

October 8, 2015

The Graham City Council met in REGULAR SESSION in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 8, 2015 with the following members present:

MEMBERS: Mayor: Jack Graham
 Mayor Pro-Tem: Spencer Street III
 Council Member: Brint Albritton
 Council Member: Darby Brockway
 Council Member: Lee Boyd
 City Manager: Brandon Anderson
 City Secretary: David Maddy (absent)
 Chief Accountant: Sharon McFadden (record minutes)
 Police Chief: Tony Widner (absent)
 Assistant Police Chief: Brent Bullock (absent)

VISITORS: Sandra Helvey, Larry Novak, Alex Heartfield, Laura Taylor, Jolene Jordan, Nancy Ranff, Jimmy McLeroy, Eddie Gellner, Diana Theall, Neal Blanton, Robert San Miguel, and Jason Cottongame.

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

PUBLIC FORUM: No comments

MINUTES APPROVED:

Minutes from the September 24, 2015 regular meeting were approved 4-0. Darby Brockway made the motion to approve minutes and Spencer Street made the second motion.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON ORDINANCE NO. 1043 REMOVING TRAFFIC LIGHT AT 4TH AND TENNESSEE AND REPLACE WITH A 2 WAY STOP (2ND READING).

Brandon Anderson stated that as discussed at the last meeting, it would be better to replace with stop signs. The light is old, getting costly to repair, and would be very expensive to replace. A formal ordinance makes it official and puts stop signs on North/South with traffic flowing East/West. Britt Albritton made the motion to approve Ordinance #1043, Lee Boyd made the second, and motion passed 4-0.

CONSIDER AND ACT BY RESOLUTION TO NOMINATE INDIVIDUAL(S) TO SERVE ON THE YOUNG COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Brandon Anderson suggested (his own opinion) that one be nominated and cast all our ballots toward this one individual to attempt to ensure we have our representative in place. Spencer Street commented the Appraisal District would benefit from a fresh perspective (serving in his last term). Mayor Jack Graham asked for a nomination. Spencer Street nominated Darby Brockway. Spencer Street made the motion for Darby Brockway to serve on the Appraisal District Board. Lee Boyd made the second and motion passed 4-0. Darby Brockway accepted.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON REQUEST FROM RECLAIMED STYLE FOR USE OF THE NORTH SIDE OF INSIDE OF THE SQUARE FROM ELM STREET TO OAK STREET ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2015 FOR THEIR FIRST ANNUAL "JUNK-O-RAMA." (EVENT TO LAST UNTIL 4:00)

Mayor Jack Graham addressed Jolene Jordan (Reclaimed Style business owner) by asking if the event would help benefit other local businesses. Ms. Jordan responded with intentions of making this an annual event, anticipates a big draw of people, and promotes other businesses participating. Mayor Jack Graham stated the event will help get people out to the downtown square. Fire Chief Jerry David informed the Council that the Trunk or Treat event already planned would not be affected. Brint Albritton made the motion to approve the Reclaimed Style request, Spencer Street made the second, and passed 4-0.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON REQUEST FROM THE GRAHAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR CLOSURE OF THE INTERIOR OF THE SQUARE IN FRONT (EAST) OF THE GRAHAM VISITOR AND BUSINESS CENTER, BETWEEN 3RD AND 2ND STREETS FROM THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3 THROUGH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2015 AS WELL AS USE OF THE LAWN AND GROUNDS IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING.

Diana Theall (representative for the Chamber) informed Council of the plan for a 40 X 50 dimension artificial ice skating rink for the holiday event. Ms. Theall stated that Graham Interbank is the sole sponsor of the event. Alex Heartfield said the rink will hold 30 skaters and it will be a good event for the community. Mayor Jack Graham stated his support of the event and asked Ms. Theall if the event is in conjunction with the parade. Diana Theall stated the event operating hours and ticket pricing. Councilman Lee Boyd inquired on the liability insurance. Mrs. Theall said insurance requirements are in place. Mayor Jack Graham said the event is a good idea. Lee Boyd made the motion to approve the Graham Chamber of Commerce request. Darby Brockway made the second and motion passed 4-0.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON REQUEST FROM SPIVEY HILL CHALLENGE BOARD TO HOLD THE 2ND ANNUAL SPIVEY HILL CHALLENGE 5K ON SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2016.


Spencer Street stated last year's inaugural event had 100 runners, will likely be bigger this year, and provided the route to be taken. Mayor Jack Graham asked if Police Chief Tony Widner had been informed and cleared the event. Spencer Street said Jamie Epperson would provide further communication. Mayor Jack Graham asked for a motion to approve the request pending the Police Department approval. Darby Brockway made the motion, Lee Boyd made the second, and motion passed 4-0.

REPORTS:

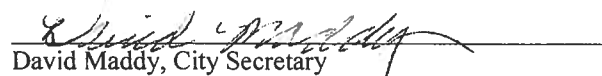
Code Enforcement Officer Robert San Miguel was complimented by Mayor Jack Graham for his successful handling of issues during the water plant switch over. Jason Cottongame stated there is one additional simple tie-in necessary for the two lakes into the water plant. Fire Chief Jerry David said the new fire truck is out and has been seen by more than 400 children at schools for the fire safety program. The Fire Chief also invited and encouraged others to participate in handing out more than 1,500 glow necklaces to children for the Trunk or Treat on October 31, 2015. Diana Theall said the Graham Chamber of Commerce kicks off the Holiday Shopping Spree on October 30 with 51 participating businesses (previous year was 45 businesses). Ms. Theall also mentioned December 3, 2015 being the Christmas Stroll & Parade and the Chamber Banquet planned for January 26, 2016. Jason Cottongame stated the city is now off of water restrictions and 56 water leaks were repaired in the month of September, 2015. Cottongame said the Mad Creek project is near completion and the street department will begin repairing the water leak pot holes in the next few weeks. Neal Blanton informed Council he plans to attend a conference next week with a session regarding sales tax issues in rural communities. Councilman Lee Boyd responded to a concern regarding the park associated with the Corps of Engineers. Mr. Boyd stated the BRA (Brazos River Authority) has done a great job but the legal issues are hindering progress. Mayor Jack Graham said the Corps of Engineers would be attending a meeting in November, 2015 to provide an explanation for the delay. Robert San Miguel informed Council that on Tuesday, October 6, 2015 that he provided a class to five Graham Police Officers for bike patrol and the officers are available as needed. Brandon Anderson informed Council of Police Chief Tony Widner out of town teaching a Law Enforcement Course and Assistant Police Chief Brent Bullock speaking at a retired teacher meeting. Brandon Anderson reported he had completed an internal audit of the police department vehicles and that all lights are working. Mr. Anderson expressed his appreciation to the citizens of Graham for their water conservation during the water plant tie-ins. Brandon Anderson presented a proposal reference sheet to Council and stated the city is now paying 5.068 per kw with current contract ending in 2017. Mr. Anderson stated the proposal would take the city to 2020 and the offer rate on the proposal is very low at 3.8 and should be considered. Lee Boyd asked if the rate is locked and Brandon Anderson confirmed the rate is locked. Brandon Anderson said he was going to be locked up for the MDA fund raiser on November 5, 2015 with a donation goal of \$800.00. Mr. Anderson stated the lake level is at 87.2% and last meeting was at 93%.

ADJOURNMENT:

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


John Giles Graham, Mayor

ATTEST:


David Maddy, City Secretary