

May 11, 2021

The Graham City Council met in a SPECIAL CALLED MEETING in the Council Chambers at 5:15 p.m. on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 with the following members present:

MEMBERS: Mayor Pro-Tem: Lee Boyd (arrived late)
 Council Member: Alex Heartfield
 Council Member: Shana Weatherbee-Wolfe
 City Manager: Brandon Anderson
 Administrative Assistant: Kelli Shifflett

VISITORS: None.

ENTERED INTO A PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:18 P.M.

Alex Heartfield called the meeting to order. at 5:18 p.m.

Brandon stated the purpose of the meeting is to canvass the election (held May 1, 2021). Guidelines state there must be two Council members present and there are two Council Members. The election results were provided by Lauren Sullivan, Elections Administrator for Young County. City of Graham Council Member Place Three (3) with Jack Little as the unopposed candidate received 111 absentee votes, 173 early votes, and 73 election day votes. The total number of votes for Place Three (3) were 357. There were 28 undervotes. City of Graham Council Member Place Four (4) had two candidates. Tom Green received 49 absentee votes, 70 early votes, and 22 election day votes. Mr. Green received a total of 141 votes. Randy Cantin received 65 absentee votes, 116 early votes, and 57 election day votes. Mr. Cantin received a total of 238 votes. 62.80 percent of total 379 votes cast six (6) undervotes. Even taking the undervotes into account, there is a clear margin for Place Four (4) to elect Randy Cantin. Brandon said he now presents to the City Council. Brandon said this is the Canvass of the General Election from May 1, 2021 on May 11, 2021. The canvassing is taking place at the Council Chambers at the Graham Visitor and Business Center, 608 Elm Street, Graham, Texas. City Council is certifying that the figures on the tally sheets correspond with the figures on the returns. Brandon said the signing of the Canvass (Form AW9-2) will be changed to be signed by attending Council Members. Brandon said he would entertain a motion to accept the canvassing. Alex Heartfield said he would make the motion to approve the canvassing of the General Election held on May 1, 2021. Shana Weatherbee-Wolfe seconded the motion. Brandon instructed Kelli to change the Canvass (Form AW9-2) to reflect the attending Council Members instead of the Presiding Officer. Brandon said the law requires canvassing to take place no later than May 12, 2021 and this is the only option (Lee Boyd not attending to sit as Presiding Officer).

Lee Boyd arrived at the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Brandon announced Mayor Pro-Tem Lee Boyd has arrived at the meeting. Lee said he was prepared to canvass the election. Brandon said the election results were provided by Lauren Sullivan, Elections Administrator for Young County. City of Graham Council Member Place Three (3) with Jack Little as the unopposed candidate received 111 absentee votes, 173 early votes, and 73 election day votes. The total number of votes for Place Three (3) were 357. There were 28 undervotes. City of Graham Council Member Place Four (4) had two candidates. Tom Green received 49 absentee votes, 70 early votes, and 22 election day votes. Mr. Green received a total of 141 votes. Randy Cantin received 65 absentee votes, 116 early votes, and 57 election day votes. Mr. Cantin received a total of 238 votes. 62.80 percent of total 379 votes cast six (6) undervotes. Even taking the undervotes into account, there is a clear margin for Place Four (4) to elect Randy Cantin. Lee Boyd asked for an explanation of the undervotes. Alex Heartfield stated that 385 people cast a vote and did not vote in that race (referring to Tom Green vs. Randy Cantin, Place 4) but those six (6) people did not vote in the Jack Little (Place 3) race. Alex said 28 people that did not vote in Jack Little (Place 3) but voted in the Tom Green vs. Randy Cantin, Place 4. Lee Boyd said he was surprised at the number of early and absentee votes cast over the election day votes. Brandon said he asked Lauren Sullivan about the absentee voting. Voters annually apply, and the absentee ballots are mailed as requested. Lee Boyd asked if some of those absentee voters are military. Brandon said some are military and elderly are the most frequent to apply (for absentee ballot). Brandon said Lauren Sullivan told him the higher number of absentee voters is not abnormal. Brandon said there needs to be a motion to allow Mayor Pro-Tem to sign the Canvass of General Election (AW9-2). Alex Heartfield made the first motion, and Shana Weatherbee-Wolfe seconded. The canvass was unanimously accepted 2-0. Brandon asked Mayor Pro-Tem Lee Boyd to sign the Canvass of General Election (AW9-2).

PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED AT 5:40 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Alex Heartfield made the motion to adjourn the Special Called Meeting.


 Neal Blanton, Mayor

ATTEST: 
 Sharon McFadden, City Secretary