

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held on March 9, 2026, in the Groves City Council Chamber at 5:00 p.m. with Mayor Chris Borne, Councilmember Mark McAdams, Councilmember Charles Chelette, and Mayor Pro Tem Rae Shauna Gay in attendance. Councilmember Brandon Holmes was not in attendance. Mayor Borne called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees. A representative from VFW 4820 then led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Borne called for reports, and City Manager Kevin Carruth stated there were none.

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

**DELIBERATE AND ACT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 23, 2026, CITY COUNCIL MEETING:** Mayor Pro Tem Gay moved to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2026, City Council meeting as written, and Councilmember Chelette seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions or comments, and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

**DELIBERATE AND ACT ON ORDINANCE 2026-05, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF \$26,000,000 CITY OF GROVES, TEXAS, CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION, SERIES 2026; LEVYING TAXES TO PROVIDE FOR PAYMENT THEREOF; AND CONTAINING OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO:** Mayor Pro Tem Gay made a motion to deliberate and act on Ordinance 2026-05, and Councilmember McAdams seconded. Dusty Traylor then addressed the Council, stating that before them tonight is the item to approve the issuance of the Series 2026 Certificates of Obligation. The Council approved the notice of intent to issue the CO's back in January. Since then, they have been preparing to sell the actual certificates of obligation. Mr. Traylor then stated that they have also been working with Standard & Poor's to assign a bond rating, as it has been many years since the City last had one. They assigned an AA- bond rating to the City of Groves, which is a very high rating. Mr. Traylor then stated that they went out this morning to sell the certificates of obligation, which will allow the full \$26,000,000 to be deposited into the City's project fund. The actual principal amount of those COs is \$24,050,000, the difference being made up by a premium paid to investors for their investments in the COs. The all-in interest cost on the COs is 4.04%, which is much lower than originally planned. Mr. Traylor then introduced bond council Lance Fox in case the Council has any questions regarding legality. Mr. Traylor then stated that once the Council approves the sale, Mr. Fox and his team will submit the transaction transcript to the Texas Attorney General's Office for review.

Once the Attorney General has reviewed the transaction and signed off on it, the City should receive the money on April 7<sup>th</sup>. City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that the documents the Council received tonight are updated to incorporate the numbers from this morning's sale. Mr. Fox stated that if the Council acts on the bond purchase agreement, he will need certain signatures. Mayor Borne asked for questions, and there were none. Mr. Carruth wanted to remind everyone that we knew this was coming, so the rate studies done over the past couple of years will allow these COs to be paid for, most, if not all, through the rate structure and not property tax. Motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2026-10, AUTHORIZING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH PACE PURCHASING COOPERATIVE AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS: Councilmember McAdams made a motion to deliberate and act to adopt Resolution 2026-10, and Mayor Pro Tem Gay seconded. City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that the City already belongs to several cooperative purchasing organizations this would just be adding to our list. This is organized and run by the Educational Service Center Number 20 in San Antonio. These cooperative groups go out and do the competitive bidding for us, which cuts down on staff time and labor. Mr. Carruth then stated that there is no cost for this. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

HEAR AND DELIBERATE ON THE PRESENTATION OF THE ADDITION OF A 9-HOLE DISC GOLF COURSE AT WEST GROVES AND JOHN SPIKES PARKS: Councilmember McAdams made a motion to hear and deliberate on the presentation of the addition of a 9-hole disc golf course at West Groves and John Spikes Parks, and Mayor Pro Tem Gay seconded. Public Works Director Troy Foxworth addressed the Council, stating the benefits that this would bring to the City of Groves. Mr. Foxworth then presented the course design to the Council. Mayor Borne asked what the t-box's makeup would be, and Mr. Foxworth stated it would be a 5X12 concrete slab. City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that what we are doing tonight is introducing the course to the Council, and a vote will be taken at a later meeting. Mayor Borne then asked about the restrooms at the park, and Mr. Foxworth stated that they are working but will need to be updated. Parking was then discussed with ideas on locations that will be available for parking. Councilmember Chelette then asked whether this course design would require any tree removals, and Mr. Foxworth stated that the trees are ideal for obstacles. Councilmember Chelette suggested that the restrooms be addressed, especially with the new pickleball courts and possible disc golf course. Councilmember McAdams stated that Mr. Foxworth did a great job on

this project and that he believes it will be a great attraction for the City. There was no vote on this item.

HEAR AND DELIBERATE ON A REPORT FROM THE CITY MARSHAL ON THE GROVES B.L.O.C.K. WALK INITIATIVE THAT LAUNCHED FEBRUARY 21, 2026: This item is informational only, so no motion is needed. Marshal Robin addressed the Council and presented an update on the Groves B.L.O.C.K. Walk that took place on February 21, 2026. Marshal Robin stated that B.L.O.C.K. stands for Building Local Outreach and Community Knowledge. Marshal Robin stated that the walk was from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and involved six volunteers representing multiple departments. The walk was on First, Second, Third, and Fourth Avenues, with approximately 111 buildings, and they spoke directly with 41 residents. Marshal Robin then explained how the residents of those locations knew this walk was occurring, starting with strategically placed signs at the exits of these streets, along with a STAN message sent only to those at these 111 addresses. Marshal Robin then presented the Council with the breakdown of the feedback received from the citizens. Marshal Robin then stated that he would like to do four of these walks every year. Councilmember Chelette stated that this is great feedback, but wanted to know what we do with this feedback, do we act upon it? Marshal Robin stated that we absolutely act on them, and we sent them to all the department heads so they can address these issues. City Manager Kevin Carruth thanked the Marshal for heading this up, and the genesis of this is actually a breakout session at TML two years ago on the same concept and attended by Marshal Robin and Assistant Public Works Director Glen Boudoin. Mr. Carruth stated that this particular walk was a pilot, and we purposely kept the groups small to work out any bugs. There was no further discussion on this item.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON RESOLUTION 2026-07, AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF A STATE HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM – LETPA FY2026 GRANT TO PURCHASE SWAT EQUIPMENT AND DESIGNATE THE CITY MARSHAL AS THE AUTHORIZED OFFICER: Councilmember Chelette made a motion to deliberate and act on Resolution 2026-07, authorizing the submittal of a State Homeland Security Program – LETPA FY2026 grant to purchase SWAT equipment and designate the City Marshal as the authorized officer. Mayor Pro Tem Gay seconded. Marshal Robin stated that this particular program is through the Office of the Governor of the State of Texas, the public safety office. What this grant would allow us to do is work with agencies in our area, especially Jefferson County, that have invited the City of Groves Police Department to join their SWAT Team. Marshal Robin then stated that he wants to ensure our force is equipped if we are

able to join their SWAT team, and that this grant will allow us to do so. This grant would allow for up to four individuals to be fully outfitted in compliance with that regional task force. Marshal Robin then informed the Council that there is no City match. There were no questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON RESOLUTION 2026-08, AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF A STATE HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM – COMPETITIVE NPA FY2026 GRANT TO PURCHASE A SECURITY TRAILER & DESIGNATE THE CITY MARSHAL AS THE AUTHORIZED OFFICER: Councilmember McAdams made a motion to deliberate and act on Resolution 2026-08, and Councilmember Chelette seconded. Marshal Robin stated that this is a state competitive prioritizing the national priority of election security. This would allow us to get something similar to our FLOCK safety trailer, a mobile unit with 360-degree cameras that can stream live feeds and run on solar panels. This will be prioritized for election infrastructure and has no city match. There were no questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON RESOLUTION 2026-09, AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF A STATE HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM – REGULAR FY2026 GRANT TO PURCHASE BALLISTIC SHIELDS AND DESIGNATE THE CITY MARSHAL AS THE AUTHORIZED OFFICER: Mayor Pro Tem Gay made a motion to deliberate and act on Resolution 2026-09, and Councilmember McAdams seconded. Marshal Robin stated that this grant, through the Southeast Regional Planning Commission, will allow us to purchase up to six level-three ballistic lightweight shields, also includes training, with no city match. There were no questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH FRONTLINE MOBILE HEALTH FOR CANCER SCREENING FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL: City Clerk Clarissa Thibodeaux stated that this item will need a motion to untable. Councilmember McAdams made a motion to untable the item to deliberate and act on a Professional Services Agreement with Frontline Mobile Health for cancer screening for Fire Department Personnel. Mayor Pro Tem Gay seconded. Fire Chief Lance Billeaud addresses the Council, stating that over the last 25 years, firefighter cancer has been a growing topic in the nation. Chief Billeaud then explained that about a year ago, the State mandated that cities provide optional cancer screenings for each firefighter who has been in the job for at least five years. Technically, this does not go into effect until June 1, 2026, but Chief Billeaud with his recent scare from skin cancer, would like to start this screening now. Chief Billeaud stated that he has money remaining in his medical equipment budget to

cover this. The reason this budget had remaining funds was that the department was able to purchase their auto pulse with opioid grant funds. Chief Billeaud stated that he researched a couple of companies regarding this screening and that most companies will come in and do the blood work for each firefighter, then send the firefighter to different agencies to do the other tests. Frontline will do everything on-site and is cheaper than the other companies. Chief Billeaud then stated that this service agreement is a four-year agreement with a 5% price increase each year, but will include a non-appropriation clause, meaning the City may terminate the contract if funds are not budgeted for in a future fiscal year. Chief Billeaud then stated that, as he discussed with City Manager Kevin Carruth, next year they will be looking for a local facility that can do all of this at one site. Chief Billeaud then stated that Frontline wants you to have at least 25 firefighters, but we don't have that many, so we will have to tag along with Port Arthur, which is how we end up with the minimum number of personnel. There is no additional charge for us to go in with Port Arthur. Chief Billeaud stated that if we can find someone locally to perform these tests, we can switch from Frontline. City Attorney Brandon P. Monk suggested a few changes to the service agreement, and the City made them.

Mayor Borne asked: if the law requires us to offer this, then there is an option for the firefighters not to accept it, and Chief Billeaud stated that is true. Mayor Borne asked about the volunteers' exposure level, and Chief Billeaud stated that some are at the same exposure level, but the Texas Commission on Fire Protection does not cover volunteers. Chief Billeaud stated that we could offer the same testing to the volunteers and add it to our budget. Mayor Borne asked Chief Billeaud for more information about the volunteers being tested. Mayor Borne asked about the other firemen who have not yet reached five years of service, and Chief Billeaud stated that three more will meet the minimum of five years of exposure before the contract ends. Chief Billeaud stated that this proposal would also cover the annual physicals with our health insurance. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON ORDINANCE 2026-06, AMENDING SEC. 9-1300 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ALLOW BUSINESS SIGNS FOR HOME OCCUPATIONS IN R-1 AND R-2 SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICTS: Mayor Pro Tem Gay made a motion to deliberate and act on Ordinance 2026-06, and Councilmember Chelette seconded. Mayor Borne stated this was brought up and discussed a few times, but the Council has not taken any action. City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that the staff's recommendation is to make no changes, but if the Council wants to make changes to the current ordinance

there is a draft ordinance in their packet. Councilmember Chelette stated that he wants it for the record that he adamantly opposes disturbing the integrity of R-1 and R-2 with business signs. Councilmember Chelette then stated that he is only one vote, but he would like his stance on the record. Mayor Borne asked City Attorney Brandon P. Monk to explain what the changes would be if the proposed ordinance were approved. Mr. Monk stated that the quickest way would be to review the second page of the proposed ordinance, which allows restricted signage in R-1 and R-2, as listed in the table provided. Mayor Borne stated that anyone with a home-based business would have to register and obtain a permit to hang a sign, and Mr. Monk agreed. Mayor Borne also stated that it would be our way of maintaining some order regarding where and when the signs can be put up. Mayor Borne then stated that he has gone back and forth on it, and as a somewhat of a business owner, he does not believe it will be too big a distraction, so he is in favor of adopting the ordinance to allow home-based business signs in residential areas. There were no further questions. The motion passed with Mayor Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Gay, and Councilmember McAdams in favor of the motion. Councilmember Chelette voted against the motion.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON THE MARCH 9, 2026, INVOICE LIST: Mayor Pro Tem Gay made a motion to deliberate and act on the March 9, 2026, Invoice List, and Councilmember McAdams seconded.

Fire Chief Lance Billeaud addressed the Council with an update on the transmission repairs for a fire truck. Reliable Transmission charged the city \$13,966.90 to rebuild the entire transmission and \$1,155.85 for travel to Siddons Martin for diagnostics on Engine 33. Siddons Martin charged us \$433.01 to diagnose the inspection, which led them to bring in Reliable Transmission. Johnny's Wrecker charged \$950 for towing the truck to Reliable Transmission. Chief Billeaud then explained that one of the PTO was bad; there are two, with one running the pump and the other running the generator. They were not sure which one was bad, but one of them was loose, and that is what they think caused the shavings that were found. Chief Billeaud then stated that they decided to replace both PTOs (Power Take-Off) so that everything is under warranty for 2 years. The grand total for the transmission repair and the PTO replacements was \$23,083.56. Mayor Borne asked what the age of this truck was, and Chief Billeaud stated it's a 2012 model year. Chief Billeaud stated that he just wanted the Council to be aware of the total that was spent on these repairs.

INVOICES: City Manager Kevin Carruth presented invoices for payment totaling \$94,552.85 as follows:

1. Beaumont Freightliner-Sterling	Lights for bed of solid waste truck, pto's for transmission rebuild, and repairs to City Hall and Public Works generators.	\$8,303.16
2. Blades Group LLC	Rock asphalt patch.	\$8,416.00
3. Environmental Improvements, Inc	Replacement of current grit pump.	\$22,811.00
4. Lloyd Gosselink Attorneys at Law	Professional services and disbursements rendered through January 31, 2026.	\$34,715.00
5. Reliable Transmission Service	Transmission repair on fire truck.	\$15,122.75
6. Vulcan Construction Materials	A-1 limestone base material.	\$5,184.94

Mayor Borne then asked for questions. Mayor Borne then asked Public Works Director Troy Foxworth about the grit pump, and Mr. Foxworth stated that it had just gone out and needed to be replaced. 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 6:05 p.m.


The Council reconvened in an Open Session at 6:38 p.m.

Mayor Borne asked for Council comments, and Councilmember Chelette asked Mayor Borne if he wanted to comment on the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Ms. Thelma Kiger. Mayor Borne stated it was a great party, she received a proclamation from the City of Groves, and she was so happy and full of fun. He is very happy with the turnout, and even the news was there. Mayor Borne then also stated that the Chamber of Commerce has its Hot Havana Nights Pistols & Purse Bingo coming up.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

  
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Mayor Borne

ATTEST:

  
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City Clerk

