

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held on January 27, 2025, in the Groves City Council Chamber. Mayor Chris Borne, Councilmember Mark McAdams, Councilmember Brandon Holmes, and Councilmember Rae Shauna Gay were in attendance. Mayor Pro Tem Pete Konidis was not in attendance. Mayor Borne called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees. The local VFW then held a prayer. Boy Scout Troops 75 and 202 and Pack 51 then presented colors and the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Manager Kevin Carruth introduced Elizabeth Diaz, the new HR Director for the City of Groves. Mr. Carruth gave a brief work history for Mrs. Diaz, who stated that she was excited to join the City. The council then welcomed Mrs. Diaz to the team.

Mayor Borne then asked for reports, and City Manager Kevin Carruth thanked staff for their work during the blizzard. Mr. Carruth stated that the Finance Department came in on our Monday holiday to do payroll so the workers could get paychecks. Mr. Carruth also wanted to thank the Public Works, Water Department, Sanitation Department, and Fire and Police for their hard work during the blizzard.

Mr. Lofton of VFW 4820 then reported on the Paris Peace Accords, a set of agreements signed in 1973 to end the Vietnam War. The United States, North and South Vietnam, and the Viet Cong signed the accords. Mr. Lofton also stated that the United States lost 58,220 soldiers during this conflict. There were no further reports.

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

DELIBERATE AND ACT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 13, 2025, CITY COUNCIL MEETING: Councilmember McAdams made a motion to deliberate and act to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2025, City Council Meeting and Councilmember Holmes seconded. There were no questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 17, 2025, PLANNING AND ZONING MEETING: Mayor Borne stated that all of the Council received a copy of the January 17, 2025, Planning and Zoning Meeting.

HEAR AND DELIBERATE ON A PRESENTATION PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 2ND-8TH, 2025, AS SCOUT WEEK: Mayor Borne then presented a Proclamation proclaiming February 2nd-8th, 2025, as Scout Week. This Proclamation was presented to Troop 75, 202, and Pack 51.

HEAR AND DISCUSS THE ANNUAL REVIEW OF BUSINESSES WITH BEER AND WINE PERMITS FOR ON-PREMISE CONSUMPTION: Mayor Borne stated a motion is not needed on this item; it is informational only. Marshal Robin then gave his presentation on the annual review of businesses with beer and wine permits for on-premise consumption. These active permits include Baytown Seafood, Colichia's Italian Village, Columbus Club of Groves, Larry & Rita's Mexican Cajun Bar & Grill, Tony's Barbecue, and Milagro's Tex-Mex Restaurant. The Burrito Bar holds a license but is not yet open. Marshal Robin then went through all of the calls for service for the businesses listed above and that there were no indications that any of these calls for service were due to alcohol consumption. There were no questions from the Council.

DELIBERATE AND ACT TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2025-02, AMENDING CHAPTER 4 – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES: Councilmember McAdams made a motion to deliberate and act to approve Ordinance 2025-02, and Councilmember Holmes seconded. City Attorney Brandon P. Monk explained that this amendment would help businesses that apply for beer and wine permits not obtain metes and bounds, and the City would not have to amend the ordinance each time a permit is approved. This amendment would also remove the distance restriction from churches. Mayor Borne explained that this amendment would prohibit these permits from being in R-1 and R-2 zones. Mayor Borne also stated that TABC allows for a distance from churches, but it is not required, and schools and hospitals would stay intact at 300 feet. Councilmember Holmes asked if the metes and bounds survey is required each time a permit is renewed, and City Attorney Brandon P. Monk stated that it has been in the City but is not a state requirement. Councilmember Holmes then asked about removing the church from line item A, and that line item B still references churches. Mayor Borne stated that letter B only informs how distances are measured and doesn't enforce the distances. Councilmember Holmes then asked if this needed to go to the Planning and Zoning Commission, and Mr. Monk stated that since it was a change to a specific ordinance, it went straight to Council. Councilmember Holmes then asked if there is a requirement for a Public Hearing when a permit is renewed each year, and Mr. Monk stated yes. City Manager Kevin Carruth noted that the proposed ordinance would make the process a few hundred dollars cheaper for the applicants and 6-8 weeks quicker. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON APPOINTMENTS TO GROVES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION: Councilmember McAdams made a motion to

deliberate and act on appointments to Groves Economic Development Corporation, and Councilmember Gay seconded. Mayor Borne stated that a workshop regarding

This was scheduled, but we were snowed out and could not get it. Mayor Borne then stated that the intent is to have the workshop still, and until we can do so, City Councilmembers can be made interim EDC Members so the EDC can continue to operate. Councilmember McAdams amended his previous motion to include the four Councilmembers: Mayor Pro Tem Pete Konidis, Councilmember Brandon Holmes, Councilmember Rae Shauna Gay, and Councilmember Mark McAdams as interim EDC members, and Councilmember Gay seconded. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON APPOINTMENTS TO PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION: Councilmember Holmes made a motion to deliberate and act on appointments to the Planning and Zoning Commission, and Councilmember Gay seconded. Mayor Borne stated that this would also be a part of the workshop and recommended tabling this item until after. Mayor Borne motioned to table this item, and Councilmember Holmes seconded. There were no further questions, and the motion to table passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON APPOINTMENTS TO ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT: Mayor Borne made a motion to table this item, and Councilmember McAdams seconded. Mayor Borne stated that this should also be tabled until after the workshop. There were no further questions, and the motion to table passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON LOWER NECHES VALLEY AUTHORITY WATER RATE INCREASE: Councilmember Gay made a motion to deliberate and act on the Lower Neches Valley Authority water rate increase, and Councilmember Holmes seconded. City Manager Kevin Carruth explained to the Council that LNVA operates on a calendar year for their Fiscal Year. Mr. Carruth then stated that it is his understanding when LNVA has a rate increase, this is when we see it, and when we see that increase, Council normally does not pass it on to our customers. Mr. Carruth also informed the Council that the increase this year is minimal; for us, that would be approximately \$1,070 monthly and around \$8,600 for the remainder of the fiscal year. Staff recommends that we do not pass it on to our customers. Mayor Borne stated that we accept their rate increase, but we do not pass it along to our customers, and Mr. Carruth stated that was correct. Mayor Borne asked if we tried to project this increase during the budget process, and Finance Director Lamar Ozley noted that 3%

was the assumption. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON APPROVAL OF NEW CITY LOGO: Councilmember McAdams made a motion to deliberate and act on approval of the new city logo, and Councilmember Gay seconded. City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that the current logo was designed in 1958 by Groves resident Charlie Marie Karr. Mr. Carruth noted that over the years, there have grown to be about six variations of the current logo currently in use. Mr. Carruth also stated that when we started our new website process with Revize back in November, part of what we contracted them to do was design a new logo. The council agreed with the staff's recommendation for the seal logo (see attached), and the Council decided on the first option of the horizontal logo (see attached). Councilmember Holmes asked if this logo design was a part of our budget, and Mr. Carruth stated it was included in the website design price. Councilmember Holmes also asked about implementing this throughout stationary and vehicle decals; Mr. Carruth noted that we will not implement the new logo until we have to order new stationary and vehicle decals, etc. Mr. Carruth also stated that the City waited to put logos on the new vehicles until we had the new logo picked out. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

INVOICES: City Manager Kevin Carruth presented invoices for payment totaling \$219,100.88 as follows:

1. Brenntag Southwest Inc.	Brennfloc aid.	\$9,580.00
2. City of Beaumont	Radio system 2024-25.	\$38,167.30
3. City of Port Arthur	Landfill fees 10/28/24-11/25/24.	\$14,157.50
4. Dell Marketing LP.	Computer system software.	\$8,977.02
5. Fuelman of Lafayette	Gas and diesel for December 2024.	\$11,890.90
6. Grantworks, Inc.	Grant admin for ARPA.	\$13,950.00
7. Jefferson County Appraisal District	First quarter payment.	\$18,867.02

8.	Lower Neches Valley Authority	Raw water purchased.	\$29,700.00
9.	M&R's Elite Janitorial Solutions	November and December 2024 Janitorial Service.	\$5,816.00
10.	Mastercard Gold	Fuel, AC supplies, stop the bleed kits.	\$5,680.99
11.	Moody Bros. Inc.	Chlorine and Ammonia PM parts and service.	\$7,874.13
12.	PVS DX, Inc	CL2 and SO2 for Waste Water Plant.	\$12,861.60
13.	Republic Services Inc.	Container services for November 2024.	\$9,757.87
14.	Republic Services Inc.	Container services for December 2024.	\$10,126.91
15.	Republic Services Inc.	Sludge disposal for December 2024.	\$10,216.40
16.	Texas Materials Group, Inc.	Type D cold mix asphalt.	\$6,476.34
17.	Wathen, DeShong & Juncker, L.L.P.	City auditor audit services interim bill for FYE 2024.	\$5,000.00

Councilmember McAdams moved to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$219,100.88, and Councilmember Gay seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions. Councilmember Holmes asked about the Grantworks payment and whether it is part of a milestone payment, and Mr. Carruth stated it is, but it is also reimbursed by the grant. Councilmember Holmes also asked if the cold mix is asphalt is for potholes, and Mr. Carruth stated it was. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.




Mayor Borne asked for Councilmember comments. Mayor Borne thanked the Boy Scout Troops for coming and presenting our colors and leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Borne also thanked the city employees for their hard work during the blizzard. There were no further Councilmember comments.

There was no further business, and Mayor Borne adjourned the meeting at 5:57 p.m.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk

