

July 8, 2021

The Graham City Council met in REGULAR SESSION in the Council Chambers at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 8, 2021, with the following members present:

MEMBERS:	Mayor:	Neal Blanton
	Mayor Pro-Tem:	Shana Weatherbee-Wolfe
	Council Members:	Alex Heartfield
		Jack Little
		Randy Cantin
	City Manager:	Brandon Anderson
	City Secretary:	Sharon McFadden
	City Attorney:	Dan De La Cruz (absent)
	Municipal Judge:	Jim Reeves
	Police Chief:	Brent Bullock
	Fire Chief:	Jim Don Laurent

VISITORS: Jack Graham, Thomas Wallner, Lisa Kinkead, Dennis Fellows, Rob Jackson, Ramsey Jackson, Kent Pettus, Tommy Donnell, Sonja Ramos, Allen Dixon, Tracey Terasas, Kelli Mellema, Luke Robbins, Grant Ingram, Tony Ramirez, Carla Ritchie, Sarah Lundgren, David Aleshire, BJ Cook, Randall Dawson, Terrie Moore, and Brenda Gatton.

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

PUBLIC FORUM: Mayor Blanton asked if anyone would like to speak in the public forum. Kelli Mellema introduced herself and provided Council with details regarding her concern for the quality of water in the City of Graham. She shared information obtained from other residents and her neighbors on their disappointments in the quality of water. Ms. Mellema stated water is dingy brown and often has a "sewer" type odor. An acquaintance of Ms. Mellema installed a filtration system on the entire house. Filters are supposed to last for three (3) months and Ms. Mellema displayed a very soiled used filter that the acquaintance told her was only used for one (1) week. Ms. Mellema said it is costly for citizens to replace filters, add additional chemicals to swimming pools, poor repair of streets on the many water leak repairs being made, and businesses reporting experiencing poor water quality. Ms. Mellema said Facebook posts regarding water quality are happening and increasing. Ms. Mellema said on July 1, 2021, a post was made by someone stating they had contacted Attorney General Ken Paxton's office. In response, the Public Utility Commission (PUC) reached out to them (person filing complaint) and requested additional support by providing pictures. Ms. Mellema said within a few hours, 47 posts were submitted and forwarded to the PUC. Many additional posts have taken place. Ms. Mellema said flushing the lines is not a fix to the problem, only a "band-aid." There is a large amount of water loss taking place with each line flush that occurs and does not always help, it can get worse. Ms. Mellema said she has never made a formal complaint and posts from Facebook agree that line flushing is not a long-term fix. She mentioned knowledge of Parkhill in planning an alternate (water) line to the City (of Graham) and in January 2021 there was discussion on infrastructure repairs for Texas Street and no follow-up has been mentioned by the City (of Graham). Ms. Mellema said she appreciates the City (of Graham) acting by flushing the lines. She said there has been previous mention in Council meeting (referring to Council minute history) but would like to see it (the water quality concern) discussed more and more action taken. Ms. Mellema said she recalls one Council member stating they have not experienced discolored water. Everyday life for Ms. Mellema and other citizens of Graham is adversely being affected by poor water quality. She requests the community be better informed and served if updates and more information were provided in a central location. Ms. Mellema said it would be beneficial to know about reserve funds, grant options, grant updates, construction and project updates, and Council meetings posted online, like what took place during COVID-19. Ms. Mellema requested support from her friends and neighbors. She received some support but also received discouragement and distrust of the process. Ms. Mellema said due to the length of time this has taken place (referring to water quality), people have grown weary and finding it necessary to take an alternate course of action. She personally prefers to rely on our City Council members and has seen the power of the community. Ms. Mellema said it is necessary to get the long overdue repairs in the budget and on the calendar. Mayor Blanton thanked Ms. Mellema for her comments. Mayor Blanton asked if anyone else would like to speak in the public forum. Kent Pettus provided a written opinion of the way he perceives Council to conduct business and provided Texas Local Government Code 253.001(b) with Texas Attorney General Letter on Opinion No. 97-057. Mr. Pettus said he has not appeared before Council in several years. He said he was reading an article in the Graham Leader (local newspaper) regarding the sale of City (of Graham) property or the City (of Graham) acting as a lessee. Mr. Pettus said this action has been taking place for decades and he explained the process of how previous properties have been handled. Mr. Pettus said advertising property is required and his opinion is that Councils over the years have done minimal advertising only to the letter of the law. He is recommending writing it (referring to sale of property) into City Code and specifications of how property that is up for sale or lease is advertised. Mr. Pettus believes the community would feel better and would be aware of what you (referring to City Council) are doing more than the way it is being done now. Mr. Pettus said he did not review other city codes for comparison and that maybe other cities are also only minimally advertising with two (2) or sometimes three (3) advertisements. He said the City (of Graham) has a fiduciary responsibility to make sure as many people as possible are aware (of property leases and sale of property). Mr. Pettus referred to the blank space at the bottom of the first page he provided to Council. He said that blank space was for talking about specific cases but did not want to discuss that in a public forum. Mr. Pettus said he is frustrated with the way that is being handled (referring to lease and sale of City properties). He referred to the second page about the sale of Lake Eddleman Park property. Mr. Pettus stated the City (of Graham) must call for an election before proceeding with sale. Mr. Pettus asked if that (election) has been addressed. Brandon Anderson responded to Mr. Pettus stating that will be addressed (referring to sale of property and election). Mayor Blanton thanked Mr. Pettus for his comments and stated public forum is now closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Session Council meeting held on Thursday, June 24, 2021, were considered. Shana Weatherbee-Wolfe made the first motion. Alex Heartfield seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved 4-0.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON RECEIVED RFP'S FROM THE RFP (REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL) FOR LAKE EDDLEMAN BEING 15.337 ACRES OF THE C.P. HEARTT SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 133, AND T.E. & L. COMPANY SURVEY NO. 3413, ABSTRACT NO. 1233, YOUNG COUNTY, TEXAS. SAID 15.337 ACRES ALSO BEING PART OF LAND CONVEYED TO THE CITY OF GRAHAM, TEXAS RECORDED IN VOL. 352 PG. 9, VOL. 659, PG. 331, VOL. 132 PG. 119, VOL. 340 PG. 56, AND VOL. 342 PG. 189 OF THE DEED RECORDS OF SAID COUNTY:

Brandon said this is the third time for presenting this to Council and the request has been previously tabled twice. He told Kent Pettus he appreciated his comments today (referring to public forum). Brandon said the concerns Mr. Pettus mentioned today are going to be discussed in Executive Session. Brandon said a group of individuals in Graham previously inquired about the type of plans being presented today and since the City of Graham must follow the bid process, an RFP was issued. The City Attorney recommended the RFP bid include sale or possible lease and provide details of what the responders would do with the land. Brandon said the legal requirements and postings took place. Brandon said in the future the City (of Graham) will post RFPs on the Facebook page. The parks board created the parks plan in 2018 and the City (of Graham) would be receiving \$1.3 million dollars from the Brazos River Authority (BRA). Brandon said one (1) of the pieces of playground equipment intended to go into the new park will cost approximately \$650,000 and the funds received will not go far. Brandon said funding for phase one (1) of the parks is coming from Texas Parks and Wildlife. The City (of Graham) will be using approximately \$470,000 of the \$1.3 million for phase one (1). The State will match that at 50 percent. Phase one (1) is upgrades to Fireman's Park with American Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance with bathrooms, a lighted walking trail that is secure, and the large piece of playground equipment previously mentioned. Phase five (5) in the parks plan included recommendations from the parks board for improvements to Lake Eddleman. Brandon said it is difficult for cities to locate expendable tax dollars to spend on parks. Expectations are funding police, fire, and repairing streets with little remaining for parks. Brandon said this opportunity could be a very interesting public/private partnership that the City (of Graham) could enter. Brandon stated the City (of Graham) has poorly maintained the property (Lake Eddleman), not governed, and tax dollars are not available to pay someone to monitor the area on the weekends. The area is heavily used and enjoyable. Brandon said this would be a good opportunity to attract visitors to enjoy and spend tax dollars with retailers. Two (2) Council members, Brandon, and a few other individuals have met with the Jackson's of RKJ Adventures. Brandon intended on receiving more RFPs for the project but only one (1) was received. The proposal has been discussed in two (2) previous Council meetings and has gained interest from others. Amenities to be added include two (2) sandy beaches, water supported playground-style equipment, availability of fuel, availability to a boat slip, and better management of the park. There is understanding of concerns from neighbors. Fireworks set off on July 4th and someone's vehicle broke down while driving in non-designated areas. Brandon said this is a responsible step to improve Lake Eddleman and the RFP was issued for sale or lease. Brandon said Mr. Pettus' concern will be discussed in Executive Session and the City Attorney will be participating by phone. Mayor Blanton asked the public if there were any additional comments. Mayor Blanton asked if there were any additional questions from Council members. Mayor Blanton asked the Jackson's if this project is something new for them and there is no basis in this business per se. (The Jackson's nodded in agreement with Mayor Blanton). Mayor Blanton asked the Jackson's (in a cordial way) what makes them think they can run this type of business in which they have no previous experience. Mr. Jackson said in November 2020, he and his wife decided this type of project is what they are wanting to do. He has studied, visited many places in his RV, identified what he and others prefer in an RV park. The Jackson's had a previous venture interest in Stephenville, but the owner sold the land. There have been opportunities in Fredericksburg and Blanco but prefer Lake Eddleman since it is closer to home. Mr. Jackson said his management experience and Mrs. Jackson's experience in sales and marketing provides what is needed to make the Lake Eddleman Park a success. Mrs. Jackson provided details of her experiences with start-up companies and the successes she has had in her career. Randy Cantin asked if the Jackson's family has been involved in RV parks in the past. Mrs. Jackson said they have not, but an uncle owns a local business, and their family has been successful in building businesses and being self-employed. Shana Weatherbee-Wolfe asked if their parents were staying there (referring to Lake Eddleman RV Park). Mrs. Jackson said they are staying on Highway 16 that has all the amenities needed. Mr. Jackson said in January 2021, this project is exactly what they want to do. Jack Little asked Brandon Anderson if the City (of Graham) put this out for bid and this proposal is the only one (1) received. Brandon stated, "yes." Jack Little asked if anyone has estimated what amount of revenue this project may bring to the City (of Graham). Brandon said the question has been dealt with at the arena and it is hard to quantify what visitors bring to the economy. Brandon said groceries, fuel, and restaurants will benefit. Brandon said the current RV Park at Lake Eddleman generates approximately \$11,000 each year in revenue. Brandon said the City (of Graham) is not managing Lake Eddleman to its standards. Jack Little asked if the property is sold, where will the money be designated? Brandon said if the property is sold, the vote would be required, and the funds would be returned to the park system. Brandon said the lease land around the lake, if sold, would be put into a reserve fund for the lake and could be used in the water fund for water lines. Jack Little said sale of Lake Eddleman property will not go into the water fund. Brandon said part of the funds could go into the water fund, but a portion will have to go back into a similar product because of State statute. Mayor Blanton asked if there was anything else from Council then announced that Council will be entering into an Executive Session.

ENTERED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:28 A.M.

Sec. 551.072 Deliberations Regarding Real Property.
Sec. 551.071 Consultation with Attorney.

EXIT FROM THE EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:52 A.M.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON ANY ITEMS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Blanton announced Council will consider acting on item number four (4) (RFP for Lake Eddleman). Alex Heartfield stated he wanted to make a motion to empower Mr. Anderson and City staff as well as Council members appointed to the Committee to negotiate terms of a lease with RKJ Adventures, LLC. Alex Heartfield said terms of the lease will be presented to Council for approval in two (2) weeks (Council meeting on July 22, 2021). Jack Little made the second motion. The request was unanimously approved by a vote of 4-0.

Brandon Anderson mentioned that Tracey Terasas was attending the meeting. Brandon stated he wanted the life jacket loaner station to remain. The City assisted Ms. Terasas with installation, and it needs to remain at Lake Eddleman.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF GRAHAM AND THE CITY OF NORTH RICHLAND HILLS FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES FROM VENDORS SELECTED THROUGH THE COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROCESS AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 791.025 TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE:

Brandon Anderson said this is for the streets project the City intends to do and said Randall Dawson will provide details. Brandon said the City of North Richland Hills has a contract with the vendor the City wants to use. Brandon said this is common and other cities have done this too. Randall Dawson said since they (referring to the City of Richland Hills) purchases at a lower rate and gives us (referring to the City of Graham) a better rate. The City (of Graham) will be saving \$44,000 on slurry seal for streets. Randall said the savings equates to \$.75 per square foot. Jack Little asked if this was for projects, the City (of Graham) was already planning to do. Randall answered, "Yes." Jack asked if slurry seal was good. Randall answered, "Yes." Randy Cantin asked if there is a warranty or if the work is "backed." Randall said the company comes in and applies the product and it is backed by them. Jack asked if it is better than what we (referring to City staff) we do. Randall said slurry seal has not been done previously in Graham. Randall said it should hold up better than what is currently being done. Jack asked Randall if he were confident, it would be better. Randall confirmed it would be better. Jack Little made the motion to approve the request based on Randall's recommendation. Randy Cantin provided the second motion. The request was unanimously approved 4-0.

DISCUSS THE YOUNG CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT (YCAD) 2022 PROPOSED BUDGET:

Mayor Blanton introduced Luke Robbins, Chief Appraiser, Young Central Appraisal District. Luke said he was attending to answer questions on the 2022 proposed budget for YCAD. Jack Little said since he is new to this process (referring to being a Council member) that he would like a brief explanation of the services YCAD provides to the City (of Graham) and who directs him (referring to Luke Robbins). Luke said YCAD has a board of directors that directs him. The board members are appointed by the various entities in Young County (schools, cities, county). All taxing entities have a portion of the 5,000 votes and entities share the votes based on their percentage of the tax levy. School districts have the most votes. The county and cities have less votes. Darby Brockway is currently the representative for the City of Graham. Luke said he would like to have members of the (current) Council participating. There currently is a Commissioner (on the YCAD board) who represents the County. Luke said participation provides them (Council member) the ability to report back to Council on YCAD. Luke said the process of what YCAD does is appraise and put a market value on every property in the county. The properties include all businesses, houses, land, agriculture, commercial, industrial, and personal property. Luke said from Walmart to vacant land. Jack asked if Luke works for the county (referring to Young County). Luke stated he works for all the entities. Jack asked if the City (of Graham) pays his (referring to Luke) salary. Luke said the City (of Graham) pays a portion and all entities pay his salary and fund the YCAD budget. Luke said that includes appraisals and collections (of property tax funds). Jack asked Luke if he works for the State (of Texas). Luke answered he is not directly but is monitored by the State (of Texas). Luke stated there are MAP reviews which are Methods and Procedures Reviews that are reviewed every other year. Luke said practices are reviewed for accuracy to the Uniform Appraisal Practices set forth by the International Association of Assessing Officers. Jack asked if they (referring to the MAP reviewers) set the guidelines. Luke said the State (of Texas), State Tax Code, and the Texas Legislature set all the guidelines. Mayor Blanton stated to Luke that YCAD is seeking a 10.88 percent increase in the overall budget. Luke stated Mayor Blanton's comment is correct. Mayor Blanton asked if the YCAD board has acted on the budget yet. Luke responded that the board has not acted but has been presented and discussed the overall increase. Luke said a large portion of the increase is for the hiring of an additional appraiser to better serve the entities. Luke said more staff will help expedite the process and appraisal, better meet deadlines, and provide entities with data needed for their (referring to the entities) processes. Luke said nearly half of the budget increase is for an additional personal property appraiser. Mayor Blanton asked how many appraisers are currently working for YCAD. Luke said there are currently three (3) appraisers, and he (Luke Robbins) is not included. Luke said he primarily oversees the appraisers and the process. Mayor Blanton asked how long YCAD has employed three (3) appraisers. Luke said since he has been with YCAD starting in January 2011, there have been three (3) appraisers. Jack said when he looks at the YCAD combined budget, there is an increase of \$102,000. Luke stated that Jack was correct. Jack said schools, the cities, and all the other entities will pay a part of the \$102,000. Luke stated that Jack was correct. Luke said for the appraisal and collections that the total allocated costs to the City of Graham with the proposed budget is \$68,990 for the year. Mayor Blanton asked what the amount was for the school (referring to GISD). Luke said Graham ISD amount is \$274,686 and Young County pays \$230,000. Mayor Blanton asked for the percentage's breakdown on how that (referring to the entities part of the budget) will be divided. Randy Cantin stated the ten (10) percent increase. Luke said he does not have that broke down that far. Luke said the additional amount (of the budget increase) for the City of Graham will be \$7,356 over last year's budget. Luke said the increase includes adding another employee with benefits, built an increase in dental and vision. Luke said the YCAD budget will be adopted around or before September 15, 2021. Luke said the numbers being presented are preliminary and somewhat padded. Luke said the health insurance calendar is May 1 to April 30. Luke said it is difficult to determine insurance since rates are not annually adjusted on January 1. Luke said closer to September, he will have better figures for the healthcare costs. Jack said that as a City (of Graham), there will be an additional \$7,000. Luke said \$7,356 additional funds. Jack said YCAD is proposing to add an additional employee. Jack asked Luke if YCAD is considering adding a cost of living raise to employees. Luke stated he believes he added a 3.5 percent salary increase. Jack asked how many entities were involved in the process. Luke stated there are twelve (12) entities that include cities, schools, counties, hospitals, and college. Luke said there are two (2) hospitals, five (5) school districts, and Woodson ISD, and some of Bryson ISD. Jack asked Luke that when he makes a decision, do all the entities have the chance to vote on the decision. Luke asked Jack what decision he is referring to. Jack said he is not trying to point out the obvious. Luke said the decision he makes are approved by the YCAD board of directors. Luke said when the YCAD budget is presented (to YCAD directors) and adopted, entities will have 30 days to disapprove it and if a majority disapproves, then YCAD has another 30 days to rework the budget. Jack asked if everything the YCAD offices does has to be approved by the majority of the twelve (12) entities. Mayor Blanton said it is not by the entities, but by the YCAD board of directors. Luke said it is by the YCAD board of directors that have been appointed by the entities YCAD serves. Randy Cantin asked Luke if they (YCAD) can tax Woodson and Bryson. Luke said parts of the school districts come into Young County and YCAD appraises everything within Young County. Luke continued by saying the school districts overlaps into Young County. Mayor Blanton said Bryson ISD and Woodson ISD do not have representatives. Luke said both usually four (4) to five (5) votes. Luke generally what happens when they (YCAD) have the board elections, Newcastle, Olney, the City of Olney, and those in the northern end, generally collaborate and chose an individual to cast their votes. Mayor Blanton asked who the representatives currently are on the YCAD board. Luke stated that Dan De La Cruz and Z.T. Burkett are currently serving. Jack asked Brandon Anderson if the City of Graham offers City employees a cost-of-living raise. Brandon said the City (of Graham) has tried but it is more of a struggle at times. Brandon said the cost-of-living raise is usually between 1.5 and three (3) percent and last year (fiscal year 2020-2021) was two (2) percent raise for City staff. Brandon told Luke he appreciated him attending the meeting. Brandon said this is an odd situation with two (2) new Council members elected in November 2020. The election was moved from May 2020 to

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Luke said when the YCAD budget is presented (to YCAD directors) and adopted, entities will have 30 days to disapprove it and if a majority disapproves, then YCAD has another 30 days to rework the budget. Jack asked if everything the YCAD offices does has to be approved by the majority of the twelve (12) entities. Mayor Blanton said it is not by the entities, but by the YCAD board of directors. Luke said it is by the YCAD board of directors that have been appointed by the entities YCAD serves. Randy Cantin asked Luke if they (YCAD) can tax Woodson and Bryson. Luke said parts of the school districts come into Young County and YCAD appraises everything within Young County. Luke continued by saying the school districts overlaps into Young County. Mayor Blanton said Bryson ISD and Woodson ISD do not have representatives. Luke said both usually four (4) to five (5) votes. Luke generally what happens when they (YCAD) have the board elections, Newcastle, Olney, the City of Olney, and those in the northern end, generally collaborate and chose an individual to cast their votes. Mayor Blanton asked who the representatives currently are on the YCAD board. Luke stated that Dan De La Cruz and Z.T. Burkett are currently serving. Jack asked Brandon Anderson if the City of Graham offers City employees a cost-of-living raise. Brandon said the City (of Graham) has tried but it is more of a struggle at times. Brandon said the cost-of-living raise is usually between 1.5 and three (3) percent and last year (fiscal year 2020-2021) was two (2) percent raise for City staff. Brandon told Luke he appreciated him attending the meeting. Brandon said this is an odd situation with two (2) new Council members elected in November 2020. The election was moved from May 2020 to

November 2020. There were two (2) other Council members elected in May 2021. Brandon said their learning curve is quite steep at this time. Brandon said none of the new Council members were around, but he and the Mayor were. Brandon said his concern is with the valuations that went out this week and the Facebook post. The post said if the City (of Graham) and the County (Young County) are going up on the evaluations like this, that everyone can agree YCAD is responsible for doing the evaluations. The City and County set the tax rates. Last year the evaluations went up to the degree that the City adjusted the tax rate down from .66 cents to .61 cents. Brandon said one note of concern that our board shared (City Council) is the criticism of moving the lake lot leases from untaxable land to taxable land. Brandon stated "My concern is if YCAD saw that coming and knew the ramifications that it could be to one (1) of the taxing entities that you (referring to Luke) work for, why was the City of Graham not notified and was your board aware of that decision prior to that being sent out?" Luke said he will answer the question but is here on an agenda item to talk about the YCAD budget. Brandon told Luke he is rewarding employees with a 3.5 percent raise for the job they did last year. Brandon said that is a concern that he has as an entity that pays a portion of that budget. Luke said he has publicly and privately apologized for the way that (referring to lake lot land taxing) was handled and again, he is taking complete ownership of what happened at the lake. Luke said it could have certainly been handled better and it all falls on him. Jack said it is big of Luke to say that (comments regarding lake lot taxing notification). Jack asked if the YCAD board was aware of the taxing of lake lots. Luke said the YCAD board was not aware but did know tax values were going up. Jack told Luke he appreciates his honesty. Mayor Blanton asked if the projected YCAD budget was presented to all taxing entities. Luke confirmed all entities have received the projected YCAD budget. Mayor Blanton asked if there have been any responses from other entities. Luke said he spoke with Judge Bullock (Young County) and asked about the increase. Judge Bullock asked if the budget increase was due to hiring another appraiser. Luke confirmed with Judge Bullock that YCAD intends to hire another appraiser. Mayor Blanton asked what the value is for having another appraiser. Mayor Blanton said property is getting appraised now with current staffing and wanted to know what the advantage is of adding another appraiser. Luke said YCAD should be sending notices out in May and did not get them (invoices) out until last week (June 28 – July 2, 2021). Luke said the law allows for business personal property owners. The law requires them to render their personal property of their business. For example, inventory, furniture, fixtures, and equipment. Luke said those requests are sent out to every business owner in the county in January and they have from January until April 14 to return the form. Luke said if an extension is requested, then business owners are granted an automatic 30-day extension. The due date becomes May 15. Luke said they (business owners) must show good cause, and if he agrees to it, business owners are provided an additional 15 days. Luke said there is an influx of properties to be appraised right at the end of the appraisal cycle. Luke said a couple of years ago, there was a lady doing those (business appraisals) for YCAD but left to return to nursing school. Luke said fortunate for YCAD, the lady had time available and contracted to complete the business appraisals. Luke said this year (2021) YCAD tried to absorb that (business appraisals) in-house, but it did not work. Luke said YCAD needs more boots on the ground to get that (business appraisals) done to better cover the county the way it is needed. Jack said it appears to him that YCAD is doing a great job with the staff they currently have. Luke thanked Jack and said he would relay that to YCAD staff. Jack asked Luke what would happen if Council does not approve the YCAD budget. Luke said the City Council has the option to disapprove and that during the adoption, it will be sent to all the entities. By resolution, the City of Graham will need to disapprove the YCAD budget. If most of the entities feel the same way, then YCAD will go back to the process. Mayor Blanton asked if the City of Graham (City Council) is the only entity disapproving, then YCAD budget will be adopted anyway and done. Luke stated that Mayor Blanton is correct. Mayor Blanton and Brandon thanked Luke Robbins for attending the meeting.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON A REQUEST FROM THE GRAHAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR USE OF THE DOWNTOWN SQUARE ON MONDAY, AUGUST 9, 2021, FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M. FOR THE 2021 ANNUAL TEACHER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST (DETAILS AND MPA IN REQUEST LETTER):

Chamber of Commerce Manager, Lisa Kinkead, told Council the event will be the same as last year on the square. Shopping spree will be taking place again this year. The difference is splitting the event by campus for passing out of the goody bags. Splitting campuses should alleviate traffic line going down the street. Lisa referred to the map in the Council packet for the goody bag pick up locations. Mayor Blanton stated the event was a big success last year. Lisa agreed and said everyone had a great time. Jack Little said he is making the motion to approve the event. Alex Heartfield seconded, and the request was approved 4-0.

REPORTS:

- Municipal Court Clerk, Carla Ritchie, gave an update on the reports being updated. She stated outstanding citations have gone from 8,738 down to 7,130. She said Incode is still working with her on corrections. She is working with the State (of Texas) to get reports that need to be updated. Carla said everything is going well. Mayor Blanton thanked Judge Reeves for attending the meeting.
- Sharon McFadden, City Secretary, referred to the Utility Representatives Report (front desk staff) in the packet. Sharon praised front desk staff for five (5) continuous months of no errors in cash, checks, or processes. Mayor Blanton stated that is quite an accomplishment and asked Sharon to please express to them (front desk staff) our appreciation.
- City Manager, Brandon Anderson, said the lake level is 100 percent full. The huge rain on July 3, 2021, caused postponement of Fourth at the Fields event at the soccer field. Brandon said the square was busy and Chalk the Walk was affected. The Chamber web page has photos of entries. Brandon reminded Council that tonight (July 8, 2021) is the first budget workshop (special called meeting). The meeting will be long, and Brandon issued each Council member and Mayor copies of the preliminary budget and additional attachments. Brandon briefly explained the budget packets and attachments. Brandon said the budget meeting will take place tonight at 6:00 p.m.
- Jack Little said he has a couple of comments. He said he did not get her name (referring to Ms. Kelli Mellema), but he wanted to thank her (Ms. Mellema) for speaking during public forum and expressing her views. Jack said he does not do social media but does catch the aftermath. He said she (Ms. Mellema) did a very good job (of informing Council on water concerns). Jack said Council is fully aware and is addressing the issue the best way they (Council) can in the capabilities. Jack said he wished more people would attend and speak in public forum. Jack said the second item is Sharon McFadden's birthday and wished her happy birthday.
- Mayor Blanton said what makes us great as a community is on Sunday night (July 4, 2021) at the park (soccer fields) the fireworks display was a tremendous event. There were children playing, music playing, food, and the fireworks display. Mayor Blanton thanked the Graham Soccer Association for their big part in the event. The Budget Workshop will take place this evening (July 8, 2021) and the public is invited to attend. The meeting is from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at 608 Elm Street, Graham, Texas.

ADJOURNMENT:

Jack Little made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Alex Heartfield seconded.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neal Blanton", written over a horizontal line.

Neal Blanton, Mayor

ATTEST:  Sharon McFadden, City Secretary

