

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held on February 10, 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 opening prayer and pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Borne asked for reports, and City Manager Kevin Carruth informed the Council that the chamber air conditioning was out again. The Activity Building will be closed for the next two weeks for the ceiling replacement project. Fire Chief Lance Billeaud introduced the new Fireman, Turner Hart, to the Council.

Ken Lofton from the local VFW 4820 then reported on the U.S.S. Maine and the Spanish-American War. The U.S.S. Maine was sunk in Havana Harbor on February 15, 1898, which contributed to the outbreak of the Spanish-American War. There were no other reports.

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

The Joint Public Hearing started at 5:09 p.m. See Joint Public Hearing Minutes.

The City Council Meeting resumed at 5:22 p.m.

DELIBERATE AND ACT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 27, 2025, CITY COUNCIL MEETING: Councilmember McAdams moved to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2025, City Council meeting as written, and Councilmember Gay seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions, but there were none. The motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON THE APPROVAL OF A REQUEST BY THE GROVES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO USE LIONS PARK FROM 8:00 A.M. THROUGH 10:00 P.M. MONDAY, MAY 26, 2025, FOR A FALLEN, NOT FORGOTTEN FAMILY AND FIREWORKS DAY: Mayor Pro Tem Konidis made a motion to deliberate and act on the approval of a request by the Groves Chamber of Commerce to use Lions Park from 8:00 a.m. through 10:00 p.m. Monday, May 26, 2025, for a Fallen, Not Forgotten Family and Fireworks Day. Councilmember Holmes seconded. Groves Chamber of Commerce President Letha Knaus informed the Council that a Groves resident, Kirk Gillespie, approached her with the idea for this celebration. Mrs. Knaus stated that she has met with the Fire Department several times to ensure the fireworks would be done safely. Mrs. Knaus also informed the Council that there will

be food vendors, craft vendors, bounce houses, VFW members, and DJ Beau Wilson. Mr. Gillespie informed the Council that fireworks would be residential grade, not commercial. He also stated that the fireworks would be set up inside the pee wee baseball field, and he has already received approval from the board to do so. Mr. Gillespie then went over the safety plans for this event. Fire Chief Lance Billeaud stated they would have to have a permit for the event. Mayor Pro Tem Konidis asked Chief Billeaud if he would have off-duty firefighters there, and Chief Billeaud stated yes. Mayor Borne suggested a metal container to put the fireworks in after use and to soak them in water. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON AMENDING ORDINANCE 2024-26 CITY OF GROVES CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 10 – FIRE PROTECTION AND PREVENTION, ARTICLE I, ADDING SECTION 10-3 OBSTRUCTION OF FIRE APPARATUS ACCESS ROAD, 10-4 REMOVAL OF UNLAWFULLY PARKED VEHICLE, AND 10-5 OPEN BURNING PRESUMPTION: Councilmember McAdams made a motion to deliberate and act on amending Ordinance 2024-26 and Councilmember Gay seconded. Fire Chief Billeaud stated that when Fire Marshal Paul Washburn realized that when we first passed the Ordinance a few months ago, these three sections were left out, he did discuss them, but they were just left out of the signed copy of the Ordinance. Chief Billeaud then went over these three sections again with the Council. There were no questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON RESOLUTION 2025-01 AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF A FY2025 CRIMINAL JUSTICE GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION TO CONTINUE THE PURCHASE OF HANDHELD RADIOS AND DESIGNATING THE CITY MARSHAL AS THE AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: Mayor Pro Tem Konidis made a motion to deliberate and act on Resolution 2025-01 and Councilmember McAdams seconded. Marshal Robin informed the Council that this is a continuation grant and a repeat of the grant filed in a previous cycle for additional Motorola radios. Marshal Robin stated that all the grants discussed tonight have a zero-city match. Mayor Pro Tem Konidis asked Marshal Robin if they are stuck on using Motorola radios with this grant, and Marshal Robin stated we are not, but we would like to use what we have the best access to. Mayor Borne asked if the grant was approved and how long it would take to get the money, and Marshal Robin stated 3-8 weeks. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON RESOLUTION 2025-02 AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF A FY2025 RIFLE-RESISTANT BODY ARMOR GRANT APPLICATION TO PURCHASE BODY ARMOR AND DESIGNATING THE CITY MARSHAL AS THE AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: Councilmember Gay made a motion to deliberate and act on Resolution 2025-02 and Mayor Pro Tem Konidis seconded. Marshal Robin informed the Council that this specific grant is focused on personnel safety and is specific to rifle-resistant body armor. Marshal Robin then stated that although we provide vests to our personnel here, we would like to make this request and application to the state. Marshal Robin also noted that this would help them purchase 23 level 4 rifle-resistant body armor for all our officers. Mayor Borne asked if these would replace the current vests, and Marshal Robin stated that these would be supplemental and would go over the current vests if needed. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON RESOLUTION 2025-03 AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF AN FY2025 STATE HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION TO PURCHASE AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READERS AND DESIGNATING THE CITY MARSHAL AS THE AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: Mayor Pro Tem Konidis made a motion to deliberate and act on Resolution 2025-03 and Councilmember McAdams seconded. Marshal Robin informed the council that they hope to utilize this Homeland Security grant for automated license plate readers. Marshal Robin then informed the Council that license plate readers can be mobile, but the ones we specifically hope to request are stationary and attached to a pole. Marshal Robin then stated that what this would allow us to do was access the regional real-time system not only for our benefit but also for the benefit of the entire region. For example, if there is an Amber Alert and the vehicle used passes by one of these license plate readers, we would know about it in real-time. Mayor Pro Tem Konidis asked Marshal Robin how many cameras they would get if approved, and Marshal Robin stated that it would be for six cameras. Councilmember Holmes asked if these cameras could read license plates at night, and Marshal Robin stated they could do so at night and during the day. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON THE APPROVAL OF A MANDATORY APPLICATION FOR VOLUNTEER APPOINTMENT FOR GEDC, PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION, AND ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT: Councilmember McAdams made a motion to deliberate and act on the approval of a mandatory Application for Volunteer Appointment for GEDC, Planning and Zoning Commission, and Zoning Board of Adjustment and Councilmember Holmes seconded. City

Manager Kevin Carruth stated that the Council recommended a couple of changes last week in the Workshop, which were made and ready for the Council's approval. Mayor Borne asked where this application would be available, and Mr. Carruth stated it would be on the city website and copies would also be available at City Hall. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

INVOICES: City Manager Kevin Carruth presented invoices for payment totaling \$134,003.19 as follows:

1. Chameleon Industries	Polymer for water plant.	\$32,680.00
2. Citibank	Credit card payment.	\$11,885.46
3. Heil of Texas	Hand gun hose reel.	\$6,226.02
4. Jefferson County Clerk	11/5/24 Election and 12/14/24 Runoff.	\$31,416.73
5. Lower Neches Valley Authority	Raw water purchased for January 2025.	\$32,806.79
6. Motorola Solutions	Radio for animal control.	\$8,428.60
7. Sunbelt Rentals, Inc.	Rental of skid steer loader for asphalt planner.	\$5,559.63
8. T.R.E.S. Machine, Inc.	Gearbox and Motor Installation	\$5,000.00

Mayor Pro Tem Konidis moved to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$134,003.19, and Councilmember McAdams seconded. City Manager Kevin Carruth informed the Council that the regular election, because of our agreement with the County, is capped at \$10,000, and the Runoff Election because no other entities had an election, the City had to bear the entire cost. Mayor Borne asked how much we had budgeted for this year's election, and City Clerk Clarissa Thibodeaux stated it was \$30,000.00. There were no further questions. 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 551.01 (1) (A) – CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY WHEN THE GOVERNMENTAL BODY SEEKS THE ADVICE OF ITS ATTORNEY ABOUT PENDING OR CONTEMPLATED LITIGATION.
- B. 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.
- C. SECTION 551.076 (1) – THE DEPLOYMENT, OR SPECIFIC OCCASIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION, OF SECURITY PERSONNEL OR DEVICES.

The council went into Executive Session at 5:59 p.m.

The council reconvened into an Open Session at 6:52 p.m.

Mayor Borne then stated that no action would be taken on the Executive Session at this time.

Mayor Borne then asked for Councilmember comments, and Mayor Pro Tem Konidis congratulated the new Fireman and thanked Marshal Robin for bringing all of these grants in. Mayor Borne thanked the VFW for everything they do, and Councilmember Holmes thanked them for teaching the history of our Country.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.



Mayor Borne

ATTEST:


City Clerk

