

April 23, 2015

The Graham City Council met in REGULAR SESSION in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 23, 2015 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: Larry Fields (Interim)-absent  
 City Secretary: David Maddy  
 Chief Accountant: Sharon McFadden  
 Police Chief: Tony Widner  
 Assistant Police Chief: Brent Bullock-absent  
 Fire Chief: Dennie Covey

VISITORS: Jimmy Guinn, Jim Guinn, Brandon Anderson, Brian Rash, Joe Finfrock, Roy Pitcock Jr., Chris Blanton, J. W. Budge, Gary Elrod, Ronnie Robertson, Debbie Robertson, Fr. Ronald Moore, Vickie lee, Kelley Hudson, Knox Bishop, Patsy Dollar, Scott Townley, Jerry Bibb, Michael and Kelly Carmichael, Danny Hendrix, Amy Pinkston, C. Planter, Jerry Schultz, Neal Blanton, Jimmy McLeroy, Randall Dawson, Frank Herpeche, Dennis Fellows, Justin Howard, Jerry David, Jennifer Conway, Sandra Helvey, Jim Helvey, Jason Cottongame and Casey Holder.

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

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

Mayor Graham introduced the new City Manager, Brandon Anderson, who will start on June 16.

**MINUTES APPROVED:**

Minutes from the April 9, 2015 regular meeting were approved 4-0. Darby Brockway made the motion to approve minutes and Pam Scott made the second.

**CONSIDER STAGE 4 COMPLIANCE VARIANCE REQUESTS:**

Four requests for variances on the watering times were submitted.

1. Stephens & Myers, 515-517 4<sup>th</sup> street, hand water 9-10 a.m.
2. The Vogue, 504 Oak Street, hand water 10-10:15 a.m.
3. Graham CVB, 458 Oak Street, hand water 8-9 a.m.
4. Ms. Shirley Irvin, 806 Indiana, hand water 8-9 a.m.

Brint Albritton made the motion to approve the four variances, Spencer Street made the second and motion passed 4-0.

**CONSIDER GRAHAM CVB REQUEST FOR VARIANCE FROM ORDINANCE #540 REGARDING POSSESSION AND CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON THE CITY SQUARE DURING THE FOOD TRUCK CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT:**

Larry Fields submitted a few points in favor of the variance:

1. Ordinance #540 was adopted for the purpose of controlling litter on the Square. As a gathering place for kids, vehicles would be parked on the west side with the kids playing music on Friday and Saturday nights. Beer was often involved and litter was a problem as well as underage drinking enforcement. The Ordinance was passed to address the possession of alcohol and therefore took care of the littering.
2. The two recent elections addressed the sale of alcohol in stores. This is a different situation and some have told City management they voted against the retail sales but do not think this event presents a problem.
3. The CVB has one purpose; to bring visitors to Graham and to stay in motels. This provides the revenue for CVB to operate. It is important for the visitors to have a good experience and to come back. The majority of people attending such events expect alcohol.

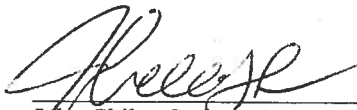
A number of residents spoke to the issue on both sides. Several addressed it from the viewpoint that the town was voted dry and others were concerned about children being present at the event. Neal Blanton and Mayor Graham corrected the viewpoint that Graham is dry noting that alcohol is available in a number of the restaurants. One commented that alcohol would be allowed into the concert at the drive inn and could not understand why it would not be available on the Square for the event. Brint Albritton commented that he had heard from supporters for the variance, a number of which had voted against the sale of alcohol in stores, but supported the variance. He said the area of consumption would be restricted and well managed. Spencer Street was concerned about the precedent for future events. Pam Scott said she had found a list of successful events that did not sell alcohol. Brint Albritton made the motion to grant the variance to allow the sale of alcohol for the Food Truck Event, Darby Brockway made the second. There were two votes for and two against. Mayor Graham cast the vote to break the tie, voting for the variance. The motion passed 3-

**REPORTS:**

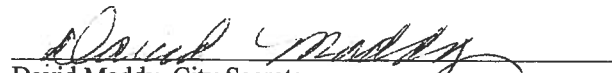
Chief Widner presented the March Police report noting that burglaries were still down. Three trainees are graduating the police academy. There is one more position to fill. The lake level is 1060.35' or 37.9%. 1075' is full.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Pam Scott, a second from Darby Brockway and a vote of 4-0 the Council meeting was adjourned.

  
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John Chiles Graham, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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David Maddy, City Secretary