event will bring people who are not local to our area? Mayor Borne then asked Mr. Ozley if he could name some past uses for which we have used Hotel Motel money, and Mr. Ozley stated the Pecan Festival, Fetter's Tournament, and car shows. City Manager Kevin Carruth noted that the cost was equivalent to a regular advertising campaign but has longer lasting value.

Mayor Borne then asked Mr. Ozley if the fund had enough to support this request, and Mr. Ozley stated that the last time he checked, it had \$347,000, so yes, it does. Mayor Borne then asked who sets the occupancy tax rate and when it was last changed, and Mr. Ozley stated that the city authorizes the tax rate as allowed under State Law. The last time it was changed was before Mr. Ozley started working for the City. Mr. Carruth stated that, from what he has seen, every community reached the maximum tax rate as soon as possible, including us. Councilmember Holmes asked if we could use the Guinness logo for a billboard, and Ms. Knaus stated that she was unsure about that. City Attorney Brandon P. Monk noted that we have not yet seen the full contract, and Ms. Knaus stated that they will not draft it until the Council approves the H.O.T. money. Councilmember Gay amended her previous motion to

approve the Groves Pecan Festivals' request for \$22,000 in Hotel Occupancy Tax Funds for tourism-related advertising and promotion of the City. Councilmember Holmes seconded. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON RESOLUTION 2025-11, CASTING BALLOTS FOR THE JEFFERSON CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Mayor Pro Tem Konidis made a motion to deliberate and act on resolution 2025-11, and Councilmember Gay seconded. City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that at the last Council meeting, Council approved a Resolution nominating Bert Lamson to serve on the Board of Directors for JCAD, and this is the actual casting of votes. We currently do not have anyone on the board who represents Mid-County, so the staff recommendation is to cast all 22 votes for Mr. Lamson. Mayor Pro Tem Konidis amended his previous motion on adoption of Resolution 2025-11 to cast all 22 votes for Bert Lamson, and Councilmember Gay seconded. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON:

- A. AMENDING DEFINITIONS, REQUIREMENTS, PENALTIES, AND ENFORCEMENT IN CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 21, ARTICLE III, GAME ROOMS AND GAMING MACHINES;
- B. AMENDING CODE OF ORDINANCES PART III – APPENDICES, APPENDIX A – ZONING; AND/OR
- C. ORDINANCE 2025-20 APPROVING A PERMANENT MORATORIUM ON GAME ROOM APPLICATIONS.

Councilmember Holmes made a motion to deliberate and not act on:

- A. Amending definitions, requirements, penalties, and enforcement in Code of Ordinances Chapter 21, Article III, Game Rooms and Gaming Machines;
- B. Amending Code of Ordinances Part III – Appendices, Appendix A – Zoning; and/or
- C. Ordinance 2025-20 approving a permanent moratorium on game room applications.

There was no second, and the motion died.

Councilmember Gay made a motion to deliberate and act on:

- A. Amending definitions, requirements, penalties, and enforcement in Code of Ordinances Chapter 21, Article III, Game Rooms and Gaming Machines;

- B. Amending Code of Ordinances Part III – Appendices, Appendix A – Zoning; and/or
- C. Ordinance 2025-20 approving a permanent moratorium on game room applications.

Mayor Pro Tem Konidis seconded. Mayor Borne then stated that his recommendation at this time, since Councilmember McAdams is not here and also considering everything Council still needs to look at, he is not ready to agree with a full ban on 8-liners, so his recommendation is to extend the moratorium for 12 months and take no action on any of the other ordinances at this time. Councilmember Holmes inquired whether that would leave the current game rooms operational, and Mayor Borne confirmed that it is correct; they can continue to operate, but the City will not accept any new applications. Mr. Carruth stated that, to be clear, any existing permits that expire will be renewed upon payment of the required fees. Mr. Monk stated that the fees are necessary; if they do not pay their fees, it will violate their specific use permit, and it will no longer be intact. Councilmember Holmes asked if they would need a new special use permit, and Mr. Monk stated that they would not; they would only have to complete the application. Councilmember Holmes asked if continuing the moratorium would open us up to any litigation based on recent findings. Mr. Monk stated that he believes there will be more changes coming from the Legislature because something will have to happen to define this issue regarding unconstitutional 8-liners. Mr. Monk then indicated that he does not believe this will lead to litigation against the City because the City has the freedom to do as it wishes with 8-liners at this time.

Councilmember Gay made a motion to deliberate and act on Ordinance 2025-20 approving a 12-month moratorium extension on game room applications, and Mayor Pro Tem Konidis seconded. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON THE OCTOBER 27, 2025, INVOICE LIST:
Councilmember Gay made a motion to deliberate and act on the October 27, 2025, invoice list, and Mayor Pro Tem Konidis seconded.

INVOICES: City Manager Kevin Carruth presented invoices for payment totaling \$391,569.59 as follows:

1. Beck	Replacement of pneumatic valve actuators with electric.	\$17,535.60
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2. Chameleon Industries Inc	Polymer for Water Plant.	\$34,317.60
3. Citibank	Purchasing card payment.	\$16,901.01
4. City of Beaumont	Radio system 2025-26.	\$27,843.35
5. City of Port Arthur	Garbage and trash collection August 26 th to September 25 th .	\$20,510.00
6. Enterprise	Vehicle lease for October 2025.	\$12,112.32
7. Kubota Tractor Corporation	Skid steer.	\$73,601.69
8. Moody Bros., Inc.	Annual prevention maintenance for Water Plant.	\$5,930.00
9. Moody Bros., Inc.	Annual PM for CL2 and SO2 systems for Wastewater Plant.	\$10,350.00
10. PVS DX, INC	Chlorine for water plant.	\$6,861.60
11. Republic Services	Sludge disposal September 2025.	\$8,233.46
12. Republic Services	August 2025 container service.	\$20,191.71
13. Revize LLC	Revize payment #2.	\$5,850.00
14. RTS Tactical	Active shooter kits.	\$17,577.25
15. T.R.E.S.	High service pump #2 rebuild.	\$5,350.00
16. T.R.E.S.	High service pump #1 rebuild.	\$36,824.00
17. Zone Industries	Repair of #4 Taft Lift station.	\$71,580.00

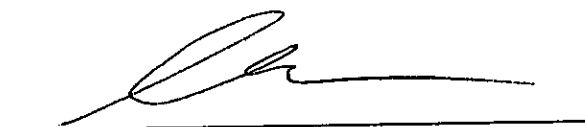
Mayor Borne asked for questions, and Councilmember Holmes inquired about the replacement of pneumatic valves, specifically whether the purchase included

installation. Public Works Director Troy Foxworth stated that we will purchase them and install them ourselves. Mayor Borne indicated that he thinks Port Neches is doing the same thing, and Mr. Foxworth stated they are, and are also using Beck. Mayor Borne then asked about the two pump rebuilds, and Mr. Foxworth noted that one is a motor. Mayor Borne then inquired about the lift station, and Mr. Carruth stated that replacing the pump would have cost over \$300,000, rather than repairing it. Mayor Borne asked if we had received the skid steer, and Mr. Foxworth noted that we had. Councilmember Holmes then inquired about the City of Beaumont's radio system line item, and Marshal Robin stated that the Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission serves as a hub, where they maintain all of their radio towers and systems. For years, the Port Security Grants have funded the maintenance, so we only had to cover about 25% of the costs; however, this is no longer covered under the Port Security Grants. Marshal Robin then stated that for years, Beaumont would headline the Port Security Grants so that they would pay it all in full, and then all the other Cities would reimburse them. Although the Port Security Grants are no longer covering the costs, Beaumont is still footing the bill, and we reimburse them accordingly. Councilmember Holmes then asked if we are paying this out of the Police budget, and Marshal Robin stated that it is correct and it is a budgeted item. Councilmember Holmes inquired about an update on the rollout of the new website, and City Manager Kevin Carruth reported that staff had completed training earlier this month, with the next step being to update the content on the respective pages. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne asked for Councilmember comments. Councilmember Gay thanked all the sponsors for National Night Out, including Old West, for providing food for all the first responders and donating a television. There was no further business, and Mayor Borne adjourned the meeting at 5:46 p.m.


Mayor

ATTEST:


City Clerk

