

March 18, 2021

The Graham City Council met in REGULAR SESSION in the Council Chambers at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 18, 2021 with the following members present:

MEMBERS:	Mayor:	Neal Blanton
	Mayor Pro-Tem:	Lee Boyd
	Council Members:	Kyle Peavy
		Shana Weatherbee-Wolfe
		Alex Heartfield
	City Manager:	Brandon Anderson (absent)
	City Secretary:	Sharon McFadden
	City Attorney:	Dan De La Cruz
	Municipal Judge:	Teresa Bishop (absent)
	Police Chief:	Brent Bullock
	Fire Chief:	Jim Don Laurent (absent)

VISITORS: Thomas Wallner, Randall Dawson, Kelli Shifflett, Lisa Kinkead, Grant Ingram, Sarah Lundgren, David Guerrero, and Sonya Marie Ramos.

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

PUBLIC FORUM: Mayor Blanton asked if anyone would like to speak in the public form. Sonya Marie Ramos introduced herself and said she became a new resident of Graham in February 2021. Ms. Ramos mentioned she is an avid walker and has noticed there are no sidewalks on the south side of town (in the City of Graham). There are a lot of businesses in the area, and she is privileged to have access to a car. She asked what it would take to get a sidewalk in place from Anytime Fitness (1104 Highway 16 South) to Wal-Mart (2121 Highway 16 South). Ms. Ramos said she has observed people walking along the edge of the road (Highway 16 South) and it does not appear safe to her. She said her father's life was lost on that stretch of road. Ms. Ramos mentioned that with Braum's preparing to open that anyone not having a vehicle will have problems accessing the new business. Ms. Ramos stated she would also like to see more sidewalks installed in residential areas, but that concern is for another day and time. Mayor Blanton said he would pass Ms. Ramos concerns to City Manager, Brandon Anderson. Mayor Blanton acknowledged there are few sidewalks in some of the residential areas. Mayor Blanton said the City Manager will review the sidewalk concerns. Lee Boyd mentioned that soon there may be a two (2) mile hiking trail out around Fireman's Park. Ms. Ramos said she is looking forward to that day.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from the Regular Session Council meeting held on Thursday, March 4, 2021 were considered. Shana Weatherbee-Wolfe made the motion to approve the minutes. Alex Heartfield seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved 4-0.

#### DISCUSS THE SALES TAX REPORT FOR JANUARY 2021 RECEIVED IN MARCH 2021:

Sharon McFadden said the sales tax received has increased 15.02 percent compared to January 2020 sales tax revenue received. She mentioned other local communities also experienced increases except for Mineral Wells and Bryson. The City (of Graham) received \$219,883 and after deducting the GEIC amount, the City (of Graham) retains \$183,162 in sales tax revenue. Mayor Blanton said what he finds remarkable that we (City of Graham) continue to experience increases in sales tax revenue.

#### CONSIDER AND ACT ON A CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF GRAHAM FOR THE TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM:

Mayor Blanton said this agenda item and the next agenda item (Resolution #124) involve the CDBG grant specifically, for Texas Street. Public Works Director Randall Dawson confirmed Mayor Blanton's statement. The proposals require the City (of Graham) Council act on these two items. Mayor Blanton asked Randall if we (the City of Graham) are successful in this (receiving the CDBG grant), what is the timeline for Public Works. Randall responded that to date there has been no mention of a time frame for project completion. Randall said the project, if approved, will begin as soon as possible. Kyle Peavy asked if they were approving this for a public hearing. Mayor Blanton said the public hearings had already taken place and are now considering this plan as required. Kyle Peavy made the first motion. Lee Boyd seconded, and the Citizen Participation Plan was unanimously approved 4-0. Mayor Blanton said there are two separate acts to consider.

#### CONSIDER AND ACT ON RESOLUTION #124 AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF THE 2021-2022 TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION:

Sharon stated there are a lot of steps that go into the CDBG grant application and we (City staff) are only bringing to Council items that the program requires Council action. Sharon mentioned these requirements build points toward the level of consideration the City (of Graham) will receive in the award process of the grant. Lee Boyd made the first motion and Alex Heartfield seconded. Resolution #124 was unanimously approved 4-0.

#### 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 5, 2021 (SEE ATTACHED MAP):

Mayor Blanton asked Chamber Manager, Lisa Kinkead, if this event will take place the same day as the Food Truck Championship. Lisa confirmed the Possum Pedal event will take place in the morning before the Food Truck Championship event. Mayor Blanton confirmed with Police Chief Brent Bullock of the route maps. Alex made the first motion to approve the Chamber request. Shana Weatherbee-Wolfe provided the second motion. The road closures request was unanimously approved 4-0.

#### CONSIDER AND ACT ON A REQUEST FROM THE GRAHAM CVB FOR USE OF THE DOWNTOWN SQUARE FOR THE ANNUAL FOOD TRUCK CHAMPIONSHIP OF TEXAS TO BE HELD ON JUNE 5, 2021:

Lee Boyd made the motion to approve, and Alex Heartfield seconded. The CVB request was unanimously approved 4-0. Lee Boyd asked if the number of applicants has decreased from previous years. CVB Manager, Grant Ingram said the applications are being submitted slower. The food truck owners are optimistic but tentative to fully commit to the event. Grant said they (Chamber/CVB) are seeing tickets to the concert being purchased

relatively quickly. Grant said he believes people are anxious to get out and there will be a good turn-out for the events. Lee Boyd asked if there would be enough food trucks at the event to fill the square. Grants said he believes there will be enough participants and currently there are twenty (20) food truck owners in the process of confirmation. Lee Boyd asked if they (food truck owners) could sign up a week prior to the event. Grant said that food truck owners could register up to a week prior to the event. Grant said if anyone knows a food truck owner, encourage them to register.

**CONSIDER AND ACT ON A REQUEST FROM KEEP GRAHAM BEAUTIFUL FOR USE OF THE DOWNTOWN SQUARE FOR THE SPRING CLEAN UP ON SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2021:**

Alex Heartfield made a motion to approve, and Kyle Peavy seconded. The request was unanimously approved 4-0.

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR, IF NEEDED:**

Mayor Blanton said he is tabling this item until May 2021. There will be two (2) new Council Members, then the Council will revisit the board appointments.

**REPORTS:**

- Public Works Director, Randall Dawson, informed Council that the Woodland water storage tank is currently down for maintenance. The maintenance process includes sanding, painting, and could be down one (1) to two (2) weeks depending upon the cure time of the paint. Maintenance is taking place on street equipment in preparation for road work to be done. The brush pile at the Convenience Station was grounded up last week. There is already a new pile of brush started. There is plenty of mulch at the Convenience Station if anyone wants some. Lee Boyd asked if City staff does the water tank maintenance. Randall said the work is contracted through a quarterly maintenance contract. Every ten (10) years the water tanks must be taken down (out of service), sandblasted, painted, and looked over. Woodland was taken down early because during grass mowing, the area around the tank was wet. Randall said City staff noticed the tank was leaking so immediately took it off-line, drained the tank, and called the contractor for early maintenance. Mayor Blanton asked how the tank is sealed. Randall explained this issue occurred during the previous maintenance cycle. The contractor identified a quarter-sized hole in the floor. The hole was sanded, a patch welded in place, and repainted.
- Police Chief Brent Bullock presented Council with the 2020 Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Report for Racial Profiling. Additional required information has been added to the report since the passing of the Sandra Bland Act. Page three (3) requires more detailed information and shows there were 3,346 stops made (for 2020) which averages about nine (9) stops each day. Basic information regarding race known prior to stop and that the report is consistent in numbers from previous years. Gender breakdown that includes 1,308 females and 2,038 males. Lee Boyd asked if these (report data) is a federal requirement. Chief Bullock said the data is required by State (of Texas) as well as Federal. The Sandra Bland Act was past about two (2) years ago and compliance requires additional training by all officers. In addition, civilian interaction training was also mandated. Mayor Blanton requested details on inventory. Chief Bullock said when a driver is stopped and arrested, they (Police Officer) are required to conduct an inventory of vehicle contents. Lee Boyd asked if all law enforcement agencies in Texas are now required to have body cameras. Chief Bullock said they (Police Departments) are required to have body cameras unless given an exemption. Exemptions depend upon the size of a police department and the funds that are available. The City of Graham was fortunate to be one of the first police departments in the State (of Texas) to be outfitted with body cameras. Lee Boyd asked how long ago the body camera program begin. Chief Bullock stated the body cameras began six (6) to (8) years ago. Kyle Peavy asked if the data is compared to composition of the population to determine if whites make up ninety (90) percent of the traffic stops but only forty (40) percent of the population. Chief Bullock said there is not a specific section for the information Kyle referred to. Chief Bullock referred to page eight (8) of the report and mentioned complaints of racial profiling. Fortunately, Graham Police Department has never received a complaint regarding racial profiling. The report does not contain, nor is required to provide the ethnicity groups of certain ethnic groups during stops. The numbers do show on the report of each group in the stops. Kyle Peavy said it would be interesting to see that (ethnicity) make up of our community would be the real tale. Lee Boyd suggested looking up demographics for Graham to obtain the information. Chief Bullock said the numbers are consistent with the history of previous numbers. Occasionally, stops according to race do occur because it is known a particular individual has a warrant. That action is not taken to racially profile, it is in effort to locate the person for which the warrant was issued. Mayor Blanton asked Chief Bullock if the numbers are broken down to individual officers as to how many traffic stops they make. Chief Bullock said the breakdown occurs for performance review purposes.
- Lisa Kinkead, Manager of the Chamber, said the Chamber Golf Tournament is coming up on April 26, 2021. Team slots are available for the morning.
- CVB Manager, Grant Ingram, said Crawfish and Cannons is moving along well and takes place on April 10, 2021 at Fort Belknap. There are 116 runners registered for the Goodnight-Loving Run. There are many people purchasing tickets to Crawfish and Cannons event.
- Mayor Blanton stated the City Hall Activities Report and the Utility Services Representative Report for February 2021 are in the back of the Council packet. Also, the Library Report for February 2021, the Municipal Court Reports, and the Code Enforcement reports are included in the packet. Kyle Peavy asked if this was two months in a row that Municipal Court Reports were not submitted. Mayor Blanton said he would turn the concern of Municipal Reports over to Brandon for review since the ordinance at the last meeting delegates Brandon responsibility to oversee that.
- City Secretary, Sharon McFadden, said her report ties in with the City Hall Monthly Activities Report. The report includes the month from the first (1<sup>st</sup>) to the end of the month. However, the utility billing cycle runs from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 15th of the following month. Numbers are accurate by month but conflict with the billing cycle. The freeze from February is included in the billing cycle that is in the process of being closed and bill printing will occur in the next few days. Approximately 35 leak adjustments have already been submitted and processed. A leak adjustment requires an invoice from a plumber or a receipt from a retail vendor showing purchase of parts to repair the leak through self-repair. Once the invoice is submitted, the request is processed. The meter readings are reviewed to determine the start and ending of the leak. The City (of Graham) provides a credit for half of the water consumed during the leak. Brandon and Sharon discussed options for offering an adjustment for dripping faucets in addition to leak adjustments. It was agreed that if a customer provides an invoice, receipt, or calls City Hall to request a dripping faucet adjustment, the request

will be considered. The customer will receive a credit for half of the water that ran through the meter during the freeze from February 13 to February 19, 2021. Customers with dripping faucets were attempting to avoid freezing pipes and City Staff will be waiving the required invoice or receipt during the freeze time frame. City Staff reviewing every water account manually when there are more than 4,000 customers would not be feasible. However, customers who contact City Hall will receive consideration on a freeze adjustment. Mayor Blanton said this process is very reasonable and going back to when Jack (referring to prior Mayor, Jack Graham) approving the installation of the new meters gives the City (of Graham) the ability to review meter readings makes a huge difference. There is the ability to review when the water is flowing through the meter. Sharon said no one has called to request a payment arrangement (due to the freeze) since the billing cycle is currently being closed. Sharon said she anticipates customer calling to seek a payment arrangement and we (City staff) are willing and able to assist customers.

- Mayor Blanton stated the lake is currently 93.1 percent full and anticipates rain soon.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

  
Neal Blanton, Mayor

ATTEST:   
Sharon McFadden, City Secretary

