

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held at 5:00 p.m. on February 9, 2026, 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. The local VFW Post 4820 representatives then led the prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Borne then asked for reports, and City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that next Monday, February 16th, is Presidents' Day, a City Holiday; therefore, trash pickup will be delayed by one day. There will be a STAN message going out on Sunday to inform the citizens of this. There will be a Workshop with the City Council and the Planning and Zoning Committee on Tuesday, February 17th, to discuss business signs in residential areas and discuss possible revisions to the peddler's ordinance. Mr. Carruth also stated that the Neighborhood Watch Meeting will be on February 19th in the Municipal Courtroom. Mr. Carruth then updated the Council on TOTAL, which is covering the cost of sending one firefighter per week to College Station for training in February, and the City is responsible only for travel.

Mr. Ken Loftin from VFW 4820 then updated the Council on the Market and Car Show scheduled for March 7th at the Port Neches Riverfront Park. Mr. Loftin also discussed America's 250th Anniversary, which will be celebrated at the Golden Triangle's Veterans Memorial Park. Mr. Loftin is trying to make it a county-wide event. Mr. Loftin then discussed the USS Maine and the Spanish-American War, which lasted only a few months. The USS Maine was a United States Navy ship that sank in the harbor on the 15th of February 1898, killing 268 sailors, about three-quarters of its crew. The mast of this ship is in the Arlington National Cemetery. There were no further reports.

Mayor Borne called for public comments, and none were received.

DELIBERATE AND ACT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 12, 2026, CITY COUNCIL MEETING: Councilmember Chelette made a motion to deliberate and act to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2026, City Council Meeting, and Councilmember McAdams seconded. There were no questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 26, 2026, CITY COUNCIL MEETING: Councilmember McAdams made a motion to deliberate and act to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2026, City Council Meeting, and Councilmember Chelette seconded.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON ORDINANCE 2026-01 FOR A REZONE OF 3910 DUNN STREET (JCAD PARCEL ID 2794) FROM AN R-1 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE ZONE TO A C-1 RETAIL BUSINESS DISTRICT ZONE:

Councilmember Holmes made a motion to deliberate and act on Ordinance 2026-01 for a rezone of 3910 Dunn Street (JCAD Parcel ID 2794) from an R-1 Single Family Residence Zone to a C-1 Retail Business District Zone. Mayor Pro Tem Gay seconded. Planning and Zoning Chairman Craig Plokhoo informed the Council that the P&Z has met twice on this matter and stated that it meets all zoning and ordinance requirements. Councilmember Chelette stated that he has attended Planning and Zoning meetings and that P&Z was very thorough, asking many questions regarding the rezone. City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that the staff concurs with P&Z's recommendation to approve this rezone. Councilmember Holmes asked whether the property owner would need to submit another application when ready to begin construction, and Mayor Borne stated that the owner would need to submit plans to the Building Official and obtain a permit. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON ORDINANCE 2026-02, TO ABANDON, RELEASE, AND TERMINATE TWO UTILITY EASEMENTS AT 3910 DUNN STREET (JCAD PARCEL ID 2794): Mayor Pro Tem Gay made a motion to deliberate and act on Ordinance 2026-02, and Councilmember McAdams seconded. City Manager Kevin Carruth explained that part of the utility easement was abandoned when the store was first built, and they want to abandon the rest of the easement that borders the existing residential property that will be included in the new project. Mr. Carruth then stated that there are no utilities in the easement. There were no questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

HEAR AND DELIBERATE ON THE 2025 GROVES FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT: Fire Chief Lance Billeaud addressed the Council with the 2025 Annual Report. Chief Billeaud then went over the mission statement, core values, introduction, staff list with certifications, and years of service. Chief Billeaud stated that several of the fire personnel started out as volunteers. There was also a list of the volunteers and junior volunteers. Chief Billeaud then reviewed the incident breakdowns, which still show medical calls as the top call type by volume. The average response time for our Fire Department is three minutes and forty-nine seconds. Chief Billeaud then discussed the combined National Night Out event in October with the Police Department. Chief Billeaud then reviewed the department's retirements and new hires. Short-term and long-term goals, years of service, and

training hours were then discussed. Councilmember Chelette thanked Chief Billeaud for the report and asked whether we are factoring in medical

calls into future equipment and training needs. Chief Billeaud stated that we recently appointed a new medical director, Dr. Kavouspour, and that we now have the ability to use an I-gel, which helps open the airways. We also have one of our personnel enrolled in a paramedic program. There was no further discussion on this item.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON RESOLUTION 2026-05, AUTHORIZING THE MULTIPLE USE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF GROVES AND TXDOT, AND ESTABLISHING THE CITY MARSHAL AS THE AUTHORIZED SIGNEE, REGARDING THE COMPLETION OF THE ONGOING MVCPA ALPR GRANT:

Councilmember Chelette made a motion to deliberate and act on Resolution 2026-05, authorizing the multiple use agreement between the City of Groves and TxDOT, and establishing the City Marshal as the authorized signee, regarding the completion of the ongoing MVCPA ALPR Grant. Mayor Pro Tem Gay seconded. City Marshal Christopher Robin provided the Council with a brief history of the grant and noted that many of the Flock Safety cameras we have installed in roadways were approved with minimal effort through collaboration with City staff. Marshal Robin then noted that another small facet is obtaining permits from TxDOT, which is essentially the purpose of this resolution. Marshal Robin stated that some changes requested by the City were denied. Marshal Robin then stated that every agency in the State of Texas installing these ALPRs must use the same agreement. City Attorney Brandon P. Monk stated that the City proposed changes but was told that approval by the TxDOT general council would be required, which would take an unknown amount of time and was not guaranteed. Mr. Monk stated that, if the Council wants to proceed, it would do so under this agreement, with no expectation of changes. City Manager Kevin Carruth then stated that the changes the City was proposing were relatively minor. Mr. Monk then stated that a portion requires the City to set aside a sinking fund for the placement. Councilmember Chelette asked City Attorney Brandon P. Monk to further explain the requirement, and Mr. Monk stated that the State wants us to reserve funds for liability arising from the use of the camera, to be included as a line item in the budget. Councilmember Chelette asked whether they provided a dollar amount, and Mr. Monk stated they did not. Marshal Robin stated that the installed poles are breakaways designed for safety within TxDOT right-of-ways. City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that we are meeting that requirement by setting aside funds for our TML IRP premiums, which are covered by the IRP. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON RESOLUTION 2026-06, AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF A FY2027 CRIMINAL JUSTICE GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION TO PURCHASE MOBILE RADIOS AND DESIGNATE THE CITY MARSHAL AS THE AUTHORIZED OFFICER: Councilmember McAdams made a motion to deliberate and act on Resolution 2026-06, and Councilmember Chelette seconded. Marshal Robin stated that this is the third year we have applied for this grant, and the application is due Thursday of this week. Marshal Robin then stated that we did not apply for a continuation in this instance because, through this grant process, we were able to equip every officer with a portable radio that complies with our system. This is a transition to the mobile radios installed in the vehicles. This has no City match and is fully funded by the Office of the Governor. Mayor Borne asked how many radios this would provide, and Marshal Robin stated they have applied for six units. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON ORDINANCE 2026-03, AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION WITH OTHER ENTERGY SERVICE AREA CITIES IN MATTERS CONCERNING ENTERGY AT THE PUC AND THE HIRING OF LAWYERS AND RATE EXPERTS: Mayor Pro Tem Gay made a motion to deliberate and act on Ordinance 2026-03, and Councilmember McAdams seconded. City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that twice a year, we present similar proposals to the Council for consideration alongside other Entergy cities. Entergy will submit an increase; we then hire an attorney to represent all the cities, and the increase is always reduced. Entergy has to pay for our attorneys, so there is no cost to the City. There were no questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON THE APPOINTMENT OF VOLUNTEERS TO CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES: Councilmember Chelette made a motion to deliberate and act on the appointment of volunteers to city boards, commissions, and committees. Councilmember McAdams seconded. Mayor Borne stated that the City has been accepting applications for about two months and still has the same four applicants. The Council then discussed what is needed to fill the positions on the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Zoning Board of Adjustment. After discussion, Mayor Borne recommended appointing Russell Bourgeois as an alternate to the ZBA, Brette Hagedorn to take Mr. Pacetti's position on P&Z starting on February 25th, Abdul Perez as a full member of P&Z, and Adam Stansbury as an alternate to P&Z. Councilmember Chelette amended his previous motion to deliberate and act on the appointment of volunteers to city boards, commissions, and committees, the changes as follows are Russell Bourgeois as an alternate to the ZBA, Brette Hagedorn to take Mr. Pacetti's position on P&Z starting

February 25th, Abdul Perez as a full member of P&Z, and Adam Stansbury as an alternate to P&Z. Councilmember McAdams seconded. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously. The Council then thanked Mr. Pacetti for his service to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

DELIBERATE AND ACT TO ACCEPT A PROPOSAL FROM NEWGEN STRATEGIES & SOLUTIONS TO CONDUCT A TRANSPORTATION USE FEE FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS: Mayor Pro Tem Gay made a motion to deliberate and act to accept a proposal from NewGen Strategies & Solutions to conduct a transportation use fee feasibility analysis and authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute all necessary documents and Councilmember Holmes seconded. City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that over the past calendar year, we have met multiple times to discuss streets, specifically the transportation use fee. We have also held two special workshops on it and discussed it during the budget workshops. Mr. Carruth believes the consensus is that, during this period, we should proceed with the transportation use fee. This is the only way to secure significant, stable funding for a street program. NewGen, which is also conducting our utility rate studies, has given us two or three presentations over the last year or so, and it would be better to move forward with them. The cost would be \$47,500, to be paid from the fee listed a couple of items down on the agenda. Mr. Carruth then stated that we have three items on the agenda tonight that are all tied together: the proposed \$1 fee would cover this agreement and the pavement condition survey. Ultimately, this would not impact the general fund; it would come from the special revenue fund set aside for this purpose. Councilmember Holmes asked who the city staff's point of contact would be with NewGen for this project, and Mr. Carruth stated that it would be himself, Finance Director Lamar Ozley, and Public Works Director Troy Foxworth. Mayor Borne then stated that this study would produce multipliers for the City's different user types to set the rate required to generate a specified dollar amount.

Mr. Carruth then stated that the purpose of bringing them in is to determine, for each parcel of land, its trip generation factor for our streets, with a single-family residential property serving as the baseline. Obviously, these would generate less road use than Market Basket or Chick-fil-A. Councilmember McAdams asked whether this is only for the analysis, and Mr. Carruth confirmed it is correct. Councilmember Chelette asked whether this would provide formulas for the business types, and Mr. Carruth confirmed it would. Mr. Carruth also stated that this is not a formula they developed; they are using the International Transportation Engineering Association standard.

Councilmember Holmes stated that this agenda item is limited to authorizing the study, and Mr. Carruth confirmed this. Mayor Borne asked how long the study would take, and Mr. Carruth stated it would be six months. Councilmember Holmes asked whether this fee is a fixed price, and Mr. Carruth confirmed it includes their travel for one meeting. If we want them to do additional meetings here, then there will be additional fees. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT TO AUTHORIZE A SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH CYVL INC. FOR A PAVEMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS: Councilmember Chelette made a motion to deliberate and act to authorize a service agreement with Cyvl Inc. for a pavement and asset management plan, and authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute all necessary documents. Councilmember McAdams seconded. City Manager Kevin Carruth informed the Council that February 2017 was the last time the City conducted a pavement condition survey, which was a visual process and therefore subjective when assigning scores. Public Works Director Troy Foxworth, Streets and Drainage Supervisor Joey Breaux, and City Manager Kevin Carruth attended demonstrations by three companies that provide this service, and Cyvl Inc. offered the most innovative and cost-effective approach. Mr. Carruth then stated that they achieve that price point by sending the equipment and actually driving the streets. This will be a three-year agreement, and they will also collect information on our street signs, which we have not previously done. Cyvl will provide the assessment, and we will then decide how to proceed with the repairs. Mr. Carruth then stated that the advantage of using a system like this is that it's highly objective, can be completed in a matter of days, provides hard data you can protect over time, and shows where you are gaining or losing ground. Councilmember Holmes asked whether, under this contract, we would be locked into a three-year term if we decide to proceed with Cyvl, and Mr. Carruth confirmed that it is a three-year agreement. Councilmember Homes then asked whether the information being entered into Cyvl's cloud platform belongs to us, and Mr. Carruth confirmed it does. When the contract ends, the City retains ownership of the data. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON ORDINANCE 2026-04, ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY TRANSPORTATION USE FEE ON UTILITY BILLS TO FUND A FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS, STREET CONDITION STUDIES, AND STREET

MAINTENANCE: Mayor Pro Tem Gay made a motion to deliberate and act on Ordinance 2026-04, and Councilmember McAdams seconded. City Manager Kevin Carruth stated the City has 182 streets totaling almost 75 miles. The last road condition survey we conducted was in 2017, and most roads have not improved since then. Mr. Carruth then stated that, to pay for the two actions the Council just took, we are proposing a \$1 fee on all utility bills, both residential and commercial. This would be a separate line item on the utility bill, allocated to an encumbered street maintenance fund used solely for street-related purposes. At this time, the purposes are to fund the feasibility analysis, pavement, and asset plan. Any remaining funds may be used for maintenance. Mr. Carruth then stated that government-owned properties could be exempt, for example, school district properties. It is also sunsetted, so it will expire in twelve months unless the Council decides to extend it. Councilmember Holmes stated that he likes this plan because it establishes a fund and specifies how the dollars will be allocated, which is to the streets. Councilmember Holmes then asked Finance Director Lamar Ozley if there is any significant cost to setting up a fund like this, and Mr. Ozley stated there is not. Mayor Pro Tem Gay asked when the fees would be applied to the bills, and Mr. Carruth stated they would begin in March. There were no further questions, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

INVOICES: City Manager Kevin Carruth presented invoices for payment totaling \$200,603.09 as follows:

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|----------------------------|---|-------------|
| 1. Brenntag Southwest Inc. | Brennfloc aid for Water Treatment Plant. | \$9,830.00 |
| 2. Coy Development Inc. | 2024-2025 Heritage Point subdivider rebate. | \$10,471.13 |
| 3. Groves Chamber | Quarterly Payment. | \$17,500.00 |
| 4. JPL Electric | Running of electrical for new actuators. | \$11,900.00 |

5. Lloyd Gosselink Attorneys at Law	Legal fees for Star Lake.	\$24,523.50
6. Newtron	Replace motor starter and breaker for high service pump #1.	\$6,474.72
7. PVS DX, INC	CL2 and SO2 for Wastewater Plant.	\$13,381.60
8. Republic Services Inc.	Sludge disposal for December 2025.	\$8,565.68
9. Tyler Technologies, Inc.	Incode for 3/1/26 - 2/28/27.	\$78,745.74
10. United Communications Inc.	2 handheld radios with accessories with TXFS Grant.	\$6,636.40
11. Wes Bank	Fuel for fleet vehicles for January 2026.	\$12,483.30

Mayor Borne called for questions. Councilmember Chelette asked which plant the starter and breaker were for, and Public Works Director Troy Foxworth stated it was for the Water Plant. 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.

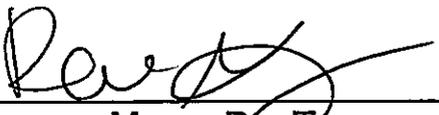
RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION:

Council convened into Executive Session at 6:23 p.m.

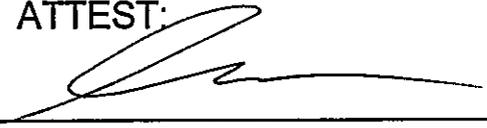
Council reconvened into Open Session at 7:13 p.m.

Mayor Borne asked for Councilmember comments. Mayor Borne thanked Mr. Rodney Pacetti for his service to the City with the Planning and Zoning Commission and wished him a happy retirement from civil service. Mayor Borne stated he heard the Mardi Gras Parade turned out very well. Councilmember Holmes thanked the staff and Planning and Zoning for their hard work.

There was no further business, and Mayor Borne adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.



Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:


City Clerk

