

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held at 5:00 p.m. on July 28, 2025, in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Pete Konidis, Councilmember Mark McAdams, and Councilmember Rae Shauna Gay in attendance. Councilmember Brandon Holmes was absent. Mayor Borne called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees. The local VFW Post 4820 representatives then led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Borne then asked for reports, and Ken Lofton of VFW Post 4820 reported on the Iraq War, also known as the Second Iraq War, which lasted from 2003 to 2011. The objective of this war was to end the regime of Saddam Hussein as well as find and destroy weapons of mass destruction. In December 2003, Saddam Hussein was captured by the United States Special Forces, tried, and found guilty. Hussein was executed in December 2006. On December 18, 2011, the United States completely withdrew its military forces from Iraq. Over 4,400 Americans lost their lives, and nearly 100,000 Iraqis were killed in this conflict that lasted over 8 years. There were no further reports.

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

DELIBERATE AND ACT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 14, 2025, CITY COUNCIL MEETING: Mayor Pro Tem Konidis made a motion to deliberate and act to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2025, City Council Meeting, and Councilmember McAdams seconded. There were no questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

HEAR AND DELIBERATE ON PRESENTATION FROM SCHNEIDER ELECTRICAL CONCERNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WATER METER ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE, AND WASTEWATER PLANT REHABILITATION: City Manager Kevin Carruth informed Council that in his memo, he had written to Council that the figure stating \$150,000 should have been \$145,000, which is what we had previously spent on the project a couple of years ago. Mr. Carruth then introduced Craig Mesenbrink from Schneider Electric. Mr. Mesenbrink then stated that there are a couple of things that bubbled up from the Workshop we had a couple of months ago. First, there is the immediate or strong need for water metering accuracy, and the second is the wastewater treatment plant. The City put AMRs (automatic meter readers) back in around 2005, which was a kind of system that didn't change the meters out but put automated heads on them. This allowed someone to come by in a city truck, with a wand or some other device, and take a read, but the batteries in those only last about 12 years. When the batteries go out, it causes the City to have to do a lot of extra work by having to read those meters manually. Mr. Mesenbrink stated that by changing to AMI (automated meter infrastructure), it will do a lot of

things for the citizens, including real-time reads, which could be as frequently as every 15 minutes, depending on how it is set up. This will give constant communication through an antenna and a cell-like network, so nobody will have to drive by to get a read. Mr. Mesenbrink then stated that so many things open up from that; not only does the data become real-time, but the citizens can identify leaks almost in real-time. Customers can also set thresholds on their phones so that if the consumption goes up a certain percentage from the previous month, an alert will be sent.

What this AMI project would do more than anything is to replace all of those meters with new ultrasonic water meter technology. This means there are no more moving parts, and it is six sigma accurate, which is way more accurate at capturing water flow than old traditional meters. City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that, to be clear, what it means is that it will read ultra-low flow, whereas right now the mechanical meter doesn't necessarily capture that. Mr. Mesenbrink stated that is correct, and these new meters are capable of going right down to 99.99% accuracy. Mayor Borne asked Mr. Mesenbrink if these new meters still have a manual read option, and he stated that they do. Mayor Borne then wondered if the City could set limits to receive alerts as administrators in the event of significant issues, and Mr. Mesenbrink noted that yes, the City could. Mr. Mesenbrink also stated that we could take 10 or 20, depending on the branch circuits, and install city-owned monitored meters to help monitor larger areas and identify underground leaks. Councilmember McAdams asked if this would replace the entire valve mechanism or just the top part. Mr. Mesenbrink stated it would replace the whole body. If the boxes need to be replaced with plastic, they would do that at the same time. Mayor Borne then asked if they offered a turnkey project with the construction as well, and Mr. Mesenbrink stated they do. Mr. Mesenbrink also stated that they would like to provide a performance contract to guarantee the performance of the new meter. Mayor Borne asked if we do this project, could we get a credit for sending the old meters back, and Mr. Mesenbrink stated that they have done that before.

Mr. Mesenbrink then went on to discuss the wastewater treatment plant and that it is in a little better shape than it was in 2022. The headworks part was completed already with the Covid money. The three areas we are going to discuss are the aeration basin, process upgrades to the digestion-based, and all the automation, which are the most critical. Council was then shown pictures of what these upgrades would look like and explained the scope of work for each area. Councilmember McAdams asked what the previous payment of \$145,000 was for, and Mr. Mesenbrink stated that it was an exit fee in case the City didn't go to construction of

the project. Councilmember McAdams asked if the \$145,000 we already paid would have to be paid again, and Mr. Mesenbrink stated that no, the City would not, and it could even be put as a credit if you want. Mr. Mesinbrink then discussed looking at this energy performance contracting model, which is where we've already been pre-qualified for TIPS or OMNIA. This is also how the IGA procurement was managed last time. Mr. Mesinbrink then informed Council that a request from Finance Director Lamar Ozley was added to the potential contract, stating that when it is time to change the batteries for the new meters, Schneider Electric would come back and change them, so the City would not have to. Mr. Mesenbrink then went over a timeline with the Council. The next step would be to have a workshop, bring our team together, and gather proposals. Mayor Borne asked if the training of City employees to operate the new equipment would be included, and it would be. There were no further questions.

**DELIBERATE AND ACT ON TO RETAIN RBC CAPITAL MARKETS, LLC, AS A MUNICIPAL ADVISOR CONCERNING MUNICIPAL SECURITIES OR LOANS:**  
Councilmember Gay made a motion to deliberate and act on to retain RBC Capital Markets, LLC, as a municipal advisor concerning municipal securities or loans. Mayor Pro Tem Konidis seconded. City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that Bob Henderson couldn't be back this meeting, but Dusty Traylor is here and he can answer any questions that Council may have. Mr. Traylor then introduced himself to the Council. Mr. Carruth then stated that he has used RBC Capital Markets, LLC in other communities for almost 20 years, and they have always been available to help at any time. Mr. Carruth then noted that the firm the City has used over the last 20 years has not been as attentive, and he thinks it would be a good time to make a change. Mayor Borne asked to have the fee schedule addressed, and Mr. Traylor stated that there is no initial cost, and the only time we receive a fee is whenever there is a completed bond transaction. Mr. Traylor then went over the fee schedule and also informed the Council that these fees can be paid through the bond. Mr. Carruth then asked Finance Director Lamar Ozley what our current fees are through Coastal Securities, and Mr. Ozley stated that it depends on the type of issue. Still, we are generally looking at 6-7% of the bond amount, which is considerably more than what RBC Capital Markets is offering. Mayor Pro Tem Konidis wants to make sure we are not adding a firm, that we are replacing a firm, and City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that is correct. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

**DELIBERATE AND ACT ON MARKETING AND TOURISM AGREEMENT WITH THE GROVES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND TOURIST CENTER:**

Councilmember McAdams made a motion to deliberate and act on Market and Tourism Agreement with the Groves Chamber of Commerce and Tourist Center. Councilmember Gay seconded. City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that the two-year agreement with the Chamber is coming up for renewal. The proposed agreement is essentially the same as the current one, except for the additional \$2,500 added to each quarterly payment, a provision for performance indicators, and the extra insurance requirements from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000. Chamber of Commerce Director Letha Knaus then stated that they have taken over Celebration Park, and the increase in the quarterly payments will help with the upkeep of that, along with helping to finish enclosing it with the fence. Ms. Knaus stated that the previous amount given to the Beautification Committee to help with the upkeep of the park was \$5,000, but the cost of maintenance has increased. Ms. Knaus then stated that they will be promoting the park more by having maps of the City made, postcards, and a Christmas ornament featuring the pecan and squirrel. Mayor Pro Tem Konidis asked if the \$10,000 would be recurring every year, and Ms. Knaus stated that for at least the next two years, which is how long the contract is for. Mayor Borne asked if there was a yearly stipend given to the Groves Beautification Committee to run Celebration Park, and Mr. Carruth stated there was a \$5,000 budgeted line item that was used for reimbursement to the Committee upon providing receipts. Mayor Borne asked City Attorney Brandon P. Monk if he had looked over this contract, and Mr. Monk stated he had, noting that the only significant change was the increase in insurance, and he was satisfied with that. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

**RECEIVE FY2025-2026 PROPOSED BUDGET FROM CITY MANAGER:** Mayor Borne stated that all of the Council members have received their binders with a copy of the FY 2025-2026 Proposed Budget from the City Manager. Mayor Borne also stated that everyone should look over it because there will be a Workshop on Wednesday.

**DELIBERATE AND ACT TO SET THE DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING AT GROVES CITY HALL FOR THE PURPOSE TO REVIEW THE CITY OF GROVES' PROPOSED FY2025-2026 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE:** Mayor Pro Tem Konidis made a motion to deliberate and act and set the date for August 11, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. for a Public Hearing at Groves City Hall for the purpose to review the City of Groves' proposed FY2025-2026 Appropriation Ordinance. Councilmember Gay

seconded. Finance Director Lamar Ozley stated that this is part of the City Charter requirements. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT TO SET THE DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING AT GROVES CITY HALL FOR THE PURPOSE TO REVIEW THE CITY OF GROVES' PROPOSED FY2025-2026 BUDGET: Councilmember Gay made a motion to deliberate and act to set the date for a public hearing at Groves City Hall for the purpose to review the City of Groves' proposed FY2025-2026 Budget on August 11, 2025. Mayor Pro Tem Konidis seconded. Finance Director Lamar Ozley stated that this is a State requirement. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON ORDINANCE 2025-12, SUSPENDING THE RATES PROPOSED BY TEXAS GAS SERVICE COMPANY'S RATE INCREASE FILING OF JUNE 30, 2025: Mayor Pro Tem Konidis made a motion to deliberate and act on Ordinance 2025-12, and Councilmember Gay seconded. Mayor Borne stated that we do this pretty much every year, we deny it, they go back and look at it, then send it back to us. There were no questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON THE APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 2025-13 CALLING FOR A GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 4, 2025, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING A COUNCILMEMBER FOR WARD NO. 1 AND A COUNCILMEMBER FOR WARD NO. 3: Councilmember Gay made a motion to deliberate and act on the approval of Ordinance 2025-13 calling for a General Election to be held on November 4, 2025, for the purpose of electing a Councilmember for Ward No. 1 and a Councilmember for Ward No. 3. Mayor Pro Tem Konidis seconded. There were no questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

NOTICE OF A GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 4, 2025, IN THE CITY OF GROVES: No motion is required for this item. Mayor Borne then read the notice of the General Election to be held on November 4, 2025, in the City of Groves.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON APPROVAL OF A JOINT ELECTION AGREEMENT WITH JEFFERSON COUNTY AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS: Councilmember Gay made a motion to deliberate and act on approval of a Joint Election Agreement with Jefferson County and authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute all

necessary documents. Councilmember McAdams seconded. Mayor Borne stated the cost of the last election was \$10,000, with the addition of a runoff election at \$21,416.73. The current proposed budget for elections is \$30,000. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

INVOICES: City Manager Kevin Carruth presented invoices for payment totaling \$64,575.32 as follows:

1. Automatic Pump	Hydromatic grinder pump for grease trap.	\$7,950.00
2. Axon Enterprises Inc.	Taser holsters and spare batteries for 2 tasers.	\$5,218.42
3. Citibank	Purchasing cards payment.	\$9,395.98
4. GFL Environmental	Sludge disposal for June 2025.	\$9,063.00
5. Groves Chamber of Commerce	Quarterly payment.	\$15,000.00
6. Newtron Electrical Services	Replace switch gear controller on WWTP Generator.	\$5,173.88
7. Smart's Truck & Trailer Equipment, Inc.	Pump tote, oil for fleet, and air filters.	\$6,959.70
8. TML Intergovernmental	2024-2025 Real and property changes for Fire Department.	\$5,814.34

Councilmember Rae made a motion to deliberate and act on the July 28, 2025, Invoice Approval List in the amount of \$64,575.32, and Mayor Pro Tem Konidis seconded. Mayor Pro Tem Konidis asked about the property change item for the Fire Department, and City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that it was inadvertently left off the insurance when it was built, so it was added, and this amount is the difference in the premium. 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 551.074(A)(1) – TO DELIBERATE THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, EVALUATION, REASSIGNMENT, DUTIES, DISCIPLINE, OR DISMISSAL OF A PUBLIC OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE.
- b. SECTION 551.072 – DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY.
- c. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION.

Council convened into Executive Session at 6:14 p.m.

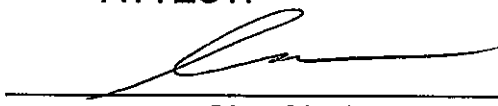
Council reconvened into Open Session at 6:30 p.m.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON SEVERANCE AND REVISED EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS FOR THE CITY MANAGER: Councilmember Gay made a motion to deliberate and act on severance and revised employment agreements for the City Manager. Mayor Pro Tem Konidis seconded. City Attorney Brandon P. Monk stated that this came about as a result of House Bill 762, which would go into effect September 1, 2025. They dealt with severance agreements, and to the extent that the severance agreement was either renewed or executed after September 1, 2025, the Texas legislature would restrict it in ways that were inconsistent with the City Manager's current agreement. So, we have carved out two agreements. We will have one agreement for the severance agreement and one for the revised employment agreement. City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that the net effect is the same. Mayor Borne then noted that, since the severance agreement was being carved out, we were able to put the same exact terms just on a non-renewing contract, so there would be no increase or decrease; everything stays the same, it's just its own entity. And then the revolving contract for the employment will still revolve in two-year cycles, and we are voting to approve both agreements. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne asked for Councilmember comments, and Councilmember McAdams wondered if there is any way we can pressure wash the old fire station. Mayor Borne stated that he had the pleasure of visiting with Congressman Randy Weber this morning, with some of the other local mayors, and he said he hears our concerns and he will see what he can do. There were no further comments.

There was no further business, and Mayor Borne adjourned the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

  
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Mayor

ATTEST:  
  
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City Clerk

