

April 11, 2013

The Graham City Council met in REGULAR SESSION in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 11, 2013 with the following members present:

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

VISITORS: Olga Gonzalez, Alex Heartfield, Bill & Pat Sanderson, J McLeroy, Bobby Hawkins, Christopher Luckey, Billy Armstrong, Jennifer Conway, Neal Blanton, Sandra Helvey, Jason Cottongame, Coby Leach, Robert San Miguel, Jim Helvey and Cherry Rushin.

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

PUBLIC FORUM:

Bill & Pat Sanderson, who live in the 900 block of Cherry St., asked Council to consider a sign or enforcement aid to slow traffic on Cherry between Hwy 16 So. and South Streets. Traffic speeds through this area and is hazardous to those who live in the affected blocks of Cherry St. Chief Widner and David Casteel will look into the situation and recommend a solution.

MINUTES APPROVED:

Minutes from the March 28, 2013 regular meeting were approved 4-0 on a motion from Jack Graham and a second from Pam Scott.

CONSIDER SELECTION OF ARCHITECT FOR PARK PAVILION:

The Council authorized a request for qualifications (RFQ) be advertised for the design of the pavilion and restroom facilities in the new park being developed in conjunction with the BRA and Corps of Engineers. It is anticipated that the construction will take place next winter and spring for a summer 2014 opening. The design phase will need to commence in the next months to meet this schedule. Five firms responded to the RFQ and a subcommittee of YOU LEAD evaluated and interviewed the firms. Alex Heartfield with YOU LEAD said the committee interviewed four firms and selected Schrickel, Rollins and Assoc., Inc. in Arlington, TX. The City will have control over costs developed as part of the design and has the right to go with a different company if the design does not meet cost restrictions. Pam Scott made the motion to authorize City staff to negotiate a contract which will involve cost estimates, Spencer Street made the second and motion passed 4-0.

CONSIDER ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE #1005 AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION NOT TO EXCEED \$2,500,000:

The completion of the City's 2011-12 audit is not final and has caused this item to be tabled until the next council meeting.

CONSIDER ORDINANCE #1003 ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS FOR FISHING IN FIREMEN'S PARK POND:

The City, local groups and citizens have invested in improving and re-stocking the pond in Firemen's park for improved fishing. The ordinance will establish the following rules for fishing:

1. Fishing limited to ages 15 and below. Adults may assist children if using the same fishing pole.
2. One fishing pole per child.
3. Limit 3 fish per day kept per child. No limit on fish caught and released.
4. Fishing hours are daylight to dusk.

The cost of the first stocking has been committed from private funds. The first fishing tournament was a success with over 130 children participating. This was the final reading. Jack Graham made the motion to approve the ordinance, Spencer Street made the second and motion passed 4-0.

CONSIDER ORDINANCE #1004 AMENDING THE GRAHAM MEDICAL AND FAMILY LEAVE ACT:

As required by federal law the City adopted the Medical and Family Act in 2005. A provision of the act allows an employee on FMLA to continue TMRS retirement by making voluntary contributions. The City was notified by TMRS that they do not allow an employee on leave without pay to contribute to their TMRS retirement account. This ordinance removes the provision from the City's adopted act. This was the second reading for the ordinance. Jack Graham made the motion to approve Ordinance #1004, Pam Scott made the second and motion passed 4-0.

REPORTS:

Chief Covey said the OPM exhibit of the history of the Graham Fire and Police departments was a success. Jason Cottongame said that new home starts were up 30% with \$1.5 million in tax value. Robert San Miguel has developed new Standard Operating Procedures on detecting violations,

performing inspections, gathering evidence and doing follow-up work. Larry commended him for the work. Jack Graham asked when the yard parking ban becomes effective. It is May 15, 2013. David Casteel said that the public has made positive comments on the parks. The creek cleanout let water from the recent rain drain quickly. Several members of the park staff were present and Council commended them on their work. Larry reported the lake level at 1069.25 or 71.2% capacity. 1075' is full. Stage 1 drought contingency starts when the lake is at 1064'. Stage 1 is voluntary; stage 2 is outside watering on alternate days. May tends to be the best rainfall month for Graham. He may recommend stage 1 before the lake drops to 1064'. April sales tax was up 27% over April 2012. The February and March financials show the City to be on target. The lift stations continue to be a problem and the Sewer Fund may be over budget.


ADJOURNMENT:

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



Barry White, Mayor

ATTEST:



David Maddy, City Secretary