

A meeting of the Groves City Council was held on December 8, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Rae Shauna Gay, Councilmember Mark McAdams, Councilmember Charles Chelette, and Councilmember Brandon Holmes in attendance. Mayor Borne called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees. Representatives from VFW 4820 then led the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Borne then asked for reports, and City Manager Kevin Carruth reminded everyone that the groundbreaking for the pickleball court is next week, on December 16th at 10:00 a.m. at John Spikes Park.

City Marshal Christopher Robin then provided an update on the park-and-ride at the old K-Mart parking lot. Marshal Robin did have a meeting with the Bechtel safety team and staff from the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. This site was established several years ago, and we were only consulted on the onset but never included. Since that time, the site has grown exponentially, and we have received concerns from both citizens and the Council. During the meeting, Marshal Robin brought up several of those concerns. In fact, the original safety plan they had agreed to in the early terms was brought up, and we determined that it was never allowed in the plan for exits or entrances in residential zones to be used for buses or employees. In discussing those plans, they immediately shut down the gate on Monroe Boulevard. They will obviously still be using the TxDOT roadways, whether that be the Parkway or Twin City Highway. Marshal Robins then stated that Bechtel owns the site and manages the workforce, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office coordinates the extra jobs, and there is also a safety team that works the parking grounds, along with the bussing contract work. It is hard to get all of those hats in one room and have a meeting to get things moving. They are also exploring a visit with TxDOT to get some things working on the roadways themselves. For the two questions specifically, the site will continue for at least five more years, and they will start incorporating us into some of those rotations once the next big safety meeting is held to make adjustments. There were no questions for Marshal Robin.

Assistant Public Works Director Glenn Boudoin then updated the Council on the upcoming holiday garbage schedule for Christmas. Monday and Tuesday's routes will run normally, and on Wednesday, they will pick up both Wednesday's and Thursday's routes. The City holiday is on Christmas Eve, but the solid waste employees will work and take Friday off to match the landfill's schedule.

Chamber of Commerce Director Letha Knaus then reported on behalf of the Pecan Festival and the Groves Chamber of Commerce, and they have decided not to accept the \$22,000 requested and approved with the Hotel Motel Funds for the Guinness

World Record. After Ms. Knaus started finishing the paperwork, she noticed that the title was not for World's Largest Pecan, but for World's Largest Fiberglass Sculpture of a Nut. Another issue with the Guinness World Record is that the contract states we can use the Guinness title and logo for only two weeks before the ceremony and two weeks after. Ms. Knaus stated that the boards did not feel comfortable with that and felt that it would be a misuse of the City's money, so I told Guinness that we are no longer interested in going forward with this application. Ms. Knaus also stated that they will run a campaign for the pecan on their own, and we plan to get postcards and add them to the brochures that will be coming out soon. Councilmember McAdams thanked Ms. Knaus for doing this.

Mayor Borne called for citizen comments, and there were none.

DELIBERATE AND ACT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 24, 2025, CITY COUNCIL MEETING: Councilmember Holmes moved to deliberate and act to approve the minutes of the November 24, 2025, City Council Meeting, and Councilmember McAdams seconded. Mayor Borne asked for a discussion, and there was none. Motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE ON VACANCIES AND NOMINATIONS FOR POSITIONS ON THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AND ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT: Mayor Borne stated that this item is informational only and does not need a motion. Mayor Borne then said that we have had a few people withdraw from the Planning and Zoning Commission, and the Zoning Board of Adjustment has had the same issues. Mayor Borne stated that it is our pleasure to announce that we will now be taking applications for anyone interested in these two boards. Also, anyone acting as an alternate should fill out an application to be considered for a permanent position. This application is available on the City Website or by contacting City Clerk Clarissa Thibodeaux. Mayor Borne is hoping to receive applications by the next City Council Meeting so the Council can review them and, hopefully, make nominations and appointments at the first meeting in January. There was no further discussion.

DELIBERATE AND ACT TO APPROVE THE DATES AND TIMES FOR FUTURE CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS: Mayor Pro Tem Gay made a motion to deliberate and act to approve the dates and times for future City Council Meetings, and Councilmember Chelette seconded. Mayor Borne stated that he has enjoyed the meetings on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 5:00 p.m., rather than every other week, and all of the Council agreed. City Clerk Clarissa Thibodeaux stated that there is an additional staff recommendation on the agenda item form. Mayor Borne

then said that we would cancel the May 25th and December 28th meetings. City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that May 25th is Memorial Day and December 28th is right between Christmas and New Year. Councilmember Chelette asked whether the Council could call an extra meeting in those months if needed, and Mayor Borne stated that they can. Mayor Pro Tem Gay amended her previous motion to include adopting a regular meeting schedule of second and fourth Mondays beginning at 5:00 p.m. and canceling the May 25, 2026, and December 28, 2026, meetings as presented, and Councilmember Chelette seconded. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON A GENERAL LAND OFFICE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT MITIGATION PROGRAM RESILIENT COMMUNITIES PROGRAM CONTRACT FOR MITIGATION FUNDING AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS: Councilmember McAdams made a motion to deliberate and act on a General Land Office Community Development Block Grant Mitigation Program Resilient Communities Program Contract for Mitigation Funding and authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute all necessary documents. Mayor Pro Tem Gay seconded. City Manager Kevin Carruth informed the Council that this grant is for the comprehensive plan and that this agenda item is approval of the contract that must be completed to start the plan. Mayor Borne asked Mr. Carruth to give a quick rundown of the comprehensive plan, and he stated that the original source of this money was hazard mitigation from Hurricane. Part of the project's scope is to identify our local hazards and develop a mitigation plan. This plan will include projected population for the next 20 years, along with housing, land-use, infrastructure, economic development, and zoning ordinances. Mr. Carruth then stated that, as far as he can tell, the City has never had a comprehensive plan. Mayor Borne asked whether Grant Works would handle all the paperwork, and Mr. Carruth stated that they would handle the administrative part. City Manager Kevin Carruth then said that this is 100% grant-funded, and the Grant Works fee comes from the grant funds. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON THE DECEMBER 8, 2025, INVOICE LIST: Mayor Pro Tem Gay made a motion to deliberate and act on the December 8, 2025, Invoice List, and Councilmember Holmes seconded.

INVOICES: City Manager Kevin Carruth presented invoices for payment totaling \$704,008.72 as follows:

1. Coburn Supply Co., INC	Clamps for Public Works.	\$15,779.70
2. Core & Main L.P.	Supplies for water line repairs.	\$11,005.36
3. Dell Technologies	5 latitude tablets.	\$13,051.60
4. Higginbotham	Renewal of Wind & Hail.	\$243,765.72
5. Motorola Solutions	Portable radios.	\$36,329.94
6. PVS DX, INC	Chlorine for water plant.	\$6,861.60
7. PVS DX, INC	CL2 and SO2 for Wastewater Plant.	\$10,121.60
8. Republic Services	Sludge disposal for October 2025.	\$9,153.80
9. TCEQ	Permit Fee for WWTP 2026.	\$29,940.96
10. TML	Property and liability insurance.	\$315,442.40
11. Wex Bank	Fuel for November 2025.	\$12,556.04

Mayor Borne asked for Councilmember comments. Mayor Borne asked if we knew how much the TCEQ permit was last year, and Public Works Director Troy Foxworth stated it was about the same price. Councilmember Holmes asked whether we have other vendors we can use for sludge disposal, and Mr. Foxworth stated that we do, but they had the lowest price. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

City Manager Kevin Carruth complimented our bank, First Financial, whose fraud department caught that a \$100,000 payment was stolen from the mail and was up for sale on the dark web. The City uses positive pay in accounts payable, which means that when we cut a check, we send the data file to the bank, which includes the check number, payee, and payment amount, so that when the check comes through, the bank matches it against the data file. If they don't match exactly, the check doesn't go through. This was a good catch by the bank.

CITY COUNCIL WILL HOLD AN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 551 OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AUTHORITY CONTAINED IN:

- A. SECTION 551.071 (2) – CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY ON A MATTER IN WHICH THE DUTY OF THE ATTORNEY TO THE GOVERNMENTAL BODY UNDER THE TEXAS DISCIPLINARY RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT OF THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS CLEARLY CONFLICTS WITH THIS CHAPTER.

Council convened into Executive Session at 5:32 p.m.

Council reconvened into Open Session at 6:06 p.m.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON ORDINANCE 2025-23, IMPOSING A LIEN AGAINST AN OWNER'S PROPERTY FOR DELINQUENT UTILITY BILLS FOR MUNICIPAL UTILITY SERVICE TO THE PROPERTIES AT 5401 GULFWAY DRIVE, 5305 GULFWAY DRIVE, 6775 25TH STREET, AND 5899 WEST JEFFERSON:

Councilmember McAdams made a motion to deliberate and act on Ordinance 2025-23, and Mayor Pro Tem Gay seconded. Mayor Borne stated that the lien is due to their utility bill being past due. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne asked for Councilmember Comments, and Councilmember Chelette stated that he had a wonderful time at the Christmas parade and tree lighting. All of the Council members agreed with Councilmember Chelette. Mayor Borne then said that he also had the pleasure of introducing Mr. Leroy Falcon, citizen of the year, to light the tree.

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk