

August 14, 2014

The Graham City Council met in REGULAR SESSION in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 14, 2014 with the following members present:

MEMBERS: Mayor: Jack Graham  
 Mayor Pro-Tem: Pam Scott  
 Council Member: Spencer Street III  
 Brint Albritton  
 Darby Brockway  
 City Manager: David Casteel  
 City Secretary: David Maddy  
 Police Chief: Tony Widner  
 Assistant Police Chief: Brent Bullock  
 Fire Chief: Dennie Covey

VISITORS: Mike Gaver, Kerwin Stephens, Eddie Gellner, J. McLeroy, Sharon Kirkwood, Jennifer Conway, Sandra Helvey, Neal Blanton, Jerry David, Tony Fellows, Jason Cottongame, and Casey Holder.

ORDER: Mayor Jack Graham called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

PUBLIC FORUM:  
 None

MINUTES APPROVED:

Minutes from the July 31, 2014 regular meeting were approved 5-0 on a motion from Darby Brockway and a second from Brint Albritton.

CONSIDER ORDINANCE # 1025 PROHIBITING UNAUTHORIZED CAMPING AND RELATED ACTIVITIES ON PUBLIC LANDS:

This ordinance prohibits camping and related activities, such as latrines, on public lands without a permit.

A limited group has been camping for extended periods on lands owned by the city. This group has littered and contributed to unsanitary facilities. They have been ticketed by the police, but the municipal court is not enforcing the tickets citing a lack of clarity in the code of ordinances. This ordinance would provide that clarity and require the court to enforce the citations written by the police. Staff recommended approval. Chief Widner said there were 6-7 make shift camps and people living on public land under unhygienic conditions. They were told about the Crises Center, etc. but most are employed and did not want to spend the money on rent housing. The police department has been courteous and patient with the campers. Pam Scott made the motion to approve Ordinance # 1025, Spencer Street made the second and motion passed 5-0.

CONSIDER ORDINANCE # 1026 ADOPTING A MUNICIPAL MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION:

TxDOT and the City share certain responsibilities along state highways passing through the city. The agreement in place has not been updated since 1989. The agreement proposed is the standard agreement used across the state. Most of the language does not apply as it references controlled access roadway, such as freeways

Adopting an updated agreement is a requirement for TxDOT approval of funding agreements for the construction of the Shawnee Park project. Staff recommended approval. Pam Scott made the motion to approve Ordinance # 1026, Brint Albritton made the second and motion passed 5-0.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM PROGRESSIVE WASTE (IESI) FOR INFLATION ADJUSTMENT OF RATES:

According to the service contract with the waste management company, an adjustment can be made each year adjusting charges for services to align with the increased cost of business. The metric used is the consumer price index. The waste company has formally made the request and is recommending an increase of 2.64 %. The increase affects only commercial customers. Mayor Graham thanked Progressive for the recent public informational meeting they hosted. An ordinance will be prepared for the next Council meeting.

CONSIDER LOCAL SUPPORT FOR EMS SERVICES:

An agreement between the City, the County and the Hospital District outlines support for EMS services in the area. Under this agreement, the District supplies a statement of revenue and expenses for such services. If there is a deficit, then the deficit is split three ways between the entities. The county and city share is equal up to maximum combined amount of \$70,000. The District CFO has submitted the required statement showing a deficit of \$249,911. This results in an allocation of \$35,000 by the city for EMS in FY 2015. Should the deficit for FY 2015 be such that the amount allocated for 2015 is not required, then the FY 2016 allocation from the city will be reduced accordingly, per the agreement.

The agreement states that the support is subject to approval of the council. In draft budget preparation, staff has included the full \$35,000. Staff recommended approval. Spencer Street made the motion to approve the continuation of the agreement, Darby Brockway made the second and motion passed 5-0.

CONSIDER BIDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A CONCRETE APRON AT AIRPORT:

The airport board has developed a plan to extend a concrete apron at the fuel station. This will allow planes fueling to continue forward instead of having to be pulled back after fueling. This

concrete extension will also be used later as a taxiway extension for a new hanger area. Bids were solicited for this project. Three bids were received.

TxDOT will pay for 50% of the costs through the Routine Airport Maintenance Program (RAMP). Low bid was \$4.18 / sf. Next lowest bid was \$4.28/ sf. Third bid was \$6.00 /sf.

Staff recommended awarding the bid to Randy's Concrete of Graham. Pam Scott made the motion to approve the bid to Randy's Concrete, Brint Albritton made the second and motion passed 5-0.

**DISCUSS BUDGET:**

Chris Ekrut of New Generation Strategies has been contacted to analyze rates for water and sewer for FY 2015. Some of the data that Ekrut is considering are changes in the anticipated use and sale of water due to the drought and changes in percentages of use by different entities.

Data was discussed showing that water use is down with the drought restrictions and showing the percentage of sales to wholesale customers has increased during the period. This is most likely due to agricultural use and small cities coming more dependent on Graham water during this drought. The water fund budget will be presented in full at the Council workshop on August 20 at 6:00 p.m. David Maddy said that Council would look at proposals for a new metering system next year that would help detect leaks and losses. Brint asked about lowering rates when lake levels are full again. Mayor said that would be hard to predict because of bond payments, potential additional bond issues and operational costs. A rate ordinance will be prepared after the workshop for presentation in September.

**CONSIDER OPEN DOOR SCHOOL REQUEST FOR STREET CLOSURES DURING FALL FEST:**

Open Door School is hosting their annual Fall Fest on October 11, 2014. They request closure of First and Oak Streets in the vicinity of the school. In addition, they will hold a walk/run. There are children involved with the walk/run and closures are requested along Grove and Second Streets during the run. Staff recommended approval. Pam Scott made the motion to approve the request, Spencer Street made the second and motion passed 5-0.

**REPORTS:**

Chief Widner presented the July police report noting there had been 11 vehicle burglaries during the month and most involved unlocked cars and likely happened at night. Chief Covey said there were no major fires in July. He had received two bids for a new fire truck, one for \$309,619 after a \$60,000 trade in and another for \$360,644 without a trade in and after a discount for pre-payment. Chief Covey said both were negotiable and the City could sell the old one for up to \$75,000.

Jennifer Conway said the final plans were coming on the Visitor's Center. She commented on a letter received from an Irish couple who stayed at the Wildcatter complementing the City. Jennifer is also working on planning new events. Neal Blanton said the new City homepage has been finalized. Tony Fellows said crews are finishing the new arena roof. David Casteel reported the lake level at 1062.32' or 44.3%. 1075' is full. The motor at the raw water intake that burned up the other night was a 1947 motor and new parts were not available. J & J Electric made new parts for it. Citizens cut back usage during the time the pump was out and he complemented the Graham Leader on getting the word out. An alternate line and new pump site have been laid for any such future emergency.

Section 551.071: Consultation with Attorney

At 10:10 a.m. Council adjourned to Executive Session

At 11:05 a.m. Council adjourned the Executive Session

**ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion by Spencer Street, a second from Darby Brockway and a vote of 5-0 the Council meeting was adjourned.

  
John Chiles Graham, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
David Maddy, City Secretary