

April 12, 2012

The Graham City Council met in REGULAR SESSION in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 12, 2012 with the following members present:

MEMBERS: Mayor: Barry White
Mayor Pro-Tem: Jack Graham
Council Member: Spencer Street III
Pam Scott
Greg Montgomery-absent
City Manager: Larry Fields
City Secretary: David Maddy
Public Works Director: David Casteel
Police Chief: Tony Widner
Assistant Police Chief: Brent Bullock
Fire Chief: Dennie Covey

VISITORS: Stan Edwards, Carl Boschmann, Jimmy McLeroy, Connie Brandt, Sandra Helvey, Jessica James, Neal Blanton and Cherry Rushin.

ORDER: Mayor Barry White called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Stan Edwards who lives on Victory Street by the high school has a one car driveway and two cars. He was cited for parking in the street in front of his house, thinking the no parking signs were for non residents of the area. Larry Fields said that the no parking ordinance was passed in the 1980s at the request of the homeowners to eliminate school students parking in the residential area. The Police Department does not know who the cars belong to. Larry suggested the homeowners come up with a sticker to identify their cars. The stickers would be issued by the City. Carl Boschmann told Council he was opposed to the International Property Maintenance Code.

MINUTES APPROVED:

Minutes from the March 29, 2012 regular meeting were approved 4-0 on a motion from Jack Graham and a second from Spencer Street.

CONSIDER REQUEST FOR VARIANCE FOR CARPORT AT 1418 OAK HILLS DRIVE:

Russell Reeves requested a variance from the five foot side yard setback regulations in order to build a carport. It will be built within six inches of the property line. Larry Fields made Mr. Reeves aware that the deed restrictions require a minimum of ten feet and the City's variance, if granted, does not impact the deed restriction. The carport will be build by a contractor and the trim will match the existing residence. Staff does not object to the variance being granted contingent on the carport being guttered so that all run off is discharged down his driveway. Council cannot override deed restrictions. Pam Scott made the motion to grant the variance with the requirement of gutters, Jack Graham made the second and motion passed 4-0.

CONSIDER CITY OF THROCKMORTON EMERGENCY WATER CONTRACT RENEWAL:

The City executed Temporary Emergency Water Contract with the City of Throckmorton in April 2009 for a one year term with the option to renew for four consecutive one year terms. Throckmorton is requesting approval of the one year renewal option for April 2012-13. Pam Scott made the motion to approve, Spencer Street made the second and motion passed 4-0.

CONSIDER TEXAS GAS SERVICE COST OF SERVICE ADJUSTMENT REQUEST:

Each year TGS is eligible to file a Cost of Service Adjustment increase. The letter of request has been reviewed by Council. No action by Council was needed at this time. They have until June 28th to take action; if no action is taken the rate increase takes effect with the July 31, 2012 readings. If the City protests or denies the increase, it will have to present its case. Larry will talk to other cities and bring back a recommendation prior to June 28th.

CONSIDER TEXAS GAS SERVICE STATEMENT OF INTENT TO CHANGE RATES:

Texas gas Serve Company has proposed to change the Cost of Service Adjustment Clause (COSA) Tariff by amending the current language. Present language has a cap on COSA increases of 3.5% of current operating expenses or the annual change in the CPI, whichever is greater. TGS is proposing to retain the cap on any annual changes to operating expenses, but lift the cap on recovery of capital invested. No action was recommended as Larry wants time to talk to The City of Weatherford. If no action is taken, the proposal will automatically go into affect which will affect the average user's bill by \$1.00.

REPORTS:

Jessica James handed out information on the updated City website. There is a new announcements section and the site is more user friendly. New plants are being added to the Square tomorrow. Main Street is sponsoring a QR seminar on April 26. David Casteel reported 325 pot holes filled, the 24" water line repaired again both in March and in April and next week the sealant will be laid on Ball Park Road. The street cleaning will begin next week. Larry reported the lake level at 1074.85' or 99.9% capacity. 1075' is full. The commercial garbage rates will be on next week's agenda. The last IESI increase put them ahead of our rates. Posts are being added along the road in Fireman's Park to keep cars off the grass and a walking trail is being added which will also help. The cost is \$1300 with the work being done by City crews. The road will be made into a one way. The RV area in Fireman's park has one 30 amp hook up that works and six available spaces. The City can continue to operate and spend the money to improve it or discontinue it, making it a parking area and open to only camping, not RVs. There are twelve spaces available at Lake Eddleman and if additional spaces are desired, they could be added in the Slat Creek Buyout area. Water and sewer is already there and this could be looked at within the next couple of years. Rena Fore, the pool manager, has requested a shaded area on the west side of the splash pad near the bath house. Cost estimates are \$7,000. City crews can do the installation. Jack thought a nominal increase in pool fees could be considered. Council was in agreement to go ahead and order the equipment. The street sweeper will be rented for 30 days and run on the worst of the streets; primarily the well travelled ones and run only in the daytime so that there is no overtime. Bruce Street has the "Keep Graham Beautiful" yard signs. The March financials reflect a good year so far with revenues exceeding expenses.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Spencer Street, a second from Jack Graham and a vote of 4-0 the Council meeting was adjourned.

Barry White, Mayor

ATTEST:

David Maddy, City Secretary