

July 23, 2020

The Graham City Council met in REGULAR SESSION in the Council Chambers at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 23, 2020 with the following members present:

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| MEMBERS: | Mayor: | Neal Blanton |
| | Mayor Pro-Tem: | Darby Brockway |
| | Council Member: | Brint Albritton (absent) |
| | | Lee Boyd (absent) |
| | | Kyle Peavy |
| | City Manager: | Brandon Anderson |
| | City Secretary: | Sharon McFadden |
| | City Attorney: | Dan De La Cruz |
| | Municipal Judge: | Teresa Bishop (absent) |
| | Police Chief: | Brent Bullock (absent) |
| | Fire Chief: | Jerry David (absent) |
| | Assistant Fire Chief: | Jim Don Laurent (absent) |

VISITORS: Thomas Wallner, Sarah Lundgren, Krisa De La Cruz, Tony Ramirez, Alex Heartfield, Shana Wolfe, Randall Dawson, Grant Ingram, Natalie Strider, and Doug Magneson.

ORDER: Mayor Neal Blanton called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

PUBLIC FORUM: No comments were made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from the Regular Session Council meeting held on Thursday, June 25, 2020 were considered. Darby Brockway made the first motion and Kyle Peavy seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved 2-0.

Minutes from the Special Called Meeting held on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 and Tuesday, July 21, 2020 were considered. Kyle Peavy made the first motion and Darby Brockway seconded. Both sets of minutes were unanimously approved 2-0.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JUNE 2020 AS PRESENTED BY CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OR HER DESIGNEE:

Sharon briefly reviewed the financial report for June 2020. Brandon provided additional details related to COVID 19 spending. Kyle Peavy made the motion to accept the financials. Darby Brockway made the second and the financials were unanimously accepted 2-0.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON THE QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT AS PRESENTED BY CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OR HER DESIGNEE:

Sharon reviewed the report and provided current interest rates on each investment. Kyle Peavy made the first motion and Darby Brockway seconded. The quarterly investment report was unanimously accepted 2-0.

DISCUSS THE SALES TAX REPORT FOR MAY 2020 RECEIVED IN JULY 2020:

Brandon mentioned an increase over last year of 18.87 percent and compared to other local communities. The state average is down 1.12 percent. With the situation (Covid 19) as it is, citizens are apparently doing more local shopping. Brandon expects the remaining calendar year to stay between 3 to 6 percent.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON ORDINANCE # 1100 AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 25 OF THE CITY OF GRAHAM CODE OF ORDINANCES. ORDINANCE IS TO CORRECT WATER RATE ERROR IDENTIFIED BY MWH ON THE 2019 AUDIT FINDINGS:

Mayor Blanton requested the ordinance to be tabled at this time and it will be considered when a quorum is present. No action taken.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON A REQUEST FROM CARS AND STARS CAR SHOW FOR ROAD CLOSURES OF SECOND STREET AND OAK STREET FOR THEIR AUGUST 1, 2020 EVENT. (SEE ATTACHED LETTER):

Brandon agreed to present the request. However, he does not support the request since the entire downtown square has already been requested and approved. There is not adequate time to inform businesses on Oak Street and Second Street. No action was taken.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON A REQUEST FROM AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION (AFSP) FOR USE OF THE DOWNTOWN SQUARE FOR THEIR SUICIDE PREVENTION WALK AND "OUT OF THE DARKNESS" EVENT ON NOVEMBER 7, 2020 FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M. (SEE ATTACHED LETTER):

Brandon introduced Natalie Strider who is representing the event. Ms. Strider shared her personal experiences and the schedule of events. Darby Brockway made the first motion. Kyle Peavy made the second. The request was unanimously approved 2-0.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

Brandon informed Council and the Mayor he was notified by Sherrie Gibson, Library Director, that several Board members had reached their term limits. Sherrie provided a list of new members for consideration. Members Jerre Danley, Weta Phillips, Shanna Gough, and Alicia Haggart have met the term limits. New members for consideration are Kendell Gough, Debra Grace, Courtney Milligan, and Ryan Gordy. Kyle Peavy made the first motion and Darby Brockway seconded. The new Library Board members were unanimously appointed 2-0.

REPORTS:

- Brandon informed Council reports included in the packet were the City Hall Monthly Activities Report, Utility Representative Report, Code Enforcement Report, Municipal Court Warrants Report, and the Library Monthly Report. As of today, the lake is 98.1 percent full. We have been busy with budget workshops. Public hearings are tentatively planned for August 3, 2020 and on August 8, 2020. On August 20, 2020 we intend to present the proposed budget, tax rate, get on file for public viewing, and set the date for public hearings. We are still waiting for the Appraisal District to provide us with the effective tax rate. The Appraisal District will be assisting us (City) with publication of notices. Mayor Blanton said on September 17, 2020 we intend to adopt the 2020-2021 budget and ad valorem tax rate.
- Public Works Director, Randall Dawson said there has been an increase in water leaks.
- Krisa De La Cruz, CEO of the Chamber and CVB, mentioned the "Shop-a-thon" for teachers this year rather than a buffet-style breakfast. Krisa encouraged community involvement with volunteering or providing donations. August 15, 2020 the Possum Pedal Bike Ride event is scheduled and details are available on the Possum Pedal website and their Facebook page. September 18, 2020 is the annual golf tournament.
- Brandon mentioned the water line replacement project and the cost of \$4.5 to \$4.7 million. Someone made a comment on the water line project causing taxes to increase. If anyone has a question or concern regarding how taxes are calculated and assessed, then contact Brandon directly. Appraisals have increased and tax rates have not been set. The funds for water line replacement cannot be used to fund water line improvements. We have the general fund which includes revenue from ad valorem tax, sales tax and franchise taxes which supports services such as police, fire, streets, parks, cemeteries, library, auditorium, and arena. "Water pays for water" that is why a water rate adjustment was made a few years ago. Hopefully, depending on funding, and interest rates offered, the waterline project may occur. Brandon said he is open to any conversation and encouraged citizens to contact him to discuss concerns. Mayor Blanton stated the budget meetings are open to the public and anyone is invited to attend.
- Mayor Blanton said discussion does not occur during Council meetings regarding COVID 19. He mentioned masks have been required in two states, encouraged all to wear a mask. The current status of cases is available through Graham Regional Medical Center. This is a serious situation, everyone take heed, and wear a mask in public places. Krisa mentioned the Chamber is offering masks to the public.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Kyle Peavy, a second from Darby Brockway, the Council meeting was unanimously adjourned.


Neal Blanton, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sharon McFadden, City Secretary