

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held October 7, 2024, in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams, Councilmember Rhonda Dugas, Councilmember Pete Konidis, and Councilmember Paul Oliver in attendance. Mayor Borne called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees. A representative from the VFW 4820 then led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Borne asked for reports and City Manager Carruth stated there were no reports.

Mayor Borne asked for citizen comments and Mitchell Prevost of 5307 Gulfway Drive addressed Council and provided them with documents. Mr. Prevost then referenced the City Charter stating that the City Marshal should be on duty at all times. Mr. Prevost stated that no one was available to him since September 26<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Mitchell then stated that he would like the Police Department to be more diversified.

Darrell Gonzales of 3200 East Parkway then addressed Council informing them of some of his background concerning governmental meetings. Mr. Gonzales then spoke about the September 23, 2024, EDC Meeting which the lack of decorum and rudeness was appalling. Mr. Gonzales stated that the City needs to attract and keep new businesses in Groves. Mr. Gonzales then spoke about the duties of the EDC President and stated that the President should use their powers to help. Mr. Gonzales stated that he believes there should be a new EDC President selected.

Ken Lofton of 3100 Eugenia Lane stated in order to get respect, you have to give respect. Mr. Lofton also stated that this is the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Operation Enduring Freedom. There were no further citizen comments.

**RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 23, 2024, PLANNING AND ZONING MEETING:** Mayor Borne stated that all of Council has received a copy of these minutes.

**DELIBERATE AND ACT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 23, 2024, JOINT PUBLIC HEARING:** Councilmember Konidis made a motion to deliberate and act to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2024, Joint Public Hearing and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. There were no questions and the motion passed unanimously.

**DELIBERATE AND ACT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 23, 2024, CITY COUNCIL MEETING:** Mayor Pro Tem McAdams made a motion to

deliberate and act to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2024, City Council Meeting and Councilmember Oliver seconded. There were no questions and the motion passed unanimously.

**DELIBERATE AND ACT ON ORDINANCE 2024-16, AUTHORIZING A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FOR GAMING MACHINES & GAME ROOMS AT 6900 32<sup>ND</sup> ST.:** Councilmember Konidis made a motion to deliberate and act on Ordinance 2024-16 and Councilmember Oliver seconded. Mayor Borne asked if this address has complied with Planning and Zoning completing everything and Building Official Don Pedraza stated they have. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

**DELIBERATE AND ACT ON ORDINANCE 2024-22, AUTHORIZING A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FOR GAMING MACHINES & GAME ROOMS AT 2600 MAIN AVE.:** Mayor Pro Tem McAdams made a motion to deliberate and act on Ordinance 2024-22 and Councilmember Oliver seconded. Building Official Don Pedraza stated that everything has been completed and approved by Planning and Zoning Committee. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

**DELIBERATE AND ACT ON ORDINANCE 2024-23, AUTHORIZING A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FOR GAMING MACHINES & GAME ROOMS AT 2610 MAIN AVE.:** Councilmember Oliver made a motion to deliberate and act on Ordinance 2024-23 and Councilmember Konidis seconded. Building Official Don Pedraza stated that everything has been completed and approved by Planning and Zoning Committee. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

**DELIBERATE AND ACT ON A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF A TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION TO THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE 2025-2026 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS:** Councilmember Dugas made a motion to deliberate and act on a resolution approving the submission of a Texas Community Development Block Grant program application to the Texas Department of Agriculture for the 2025-2026 Community Development Fund and authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to negotiate and execute all necessary documents. Councilmember Oliver seconded. City Manager Kevin Carruth informed Council that this is just to authorize an application to be submitted. Mr. Carruth then stated that there will be a match requirement, however there is a long lead time and the match would not have to be

paid at the earliest next fiscal year and possibly FY '25-'26. Mr. Carruth then stated that we do not have the project identified yet but it will probably be a utility project. Sophie Lehmann from Grant Works then introduced herself and stated that she is the operator assigned to this application. City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that the match would be \$112,500 cash. Mrs. Lehmann then stated that one of the point categories that says the grant is a competitive grant application is the match amount and is based on population size. Mrs. Lehmann stated that we would have at least one or two fiscal years before the match would be due. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

**DELIBERATE AND ACT ON ORDINANCE 2024-24 AUTHORIZING THE SETTLEMENT OF TEXAS GAS SERVICE COMPANY'S STATEMENT OF INTENT TO INCREASE RATES WITHIN THE CENTRAL-GULF SERVICE AREA:** Mayor Pro Tem McAdams made a motion to deliberate and act on Ordinance 2024-24 authorizing the settlement of Texas Gas Service Company's statement of intent to increase rates within the Central-Gulf service area. Councilmember Dugas seconded. City Manager Kevin Carruth reminded Council that we had acted a couple of weeks ago denying the rate increase and our consultant law firm is recommending that we agree to the proposed settlement. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

**DELIBERATE AND ACT ON A RESOLUTION IMMEDIATELY REMOVING COUNCIL MEMBER RHONDA DUGAS FROM THE GROVES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Councilmember Pete Konidis made a motion to deliberate and act on a resolution immediately removing Council Member Rhonda Dugas from the Groves Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. Mayor Borne then read Resolution 2024-09. Mayor Borne asked for questions. Councilmember Dugas made extended comments objecting to the proposed resolution and declared that she was the subject of unwarranted persecution by the Mayor and other Councilmembers. After several minutes Councilmember Konidis called for a vote on the motion and it passed with Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem McAdams, Councilmember Pete Konidis and Councilmember Paul Oliver in favor of the motion. Councilmember Rhonda Dugas voted against the motion. Motion passed 4-1.


INVOICES: City Secretary Clarissa Thibodeaux presented invoices for payment totaling \$89,776.64 as follows:

1. Brenntag Southwest, INC	Sodium Hydroxide for water plant.	\$8,476.87
2. HEAT Safety Equipment LLC	1 new air pack and 3 new 30 year 45 minutes SCBA bottles.	\$11,408.98
3. Lewis F. McClain, JR	Sales tax analysis subscription.	\$7,855.00
4. Messer, Fort & McDonald	Legal – Personnel Issues, Fire Negotiations legal and travel.	\$14,566.19
5. Novus Wood Group	Wood chipping and hauling.	\$40,608.00
6. PVS DX, INC	Chlorine for water plant.	\$6,861.60

Councilmember Konidis moved to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$89,776.64 and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions. Mayor Borne asked if the wood chipping was able to clear everything at the Georgia Lift Station and Public Works Director Troy Foxworth stated it did clear it. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne asked for Councilmember comments and Mayor Borne thanked citizen Glen Billeaud for helping his mother who had fallen in her yard. Mayor Borne also thanked Josh Hidalgo, Cole White and Dustin Montijo for helping his mother.

There being no further business, Mayor Borne adjourned the meeting at 5:44 p.m.

  
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Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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City Clerk