

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held on February 24, 2025, in the Groves City Council Chamber. Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Pete Konidis, Councilmember Mark McAdams, Councilmember Brandon Holmes, and Councilmember Rae Shauna Gay were in attendance. Mayor Borne called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees. A representative from VFW 4820 then led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

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

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

DELIBERATE AND ACT TO APPROVE A CONTRACT FOR ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING SERVICES BY SOUTEX SURVEYORS AND ENGINEERS AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS: Councilmember McAdams made a motion to deliberate and act to approve a contract for engineering and surveying services by Soutex Surveyors and Engineers and authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute all necessary documents. Mayor Pro Tem Konidis seconded. City Manager Kevin Carruth thanked Soutex for getting back to us so quickly with three options and said that staff is recommending option three to the Council. Gary Graham with Soutex then addressed the Council, stating they found four major sewer collection areas for the City of Groves, and they all come together at the Taft Lift Station. The Taft Lift Station pumps all the sewer flow from the city to the Waste Water Plant. Mr. Graham also informed the Council that areas one and four come down Taft Avenue and enter the lift station. Area One is pumped from the old sewer plant by a lift station, and Area Four gets there by gravity. Mr. Graham then stated that areas two and three are the ones we have trouble with. They come together at 25th Street and Cleveland. Mr. Graham then explained that during wet weather, we have over 8,000 gallons per minute coming together at that point to be conveyed by the sewer and 25th Street to the Lift Station. Mr. Graham then informed the Council that we only have about 4,700 gallons a minute of capacity, which is causing a severe bottleneck. The reason for that bottleneck is the system was initially designed for that line to be a 30-inch pipe, and at some point in the past, it was slipped-lined with a 24-inch HD liner. Mr. Graham then stated that the capacity in that sewer was reduced by 53%. The idea for option 3 is to put a new 24-inch line just above the existing sewer to convey that flow; the lift station has another 5 million gallons a day capacity. We are just not getting the water there to pump it. City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that two lines would operate concurrently to reach the Taft Lift Station.

Councilmember McAdams asked what the current line was made of, and Mr. Graham stated he was unsure whether it was concrete or clay. Mayor Borne asked if the current customers would be disturbed when that additional line was installed, and Mr. Graham stated they would not. Mayor Pro Tem Konidis wondered whether the line was under the road, and Mr. Graham said they believed it was. Councilmember Holmes asked about the data for the 8,000 gallons and if that is recent data, and Mr. Graham stated that is the capacity that the pipe needs to have. Councilmember Gay noted that the area is a newly done road. Councilmember McAdams amended his previous motion to include option 3, and Mayor Pro Tem Konidis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 10, 2025, CITY COUNCIL MEETING: Mayor Pro Tem Konidis made a motion to deliberate and act to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2025, City Council Meeting and Councilmember Holmes seconded. There were no questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 10, 2025, JOINT PUBLIC HEARING: Councilmember Gay made a motion to deliberate and act to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2025, Joint Public Hearing and Councilmember McAdams seconded. There were no questions and the motion passed unanimously.

RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 10, 2025, PLANNING AND ZONING MEETING: Mayor Borne stated that the Council have all received the minutes from the February 10, 2025, Planning and Zoning Meeting.

HEAR AND DELIBERATE ON GROVES FIRE DEPARTMENT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT: Fire Chief Lance Billeaud then presented his 2024 Annual Report to the Council. Chief Billeaud reviewed the introduction, the list of staff with years of service, incidents from 2024, average response time, and special activities that occurred throughout the year. Chief Billeaud then informed the Council that all City staff are being trained on CPR and stop-the-bleed, and these classes will alternate every other year. All city buildings have AEDs and stop-the-bleed kits. All city vehicles also have stop-the-bleed kits. Chief Billeaud then reviewed the fire department's short-term and long-term goals. Chief Billeaud then went into the report summary, including the problem of overlapping calls, which is why the volunteers are so important. There was no further discussion.

PRESENTATION OF THE GROVES POLICE DEPARTMENT 2024 RACIAL PROFILING REPORT: City Marshal Christopher Robin presented the Council with the 2024 Racial Profiling Report. Marshal Robin informed the Council that TCOLE mandates that every police agency in the State of Texas report this data. TCOLE is the Texas Commission of Law Enforcement, a regulatory state agency that establishes and enforces Texas law enforcement standards. Marshal Robin stated that racism is not tolerated in this agency, and the Groves Police Department does not condone selective enforcement of any kind. Councilmember Holmes asked Marshal Robin if these results were from traffic stops that resulted in a citation. Marshal Robin explained this is from every traffic stop, no matter the outcome. There was no further discussion.

PRESENTATION OF THE GROVES POLICE DEPARTMENT 2024 UCR/NIBIRS REPORT: City Marshal Christopher Robin presented the Council with the 2024 UCR/NIBIRS Report. Marshal Robin stated this report is the statistics of the types of cases we handle by crimes that are specifically reported. This report helps track trends and know what is happening in the city. Marshal Robin also stated that they continue to monitor crime trends closely and adjust operational strategies as needed. There was no further discussion.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON ORDINANCE 2025-03 AMENDING CHAPTER 2 – ADMINISTRATION TO ADOPT A MANDATORY APPLICATION FOR VOLUNTEER APPOINTMENT FOR THE GEDC, PLANNING AND ZONING, AND ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT: Mayor Pro Tem Konidis made a motion to deliberate and act on Ordinance 2025-03 and Councilmember Gay seconded. City Manager Carruth stated that this will make the application for volunteer appointments mandatory and that the application incorporates the two revisions discussed at the February 5, 2025, workshop. There were no questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON ORDINANCE 2025-04, AUTHORIZING A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FOR A FOOD TRUCK LOCATED AT 5509 E. PARKWAY: Councilmember McAdams made a motion to deliberate and act on Ordinance 2025-04 and Councilmember Gay seconded. City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that this is for Hungry Wolfe food truck to be located in the Snooper's Paradise parking lot. Mayor Borne asked if they made remedies for the distance to the bathrooms. Mr. Pacetti from Planning and Zoning recommended allowing another 30 feet to the minimum requirements. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

INVOICES: City Manager Kevin Carruth presented invoices for payment totaling \$56,591.79 as follows:

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| 1. Environmental Improvements, Inc | Replacement of current grit pump. | \$18,809.00 |
| 2. Heil of Texas | Broken paddle in #45 garbage truck. | \$5,846.12 |
| 3. Motion Industries | Gearbox and Motor for clarifier #2. | \$5,099.97 |
| 4. PVS DX, INC | Chlorine for Water Plant. | \$6,861.60 |
| 5. PVS DX, INC | CL2 and SO2 for Waste Water Plant. | \$9,646.20 |
| 6. Republic Services | Sludge disposal for January 2025. | \$10,328.90 |

Mayor Pro Tem Pete Konidis moved to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$56,591.79, and Councilmember Holmes seconded. Councilmember Holmes asked about the grit pump, and City Manager Kevin Carruth stated the system has 2 pumps but if the backup pump goes out, we would be in trouble. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

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.

The Council went into Executive Session at 5:49 p.m.

The Council reconvened into Open Session at 6:34 p.m.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON ORDINANCE 2025-05 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: Mayor Pro Tem Konidis made a motion to deliberate and act on Ordinance 2025-05, and Councilmember McAdams seconded. Mayor Borne asked after approval how soon this lien could be imposed, and City Attorney Brandon P. Monk stated that he could get it recorded tomorrow. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne asked for Councilmember comments. Councilmember Holmes thanked the Fire Department for a quick response to the call at the middle school today. There was no further business, and Mayor Borne adjourned the meeting at 6:36 p.m.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk