

March 19, 2020

The Graham City Council met in REGULAR SESSION in the Council Chambers at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 19, 2020 with the following members present:

MEMBERS: Mayor: Neal Blanton
 Mayor Pro-Tem: Darby Brockway
 Council Member: Brint Albritton
 Lee Boyd
 Kyle Peavy
 City Manager: Brandon Anderson
 City Secretary: Sharon McFadden (absent)
 City Attorney: Dan De La Cruz (absent)
 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 and Marci Bueno (record minutes).

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, March 5, 2020 were considered. Kyle Peavy made the first motion and Brint Albritton seconded. Regular session council meeting minutes were unanimously approved 4-0.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON CHANGING OF SIGNERS FOR INTERBANK SAFE DEPOSIT BOX CONTRACT:

Brandon stated there is a safe deposit box at Interbank belonging to the City of Graham that he and Sharon McFadden were not previously aware of. The current signers on the agreement are Larry Fields, David Maddy, and Sandra Helvey. All three employees have retired. Interbank requires a record of minutes stating it is acceptable to remove the current signers then add Brandon Anderson and Sharon McFadden. Darby Brockway made the first motion and Lee Boyd seconded. The request was unanimously approved 4-0.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON THE FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE GENERAL FUND, GARBAGE FUND, WATER FUND, AND SEWER FUND AS PRESENTED BY THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OR HER DESIGNEE:

Brandon mentioned Sharon was ill and not able to attend the meeting. He said the General Fund is close to flush in taxes and the expenditures are higher than budget due to capital loan payments. Water fund revenue is lower due to less consumption resulting from less watering. Brandon said we are still waiting on the final hearing of water dispute. He determines the issue will fix itself and there will likely be no ruling requiring a refund. The sewer fund is behind due to capital loan payments. Lee Boyd made the first motion. Kyle Peavy seconded and the reports were accepted 4-0.

DISCUSS SALES TAX REPORT FOR JANUARY 2020 RECEIVED IN MARCH 2020:

Brandon said the sales tax will likely be effected in approximately three months due to the current situation (Covid 19). Small businesses will be hurt during this time. Included in the packet were the reports for 2018-2019, 2017-2018, 2016-2017, and 2015-2016. Brandon said Sharon mentioned that in previous meetings we were asked about comparison of previous years.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON A REQUEST FROM THE GRAHAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR ROAD CLOSURES FOR THEIR ANNUAL POSSUM PEDAL BIKE RIDE TO BE HELD ON JUNE 6, 2020 (SEE ATTACHED MAP):

Brandon said the request is the same as previous years. Brint Albritton made the first motion, Kyle Peavy seconded, and requested was approved 4-0.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON A REQUEST FROM GRAHAM CVB FOR USE OF THE DOWNTOWN SQUARE FOR THE ANNUAL FOOD TRUCK CHAMPIONSHIP OF TEXAS TO BE HELD ON JUNE 6, 2020 (SEE ATTACHED LETTER):

Brandon said the request is the same as previous six years. Darby Brockway made the first motion. Lee Boyd provided the second. The request was unanimously approved 4-0.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON A REQUEST FROM BRYAN JACKSON TO PRODUCE AND PERFORM A THRILL SHOW IN DOWNTOWN GRAHAM (DETAILS IN PACKET):

Brandon said he foresees no problem with event. The show is a Christian-based event and the request is for next Wednesday night (March 25, 2020). Brandon encouraged the event not to occur at this time. Mr. Jackson is professional and submitted an impressive packet. Brandon said with community caution as it is, we cannot allow the event at this time. He will encourage Mr. Jackson to reschedule to a later date. No action taken.

REPORTS:

- City Manager Brandon Anderson mentioned the Code Enforcement Report, Municipal Court Warrants Report, Drawing for Ballot is included in the packet. Yesterday (March 18, 2020) the Governor's office announced it is allowing elections to be postponed to November 3, 2020 (general election date). Brandon is concerned that moving to November 3, 2020, that the state will expect municipalities to remain with that date on future elections. Brandon said he is going to study the City's Charter for direction. Young County Elections Administrator Lauren Sullivan said a decision is required by next Wednesday (March 25, 2020) to make her aware if we are postponing. Brandon is in agreement with Graham ISD Superintendent Sonny Cruse on maintaining the May 3, 2020 election date. A Special Called meeting could occur as soon as Tuesday morning (March 24, 2020). Mayor Blanton said he is surprised at the number of elderly people not

taking Covid 19 serious. There was a lengthy discussion regarding Young County and the responses to the Governors' office, number of tests and reported cases of Covid 19. Another discussion regarding the May 3, 2020 election occurred with concerns of postponement and repercussions that possibly could occur if carried out on currently scheduled date. The lake level is at 100 percent full. Brandon said the City of Graham Emergency Policy additions are effective immediately and through the next three weeks (expiring April 8, 2020). Brandon said he requested Sharon McFadden to poll neighboring cities and she received 15-20 responses. Mayor Blanton has the responses. Brandon mentioned banks have shut down internal (lobby) services and he is requesting support of the memo to restrict City Hall to employees-only access until further notice. Brandon is also requesting to suspend water disconnections scheduled for March 28, 2020. Disconnections will resume on April 28, 2020. No fees will be waived and all sums will remain due. Suspension of water disconnections is to encourage preventative hand-washing and good hygiene. Brandon said this is being proactive. Kyle Peavy said perception has become the reality. Kyle Peavy and Mayor Blanton discussed electronic banking, closing bank lobbies, and cash-handling. Mayor Blanton said the decision is by the City Manager and that he and Council support these decisions to restrict City Hall access and postpone water disconnections. Brandon said water and sewer plants are paramount and told them not to stop by any offices. Payables are being done through email by scanning and sending to department heads for approval. These actions help limit interaction between departments. Utilizing phones, text, email are sufficient for communication and satisfy social distancing. Brandon mentioned the electricity installation is needed on one door and then our new City Hall will be complete. Lee Boyd complimented Brandon on his handling of the COVID 19 situation in at rationale and reasonable level. A lengthy discussion continued on the outbreak mentioning other countries, businesses, and statistics regarding COVID 19.

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