

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held on March 23, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Rae Shauna Gay, Councilmember Mark McAdams, Councilmember Charles Chelette, and Councilmember Brandon Holmes in attendance. Mayor Borne called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees. Councilmember Holmes then led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Borne asked for reports, and City Manager Kevin Carruth wanted to let the Council know that two Fridays ago, the City submitted a request for congressional earmarks totaling \$1 million to continue our pipe-bursting program. Mr. Carruth then stated that earmarks were stopped a number of years ago and resumed two years ago. This year is different from the last two years, when they basically put a million-dollar limit on applications, which is a good thing because it will help fund many smaller projects rather than a handful of very big ones. There were no other reports.

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

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 9, 2026 CITY COUNCIL MEETING: Councilmember Chelette moved to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2026, City Council Meeting as written, and Councilmember McAdams seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions, and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT TO EXERCISE AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR THREE YEARS THE TERM OF THE AGREEMENTS FOR DEBRIS REMOVAL SERVICE WITH CERES ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC., AND CROWDERGULF, AND FOR DISASTER DEBRIS MONITORING AND CONSULTING SERVICES WITH DEBRISTECH, FROM JULY 1, 2026, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2029: Councilmember Holmes made a motion to deliberate and act to exercise an option to extend for three years the term of the Agreements for debris removal service with Ceres Environmental Services, Inc., and Crowdergulf, and for disaster debris monitoring and consulting services with DebrisTech, from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029. Mayor Pro Tem Gay seconded. City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that two years ago, the three Mid-County cities went together and issued an RFP for these services, which is something we have done in the past. These firms were selected, and the first two-year term is coming due, but there is a two-year option to extend for three additional years. Staff's recommendation is to take the 3-year option to extend through June 30, 2029, which has no additional cost. Mayor Borne asked when we last had to use a debris removal company, and Public Works Director Troy Foxworth stated that the last time we had to use any company was during Hurricane Harvey. Finance Director stated that the company the city had a problem with was a different

company that took all of their trucks and went to Florida, and that's when Ceres came in and helped us. Councilmember Chelette asked if this is a contractual obligation, and Mr. Carruth stated that it is. Councilmember Holmes asked whether the other two neighboring cities are in the process of entering into the same agreement, and Mr. Carruth stated that staff in those cities are also making the same recommendation. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON RESOLUTION 2026-12, ESTABLISHING A FEE FOR THE ISSUANCE AND RENEWAL OF HOME OCCUPATION SIGN PERMITS: Mayor Pro Tem Gay made a motion to deliberate and act on Resolution 2026-12, and Councilmember Holmes seconded. City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that at the last City Council Meeting, the Council adopted the ordinance providing for the home occupation business signs. The ordinance did call for a permit fee and a renewal fee; this proposed resolution would implement that fee. Councilmember Holmes asked whether there is a citation for anyone without a valid permit, and Mr. Carruth stated that it would be a Class C misdemeanor. Councilmember Chelette asked who would be responsible for monitoring the home occupation sign permits, and Mr. Carruth stated that code enforcement would be in charge. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON AUTHORIZING A CUSTOMER-SIDE SHUTOFF VALVE PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTIAL WATER CUSTOMERS: Mayor Pro Tem Gay made a motion to deliberate and act on authorizing a customer-side shutoff valve program for residential water customers, and Councilmember McAdams seconded. City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that the water meter replacement program will have us at the residences changing out the water meters, and most of the homes here do not have a customer-side shut-off valve. So anytime someone has a leak, they have to call the city to come turn it off, or they turn it off themselves, which violates the ordinance. During the freeze event, they also had to call us to come turn their water off, then back on again. Since we'll be there replacing their water meter, it's an opportunity to install a customer-side shutoff valve outside the meter box. The city is proposing that the customer pay for this, and the city would share 50% of the expense to incentivize participation, since it benefits both the customer and the city. Councilmember Chelette asked if the cost for the customer is \$125, and Mr. Carruth stated that would be the cost for the standard installation only. Councilmember Chelette then asked whether the \$125 charge could be paid in installments, and Mr. Carruth stated that the city is proposing that they may pay it over three billing cycles. Councilmember Holmes asked if the city's portion would be

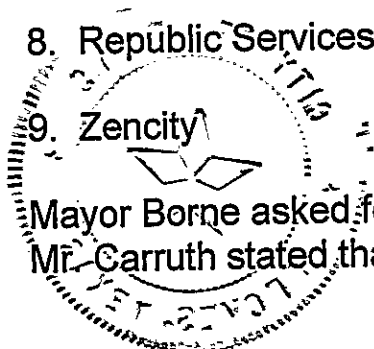
paid for with CO, and Mr. Carruth stated that it would come out of the funding for the meter change-out, which would be the CO. Councilmember Holmes asked how we intend to get the word out to the customers regarding this, and Mr. Carruth stated that we will use direct mail. Councilmember Chelette asked if we have a timeline on when the original water meter project will begin, and Mr. Carruth stated he believes it will start in May. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON THE MARCH 23, 2026, INVOICE LIST: Councilmember McAdams made a motion to deliberate and act on the March 23, 2026, invoice list in the amount of \$327,028.62, and Councilmember Chelette seconded.

INVOICES: City Manager Kevin Carruth presented invoices for payment totaling \$327,028.62 as follows:

1. ACT Pipe	42" SS repair clamp.	\$8,172.52
2. Brenntag Southwest Inc.	Brennfloc.	\$12,225.00
3. BrooksWatson & Co.	First payment for City Auditor.	\$25,000.00
4. Citibank	Purchasing cards.	\$12,494.16
5. Epic Engineering LLC	2021 GLO CLRF Grant for new SCADA System.	\$206,851.46
6. Lower Neches Valley Authority	Raw water purchased.	\$30,809.32
7. NewGen	Utility rate and transportation use fee studies.	\$11,400.02
8. Republic Services	Sludge disposal for February 2026.	\$8,076.14
9. Zencity	Yearly payment for Zencity Essentials.	\$12,000.00

Mayor Borne asked for questions. Mayor Borne then asked what Zencity does, and Mr. Carruth stated that it is a service we use to monitor our social media. They also



do survey work and some other things, but primarily monitor our social media. Mayor Borne asked whether the SCADA job is 100% complete, and Mr. Carruth stated it is. 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.

The Council went into Executive Session at 5:21 p.m.

The Council reconvened in an Open Session at 5:25 p.m.

Mayor Borne asked for Councilmember comments. Mayor Borne asked for prayers for Haden Groves, who lost his father recently.

There was no further business, and Mayor Borne adjourned the meeting at 5:26 p.m.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk

