

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held at 5:00 p.m. on September 22, 2025, in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Pete Konidis, Councilmember Mark McAdams, Councilmember Brandon Holmes, and Councilmember Rae Shauna Gay in attendance. Mayor Borne called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees and news media. A representative from the local VFW Post 4820 then led the prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Borne asked if there were any reports, and Fire Chief Lance Billeaud then reported on the NXT Autopulse automated CPR machine that the Fire Department recently acquired. While City Manager Kevin Carruth projected a picture for the Council to see what the machine looks like, Chief Billeaud explained how it works. Chief Billeaud then explained that the cost of the machine, which was \$23,000, will be shown for Council approval on the invoice approval list. Chief Billeaud wanted to ensure that the Council understood that the payment for this machine comes from the opioid settlement money that the City received. Councilmember Holmes asked how long the unit would service a patient, and Chief Billeaud explained that the battery life is approximately 30 minutes, but they would have two fully charged batteries with them on calls. Councilmember Holmes then asked how long it would take for all the firefighters to be trained on this, and Chief Billeaud stated that all paid personnel are already trained on it, but the department still needs to update its medical protocols. Councilmember McAdams asked what age is recommended for using this machine, and Chief Billeaud stated that as long as the band fits over the chest, it will work.

City Manager Kevin Carruth then asked Chief Billeaud to provide an update on the September 22, 2025, Community CPR event, and Chief Billeaud stated that it was a big success. Approximately 30-35 people attended this event, and they are looking forward to doing a partnership again with Acadian and the two hospitals for future events. There were no further reports.

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

DELIBERATE AND ACT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2025, CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND JOINT PUBLIC HEARING: Councilmember McAdams made a motion to deliberate and act to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2025, City Council Meeting and Joint Public Hearing. Councilmember Holmes seconded. There were no questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2025, PLANNING AND ZONING MEETING: Mayor Borne stated that all of the Council members have received a copy of the September 8, 2025, Planning and Zoning meeting minutes.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON SUPPLEMENTAL HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX FUNDING REQUEST BY GROVES PECAN FESTIVAL: Mayor Pro Tem Konidis made a motion to deliberate and act on supplemental Hotel Occupancy Tax funding request by Groves Pecan Festival, and Councilmember Gay seconded. Groves Chamber of Commerce Director Letha Knaus stated that this is an addendum to the previous amount, increasing it by an additional \$939.02. This will be for brochures and for advertising on the NDN Press during the high school football games. Councilmember Holmes asked how many brochures this was for, and Ms. Knaus stated that she couldn't remember exactly, but she believed it was between 500 and 1,000. Mayor Borne asked City Attorney Brandon P. Monk if this meets the requirements for HOT money, and Mr. Monk stated it does. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX FUNDING REQUEST BY THE GROVES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: Councilmember Gay made a motion to deliberate and act on Hotel Occupancy Tax funding request by the Groves Chamber of Commerce. Councilmember McAdams seconded. This request for \$6,300 is for the Christmas Tree Trail and Small Business Saturday. Ms. Knaus pointed out to the Council that in the last few years, they had asked for \$8,000 but reduced it to \$6,300 as most businesses on Lincoln are not open on Saturdays. Ms. Knaus felt that they needed to reduce the advertisement for Small Business Saturday due to the businesses that close on Saturdays, especially on Lincoln Avenue. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON A CARNIVAL LICENSE APPLICATION FOR THE GROVES PECAN FESTIVAL TO BE HELD IN LION'S PARK OCTOBER 9TH-12TH, 2025: Mayor Pro Tem Konidis made a motion to deliberate and act on a Carnival License Application for the Groves Pecan Festival to be held in Lion's Park October 9th-12th, 2025, and Councilmember Gay seconded. Mayor Borne asked if we had used this carnival company before, and Ms. Knaus stated that this would be our third year using them. Ms. Knaus also presented a copy of the insurance acquired by the carnival company. Ms. Knaus also stated that they will send a copy of the independent inspections once completed. Fire Chief Lance Billeaud then informed the Council that the City will also do an inspection once the rides are assembled. Councilmember Holmes asked City Attorney Brandon P. Monk if the liability limits presented on the insurance are appropriate for this type of event, and Mr. Monk stated they are. Ms. Knaus stated that the Pecan Festival also carries its own insurance. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON APPROVING THE CLOSURE OF SEGMENTS OF WEST WASHINGTON AVENUE AND DOYLE STREET FOR THE GROVES NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2025 EVENT ON OCTOBER 7, 2025: Councilmember Gay made a motion to deliberate and act on approving the closure of segments of West Washington Avenue and Doyle Street for the Groves National Night Out 2025 event on October 7, 2025. Councilmember Holmes seconded. City Marshal Christopher Robin addressed the Council, informing them that this is their 8th National Night Out. A quick reminder: National Night Out is all about bringing the community and first responders together to get to know one another, while also teaching safety awareness. Marshal Robin stated that National Night Out is always the first Tuesday in October, and we also have Fire Awareness that week, along with the Pecan Festival. To ease the use of the park and foster unity between the Fire and Police Departments, they decided to host a joint block party. Mayor Borne asked if, with the closing of Doyle street, anyone had contacted the Church of Christ to ensure there was no conflict with them, and Marshal Robin stated that they would not block their driveway. Marshal Robin stated that there will be police units and barricades with personnel at each location. Councilmember Holmes asked if they had spoken to Market Basket and the other businesses. Marshal Robin stated that they had spoken to all of the surrounding businesses, and they are all on board. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON AMENDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED RESOLUTION 2025-06, AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME PREVENTION AUTHORITY (MVCPA) FY2026, AT THE REQUEST OF MVCPA: Councilmember Gay made a motion to deliberate and act on amending previously approved Resolution 2025-06, authorizing the submission of a grant application for the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA) FY2026, at the request of MVCPA. Mayor Pro Tem Konidis seconded. Marshal Robin stated that this was a clerical error on his part, where he repeated the last line of the first WHEREAS paragraph. The City of Groves was awarded approximately \$64,000, and with the City's match, the total will be around \$76,000. This resolution update is the only thing holding us back. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON ORDINANCE 2025-18, AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE IN THE TEXAS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTION RATE TO SEVEN PERCENT AND AUTHORIZING ANNUALLY ACCRUING SERVICE CREDITS AND TRANSFER UPDATED SERVICE CREDITS:

Councilmember McAdams made a motion to deliberate and act on Ordinance 2025-18, and Mayor Pro Tem Kinidis seconded. Human Resource Director Elizabeth Diaz addressed the Council, stating that this is a formal request to increase the TMRS (Texas Municipal Retirement System) contribution rate from 6% to 7%. This increase was approved in the budget, but we require a formalized version in the form of a signed ordinance to submit to TMRS to update our plan. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE MAYOR, CITY MANAGER, AND FINANCE DIRECTOR TO SERVE AS THE 2025 AUDIT SELECTION REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR RESPONSES TO THE 2025 GROVES AUDITING SERVICES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: Councilmember Gay made a motion to deliberate and act on the appointment of the Mayor, City Manager, and Finance Director to serve as the 2025 Audit Selection Review Committee for responses to the 2025 Groves Auditing Services request for proposals. Councilmember Holmes seconded. The Finance Director stated that the contract with the previous auditor has expired, so we went out for RFP's and received three responses. Now, we need to appoint the committee to review the responses and make a recommendation to the Council. Mr. Ozley ensured that the Council understood that the three responses received are still sealed. Mayor Borne asked how many companies we sent the RFP to, and Mr. Ozley stated that we sent it to twelve companies and also posted it in the Examiner for two consecutive weeks. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON ORDINANCE 2025-19, AUTHORIZING A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FOR APARTMENTS AT 2238 MAIN AVENUE: Councilmember Holmes made a motion to deliberate and act on Ordinance 2025-19, authorizing a Specific Use Permit for apartments at 2238 Main Avenue, and Councilmember Gay seconded. Mayor Borne stated that in the Planning and Zoning Minutes, there was a unanimous decision to recommend the approval of this Specific Use Permit. Mayor Borne asked if we had anyone from Planning and Zoning present today, and Mr. Charles Chelette was in attendance. Mayor Borne asked Mr. Chelette if they had encountered any issues since their last meeting with the Council, and Mr. Chelette stated that all of their questions had been addressed. Mayor Borne then stated that this is a 9-unit, double-story, townhome-style in a C-2 District. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON THE PURCHASE OF A TRAFFIC SIGN PRINTER AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT: Councilmember Gay made a motion to deliberate and act on the purchase of a traffic sign printer and associated equipment. Councilmember McAdams seconded. City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that we have a proposal to purchase a traffic sign printer, laminator, and plotter for our sign shop. The current ability to produce signs in-house is limited to taking precut letters and hand-applying them to street name sign blanks. Mr. Carruth stated that what staff is proposing is the ability to produce basically any sign that we need in-house. Mr. Carruth then said one of the issues for our community is that we lack a clear identity, and one way to address that is with custom street name signs. Mr. Carruth then showed the Council that there is a significant cost difference between using third-party vendors and doing it in-house.

Third-Party/In-House Comparison

The table below compares the costs of some typical traffic signs as well as some critical features between bringing the sign-making in-house and continuing to use third-party vendors.

Category	Third-Party Vendor	In-House Production	Projected Benefit
Typical Cost per Regular Street Name Sign	\$50 - \$100	\$19 - \$45	\$31 - \$55 savings/sign
Typical Cost per Custom Street Name Sign	\$113 - \$180	\$19 - \$45	\$94 - \$135 savings/sign
Typical Cost per Stop Sign	\$101 - \$130	\$80 - \$85	\$21 - \$45 savings/sign
Turnaround Time	2-6 weeks (production ques & shipping)	1-3 days (on-demand)	Faster response, improved safety
Customization Flexibility	Limited, costly	High, built-in capability	Supports branding, events, identity
Control Over Quality	Vendor-driven	City-controlled	Consistent compliance, longer service life

City of Groves

9/19/25

Cost

The total cost through Centerline Supply, Inc., a BuyBoard co-op purchasing vendor, is \$54,245.00 and is comprised of the following components:

Trafficjet Xpress Print System	\$32,525.00
Graphtec FC9000-140 54" Plotter	\$8,295.00
GFPS63TH-4 63" Top Heat Laminator	\$11,425.00
MUTCD Sign Library	\$2,000.00

There are in the neighborhood of 700 plus street name signs. Along with street name signs, we would be able to create traffic control signs, custom signs, and vehicle decals. Mr. Carruth then stated that we will have sufficient funds at the end of the fiscal year to cover this expense, which is through one of our co-op purchasing vendors. They will come in, perform the installation, and also provide training for the staff. Mayor Borne asked if we would still have to purchase the blanks to put the printing on, and Mr. Carruth stated that whenever possible, we would reuse the aluminum sign itself and reface it. However, if we needed a new blank, we would have to buy it through a third party. Councilmember Holmes asked Mr. Carruth if he knew how much the City spends on sign replacement and maintenance annually, and Mr. Carruth stated that the typical annual budget is approximately \$12,000. Mr. Carruth noted that the budget is only for maintenance; it doesn't encompass the big picture, such as customization. Councilmember Holmes asked if we anticipate a large number of signs that will need to be replaced in the near future, and Public Works Director Troy Foxworth stated that if we plan to customize them, then all of them will need to be replaced. Mr. Carruth stated that vinyl typically lasts 7 to 10 years before it starts to fade, depending on the amount of sunlight it receives and other variables.

Mayor Borne then stated So this means we will be able to replace stop signs, no parking signs, etc. and Mr. Foxworth noted that this machine would allow us to do all of those ourselves instead of buying new ones. Mayor Borne inquired whether this machine would enable them to imprint their new logo on magnets for their city trucks, and Mr. Foxworth confirmed that it can. Councilmember Holmes stated that he appreciates the team bringing something like this because, in his opinion, it provides an opportunity for us to do things in-house, which he believes is a wise direction, especially when it is a downed stop sign or street sign that could affect the safety of our citizens. Councilmember McAdams inquired about the location where this machine would be stored, and Mr. Carruth replied that there is sufficient space for it in the existing sign shop, which is a controlled environment. Councilmember Holmes asked if we have a computer or any other necessary equipment to transfer this data to the plotter, and Mr. Foxworth stated that it is included. Councilmember Holmes inquired about the number of old logos still displayed on vehicles, and Mr. Carruth informed the Council that we have not yet replaced any of the old logos on the vehicles, which this machine can help with. The motion passed with Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Pete Konidis, Councilmember Rae Shauna Gay, and Councilmember Mark McAdams all in favor of the motion. Councilmember Brandon Holmes was against the motion.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON THE PURCHASE OF A SKID STEER TRACK

LOADER: Councilmember Gay made a motion to deliberate and act on the purchase of a Skid Steer Track Loader, and Mayor Pro Tem Konidis seconded. City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that we currently have a 2006 Komatsu Skid Steer Loader, and it is a rattletrap. It will run, but we are at a point where we will have to invest a lot of money in it. Mr. Carruth then reminded the Council that we have \$100,000 in the current year budget for substandard building demolition. Mr. Carruth then stated that we have completed the initial phase of the substandard building process, and the positive aspect of that is that the first 13 houses out of that group of 24, their owners have either demolished or rehabbed and brought them up to code. We are currently working on our second batch of houses for the next C.O.D.E.S Hearing. Mr. Carruth then stated that the benefit of not having as many houses to demolish ourselves is that we did not spend all of the money allocated for demolitions this year. Therefore, we want to take the balance of \$64,000 and also use money from sanitation to purchase this Skid Steer Loader. Mayor Pro Tem Konidis asked what attachments would be purchased with this Skid Steer, and Mr. Foxworth stated that they are proposing the regular bucket and grapple bucket. Mr. Carruth then reminded the Council that earlier this year, we had to rent a Skid Steer for some street work because our machine was so old that the attachment would not work on it. Mayor Borne asked Mr. Foxworth for examples of how they use the Skid Steer, and Mr. Foxworth stated that they use it for any construction, loading and unloading trucks at the yard, tearing down houses, and in alleyways where the larger machines cannot access. Mayor Borne asked if we could recoup any money from our current one, and Mr. Foxworth stated that we could get some, but the year model and the hours associated with it would be where we would take a hit. Mr. Carruth noted that this is through one of our co-op programs. Assistance Public Works Director Glen Boudoin informed the Council that the dealer Beaumont Tractor, Inc. is the number one Kubota dealer in the nation, and also gave us the best price. Additionally, if we need maintenance, they will come to us. Mr. Boudoin stated that we use the skid steer regularly. Councilmember Holmes asked if this was the newer model for Kubota or if it had been in service for a while, and Mr. Boudoin stated that it had been in service. Councilmember Holmes asked if this model required the use of DEF, and it was unclear at the time. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON THE SEPTEMBER 22, 2025, INVOICE LIST: Mayor Pro Tem Konidis made a motion to deliberate and act on the September 22, 2025, invoice list, and Councilmember McAdams seconded.

INVOICES: City Manager Kevin Carruth presented invoices for payment totaling \$306,730.10 as follows:

1. Citibank	Purchasing card payment.	\$3,657.84
2. Citibank	Purchasing card payment.	\$10,456.63
3. City of Port Arthur	Garbage and trash disposal July 2025.	\$17,970.00
4. Jefferson County Appraisal District	4 th quarter payment.	\$13,973.47
5. MATCO Tools	Software updates.	\$8,599.96
6. Mohawk Lifts	Hunter balancer.	\$9,496.61
7. Republic Services	July container services.	\$9,853.
8. Republic Services	Sludge disposal August 2025.	\$26,799.25
9. Standard Insurance Company	Life Insurance August and September 2025.	\$8,619.60
10. Standard Insurance Company	Life Insurance May, June, and July 2025.	\$11,994.89
11. Texas Pack and Load	New hydraulic pump for New Way Garbage Truck.	\$8,000.00
12. TNTX, LLC	New grapple truck.	\$107,541.00
13. Toter LLC	New garbage containers.	\$46,641.00
14. Zoll Medical Corporation	Autopulse automatic CPR machine.	\$23,126.74

Mayor Borne asked for questions, and there were none. Councilmember Holmes asked if the software update was for the diagnostics of our vehicles, and Mr.

Foxworth stated, "Yes, it is." Councilmember Holmes then asked if we could use it on some of the newer vehicles as well, and Mr. Foxworth stated that it is intended for the older vehicles. The newer leased vehicles are done under the lease program. Mayor Borne asked if we purchased a whole new grapple truck, and Mr. Foxworth stated that we had. In the last budget, we were approved to buy one, but the funding was allocated across two separate budgets. Mayor Pro Tem Konidis asked when we could expect the grapple truck, and Mr. Boudoin stated hopefully that it would arrive in November of this year. Mayor Borne asked if the garbage containers were the standard green ones, and Mr. Boudoin stated that we were going back to Toter cans due to quality issues with the last batch from a different vendor. Mr. Boudoin also stated that we will be using green and brown cans; the brown cans will be used for accounts that pay for multiple cans. The green will be the main color, and the brown will help indicate which accounts should pay for multiple cans. There were no further questions, 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:

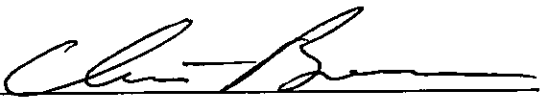
- A. SECTION 551.071 (1) (A) – CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY WHEN THE GOVERNMENTAL BODY SEEKS THE ADVICE OF ITS ATTORNEY ABOUT PENDING OR CONTEMPLATED LITIGATION.
- B. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION.

Council convened into executive session at 6:03 p.m.

Council reconvened into open session at 6:07 p.m.

Mayor Borne asked for Council comments. Mayor Borne stated that he was unable to attend the parade this past weekend, but it appeared that everyone had a good time. Mr. Leroy Falcon was able to be the Marshal for the parade since he was the Citizen of the Year. Mayor Borne also stated that October is a busy month for the City, with events such as National Night Out, Fire Prevention Week, and the Pecan Festival. He hopes the community will come out and support these great activities. There were no further comments.

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:09 p.m.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk

