

March 13, 2014

The Graham City Council met in REGULAR SESSION in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 13, 2014 with the following members present:

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

VISITORS:

Dorothea Henderson, Darrell Dodson, Roy Robinson, Ed Hinson, Bruce Street, Dough Stroud, Jerry Schultz, Sandra Helvey, Brian Rash, Casey Holder, Jennifer Conway, Jason Cottongame, Eddie Gellner, J. McLeroy, Joel Williams, Kathy Weaver and Neal Blanton.

RECOGNITIONS

Roy Robinson has served as President of Keep Graham Beautiful (KGB) for the past few years, revitalizing the group and working closely with the City and other entities to improve Graham. During his tenure, KGB worked with the City to develop a host of projects such as initiating a recycling program and spearheading spring and fall Clean-Up efforts. With Roy as its leader KGB secured a \$130,000 Governor's Achievement Award which will be used to improve Mad Creek in Shawnee Park. The Mad Creek project is being designed and contracted by TxDOT and is scheduled to begin this summer. Roy will be moving to Denver for personal reasons this month and will be sorely missed by the City of Graham. Roy was recognized by the Mayor for his volunteer efforts with the KGB and was presented a proclamation declaring March 13, 2014 as Roy Robinson Day.

The City of Graham is hosting a community open house on March 18 from 2-4 PM to celebrate Larry Field's tenure of service as City Manager. All citizens and friends of the community are encouraged to drop by for punch and cake and to wish Larry Fields well in his future endeavors.

Mayor Barry White presented Larry Field with a proclamation making Tuesday, March 18, 2014 as Larry Fields Day.

REPORTS:

Reports were presented at this time while Council waited for one more Council Member to arrive so that there would be a quorum for action items. Tony Widner provided council with copies of the monthly police report. He also reported that the department had purchased two new police vehicles; Ford Explorer SUVs this time.

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

PUBLIC FORUM:

None

MINUTES APPROVED:

Minutes from the February 27, 2014 regular meeting were approved 3-0 on a motion from Greg Montgomery and a second from Pam Scott.

CONSIDER SWIMMING POOL RULES AND RATES FOR 2014:

Staff is proposing no changes to pool use rates or rules for the 2014 swimming season. Splash Day is scheduled for May 31, 2014. Entry fees will remain at \$1.00 for ages 9 and under and \$2.00 for ages 10 and over. Hours of operation will remain Monday through Saturday noon to 5 pm and Tuesday and Thursday evenings 6-8 pm.

Parties may be reserved for after pool hours and on Sundays. Party reservations may be made starting Tuesday, April 1st at City Hall.

In the 2013 season there were 74 pool parties and 17 splash pad parties. In the 2012 season there were 60 pool parties and 15 splash pad parties.

Greg Montgomery made the motion to approve the rates and pool hours, Pam Scott made the second and motion passed 3-0.

DISCUSS STRUCTURALLY SUBSTANDARD STRUCTURES:

Staff has worked with property owners to remove over two dozen substandard structures in the past two years. Currently there are four additional substandard structures scheduled for

voluntary removal in March. Staff has determined that 26 additional structures are substandard or dangerous under Section 15 ½ of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Graham. Staff has sent 10 letters with 2+ pending to the owners of these substandard structures. The owners of these structures have 60 days to correct the deficiencies. If the deficiencies are not corrected the City may demolish the structures. Any cost for demolition above funds recovered in salvage may be assessed against the land and owner. The City may not force the sale of the land to recover costs. Jason Cottongame, City Building Inspector, said that 30 structures were cited in the last 18 months and four are to be demolished in the next two weeks. Larry said that Jason and the staff are getting more owner cooperation, with the owners paying a larger share of the expense which saves the City money. It costs about \$4,000 per house to tear down and haul off. Council expressed its' approval of the progress.

CONSIDER ORDINANCE #1015 CANCELLING 2014 CITY ELECTION

In accordance with Sections 2.051-2.053 of the Texas Election Code, unopposed elections for a governmental entity, other than a county, may be cancelled upon presentation of an executed certification of unopposed candidates by the municipal clerk. The municipal clerk shall also determine if the unopposed candidates meet the qualifications for office.

The governmental entity is required to review the certification by the municipal clerk and take action to cancel or not cancel the election. If the election is cancelled then the qualified unopposed candidates will be declared elected.

The qualified and unopposed elected candidates may not be sworn in until the normal election period has passed.

The municipal clerk will present the certification of unopposed candidates and determination of qualifications. Council may cancel the elections by adoption of Ordinance #1015.

David Maddy, Municipal Clerk, presented the certification of unopposed candidates. This will constitute the first reading. Greg Montgomery made the motion to approve Ordinance #1015, Pam Scott made the second and motion passed 3-0.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING A PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING ANNEXATION OF BRAZOS VIEW ESTATES:

A public hearing will to be held in conformance with the requirements of Section 4 of the Charter of the City of Graham regarding a petition for annexation. Owners of Brazos View Estates located along SH 16 to the south of the existing city limits have submitted a petition for annexation into the boundaries of the City of Graham. The petition provides a map and describes the metes and bounds of the proposed annexation. In accordance with the City Charter, action causing the annexation may occur anytime within 60 days after receiving the petition. A public hearing is required upon receipt of said petition. A notice will be placed in the newspaper upon authorization and a public hearing will be held on March 27 at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Council. Pam Scott made the motion to approve the public hearing, Greg Montgomery made the second and motion passed 3-0.

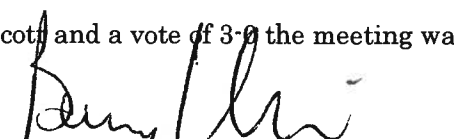
CONSIDER APPROVING TEMPORARY STREET CLOSURE FOR THE "RUN FOR THE CHILDREN" EVENT:

The event is scheduled for May 17, 2014. Third Street inside the square will be closed for finish line celebrations. The 5k and 10k routes will be the same as last year. Maps of the routes were included with the request. Pam Scott made the motion to approve the street closure, Greg Montgomery made the second and motion passed 3-0.


David Casteel reported that since the lake is down, there are more solids in the water treatment intake requiring more filtering. South Street at Cherry Street will be closed while the wall along the creek is replaced. The wall work will require the removal of three trees. The effluent permit is nearing approval. He is working with Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife on the ATV trails along Sewer Plant Road. The department encouraged the City to move on getting approval and completing the grant applications. The City applied for a depredation permit which was issued and will be used to continue harassing the buzzards and it does allow for trapping and use of shotguns to control or eliminate the birds. City staff is working with the Police Department on protocols. Larry Fields reported the Lake level at 1064.13 or 50%. Sales tax collections for March were up 9.8% bringing us closer to budget. The entire state was up 3.1%.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Greg Montgomery, a second by Pam Scott and a vote of 3-0 the meeting was adjourned.


Barry White, Mayor

ATTEST:


David Maddy, City Secretary