

The Graham City Council met in REGULAR SESSION in the Council Chambers at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 16, 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 (absent)
	City Attorney:	Dan De La Cruz (absent)
	Municipal Judge:	Jim Reeves
	Police Chief:	Brent Bullock
	Fire Chief:	Jim Don Laurent

VISITORS: Marci Bueno (record minutes), Randall Dawson, Kelli Shifflett, Thomas Wallner, Randall Reid, Lisa Kinhead, Jimmy McLeroy, Carla Ritchie, David Aleshire, Dennis Fellows, BJ Cook, Tony Ramirez, Grant Ingram, Kim Shawver, Pedro Marrufo, Hailey Calcote, Josh Hufstедler, Kyle Ford, Riley Acosta, and Pastor Gary Elrod.

ORDER: Mayor Blanton called the meeting to order and asked Pastor Gary Elrod to open with prayer.

PUBLIC FORUM: Mayor Blanton asked if anyone would like to speak in the public forum. No comments were made.

OATH OF OFFICE:  
Police Chief Brent Bullock introduced new police officer, Riley Acosta. Municipal Judge Jim Reeves conducted the oath of office for Police Officer Riley Acosta. Mayor Blanton welcomed Officer Acosta.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:  
Regular Session Council meeting held on Thursday, September 2, 2021, were considered. Shana Weatherbee-Wolfe made the first motion approving the minutes and Alex Heartfield seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved 4-0.

Special Called Meeting – Public Hearing for 2021 tax rate (ad valorem) and fiscal year 2021-2022 budget were considered. Randy Cantin made the first motion to approve the minutes and Shana Weatherbee-Wolfe seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved 4-0.

#### CONSIDER AND ACT ON THE AUGUST 2021 FINANCIALS:

Brandon mentioned that Sharon McFadden was out of the office today (September 16, 2021). Brandon said the financial report is close to what the end of year (fiscal year 2020-2021) will look like. The general fund was budgeted for \$7,009,768 and the revenue received was \$7,996,829. Brandon said some of the revenue received was from the Cares Act funds from the federal government for \$450,000 to \$500,000. Brandon said departments are doing well on overall expenditures. The budgeted expenditures are \$7,091,891 and the actual is under with \$6,634,906. Brandon said the general fund will make a good step toward advancing toward recovery. Typically, during this time of year (near end of fiscal year), the revenue from taxes has been depleted and cash balance is much lower. Brandon said sales tax revenue has been very strong and we (City of Graham) are having a good year (2020-2021). Brandon said the garbage fund is an in and out that was created as its own fund last year. Garbage revenue was budgeted at \$1,520,521 with the actual revenue at \$1,678,640. The expenses of the garbage fund were budgeted at \$1,426,333 with the actual expenses at \$1,427,901. Brandon said on the water fund, Dennis Fellows (water plant superintendent) brought the water report to him and said that is the most water used in a couple of years (for that one month). Brandon said water sales was lagging but is now on track. The water revenue was budgeted at \$4,377,161 with the actual revenue at \$4,372,244. Water fund expenditures was budgeted at \$4,125,162 with actual expenditures at \$4,193,025. There is a surplus in the water fund of \$179,219. Brandon said the cash in the water fund is the cash balance. Page seven (7) is the sewer fund. The budgeted amount to this point is \$1,144,688 with an actual of \$1,114,485. The expenses budgeted were \$1,120,104 and the actual expenses are \$1,089,263. Mayor Blanton asked if there were any questions on the financials. Alex Heartfield made the motion to accept the August 2021 financials. Jack Little made the second motion, and the financials were unanimously accepted by a vote of 4-0.

#### DISCUSS SALES TAX FOR JULY 2021 RECEIVED IN SEPTEMBER 2021:

Brandon said the sales tax report is for discussion only. Every month, except for one (1) month, was substantially positive. The year (2020-2021) started off with a deficit of 0.98 percent and every month after that, the average was well above 10.00 percent monthly. Brandon said the sales tax has recovered nicely since about four (4) years ago when 60 to 70 jobs were lost. Brandon said sales tax was previously being overbudgeted in anticipation of the sales tax that was not received. Brandon said for this year, he budgeted \$2,100,000 for this year (2020-2021) and the City (of Graham) has received \$2,549,000 resulting in a surplus of \$449,000. Brandon said that refers to the balance in the revenue side of the general fund (mentioned in the August 2021 financials). Brandon said there is hope in building a reserve in the general fund. Brandon said a positive year (2020-2021) for sales tax revenue. Mayor Blanton agreed with Brandon's comment of the positive year (2020-2021) and asked if there were questions regarding sales tax.

#### CONSIDER AND ACT ON ORDINANCE #1111 AMENDING APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS IN VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS:

Brandon said throughout the year there are emerging needs. Municipal Court had a leaking overhang on the building. Memorial Auditorium also had a leaking roof needing repair. Those expenditures were not budgeted. Municipal Court repair costs were \$4,700 and \$8,380 for Memorial Auditorium. The auditor prefers the budget adjustments be done through ordinance. Brandon said there was \$5,000 budgeted in Municipal Court for legal expenses that have not been used and he is moving the \$5,000 to other contract services. Brandon said in addition to other changes made at Municipal Court, there has been a new upgraded security system installed and the moving of funds will help offset that expense. Brandon said in the water fund, the budget amendment he is proposing results from a circumstance that has not been previously an issue. Brandon said there was dirty water running through the

system and we (City of Graham) care about the wholesale customers. Brandon contacted Fort Belknap Water Supply (FBWS) and they (FBWS) also must deal with this to a higher degree than we (City of Graham) do. They (FBWS) have so many miles of (water) lines and dead-end (water) lines, so for the health of their (FBWS) system, we (City of Graham) requested FBWS to flush their water system and document the flushing. Brandon said the City (of Graham) would reimburse FBWS for the water sales received from FBWS but were for the purpose of flushing and it (refunding money) was the right thing to do. Mayor Blanton asked if the amount for the Memorial Auditorium amount falls into the project. Brandon said that is possible and all of that will get moved into the next fiscal year (2021-2022). Mayor Blanton asked if that project was going to be moved into next year (2021-2022). Brandon confirmed the project will be moved to next fiscal year (2021-2022). Brandon said there may be another budget amendment presented at the next Council meeting (September 30, 2021) because there were three (3) trucks budgeted as capital expenses and the funds are in the account. Brandon said those trucks were not delivered. Brandon said the slurry seal for street repairs will not be delivered until after October 1, 2021. Brandon said we (City of Graham staff) are waiting for a recommendation from the auditor on how to handle these expenses. Brandon said he believes the auditor may suggest a budget amendment to remove the expenses from the current budget (2020-2021) at the next Council meeting (September 30, 2021). There would likely be a budget amendment at the first Council meeting of the new fiscal year (2021-2022) to add the expenses. Jack Little asked if the \$20,799 was refunding FBWS for the dirty water from flushing their lines. Brandon said FBWS was billed for the dirty water, but the City (of Graham) staff suggested FBWS flush their system like the City (of Graham) was doing. Jack Little stated that when quality issues are of concern, FBWS absorbs the cost, and this is an exception because the City (of Graham) staff recommended the flushing. Brandon agreed with Jack Little's statement. Mayor Blanton asked if the new sound system for Memorial Auditorium had been installed. Brandon said the sound system has been purchased and ordered but not delivered yet. Mayor Blanton asked if there were any questions. Alex Heartfield made the motion to approve Ordinance # 1111. Randy Cantin provided the second motion. Ordinance # 1111 was unanimously approved 4-0.

**CONSIDER AND ACT ON A REQUEST BY JAMES TAPSCOTT TO WAIVE PENALTY AND INTEREST DUE TO A LATE PAYMENT POSTED ON HIS AD VALOREM TAXES:**

Brandon said this is an unusual circumstance and believes if he were not to present the request to City Council, the request may not be handled correctly. Brandon said Mr. Tapscott called him and said he put his payment in the post office drop box to be post marked by the 30<sup>th</sup>, which was the due date. Brandon said Mr. Tapscott had a conversation with the Postmaster about the concern. Mr. Tapscott said the envelope was postmarked on the 1<sup>st</sup>. The postmark had a one (1) day difference and Brandon said he has never been presented documentation regarding late fees assessed. Brandon said he believes the Young County Appraisal District (YCAD) should oversee and manage. Brandon said he told Mr. Tapscott the assessed late fees were not in his (Brandon's) control. Brandon provided Mr. Tapscott with contact information to the board representative (Darby Brockway) of the appraisal district. Mr. Tapscott contacted Darby Brockway. Darby Brockway contacted Luke Robbins (YCAD). Brandon said afterward he received the email (copy provided in the Council packet) stating he (Luke Robbins) reviewed the request and does not have the authority to waive penalty and interest. Mr. Robbins stated Mr. Tapscott would need to provide a request to each taxing entity that imposes the penalty and interest. In Mr. Tapscott's case, that includes Young County, City of Graham, Graham Hospital, Graham ISD, and North Central Texas College. Brandon said there is also included (in the Council packet) an email from the Postmaster at Iowa Park acknowledging the payment could have been dropped into the box on the 30<sup>th</sup> but not postmarked until the 1<sup>st</sup>. Brandon said the tax bill was \$1,262.98 and the late fee was going to be \$292.14. Brandon said in this circumstance, he is not aware of Mr. Tapscott's payment history, and that information was not provided. Brandon said based on the information provided (in comparison to the policies of late payments for utilities), he would stand firm. Brandon said it is not clear who is to blame in the situation, if the payment history is good, then he would recommend waiving the fees and move on. Brandon said he believed City Council would want to waive the fee and move on. However, he cannot make a decision based on the contents of the email (from Luke Robbins of YCAD), that puts the decision to City Council. Randy Cantin asked if this type of request is normal. Brandon said he has never previously experienced this type of request. Mayor Blanton stated he is not aware of this type of request. Jack Little asked if this has never occurred and been presented to City Council in the past, then why is it being presented now. Jack Little asked if the gentleman (Mr. Tapscott) has a history of making late payments. Brandon said that is not known. Jack Little said this request is not in City Council's realm and he does not understand. Jack Little said he has had issues with mail (referring to postal service) and so have many other people. Jack Little asked if every (taxing) entity would be voting on this (request for waiver of fees). Brandon said he cannot speak for the other entities but stated the other taxing entities received the same email. Brandon said he is concerned that if the actions as specified in the email (from Luke Robbins of YCAD). Brandon said the fees should probably be waived. Brandon said he had a conversation with Darby Brockway about the request. Brandon said he is not able to speak on behalf of the City Council and the way the email is authored, he would feel more comfortable for Mr. Tapscott's information provided, if he were a late payer, the information should have been attached (by Luke Robbins of YCAD). None of the information (payment history) was provided based on what has been provided, Brandon would provide a one-time courtesy waiver of the fees. Alex Heartfield asked where the \$292.14 would go. Brandon said the \$292.14 would go into penalties and fees within our budgeted item. Mayor Blanton said the \$292.14 is split amongst all the taxing entities. Jack Little said he noticed the email (in the Council packet) states the appraisal district (YCAD) does not have the authority to waive the fees then asked if that was correct. Brandon and Mayor Blanton said this is the first occurrence, so they do not know the answer. Alex Heartfield said he finds it difficult to believe this request has never happened before. Randy Cantin to prevent this type of situation, the issue should be addressed. Alex Heartfield said he makes the motion to waive the penalty based on the information provided. Jack Little made the second motion. Jack Little said moving forward, Council needs to know what they are doing and if this is going to be (reoccurring). Mayor Blanton said there needs to be a vote first on the motion. All Council members accepted the motion (4-0 vote).

**CONSIDER AND ACT ON ALLOWING CITY MANAGER TO CONTACT YOUNG COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT TO REQUEST LUKE ROBBINS, ATTEND THE COUNCIL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2021, AND PROVIDE EXPLANATION OF GUIDELINES, INCLUDING WAIVING OF FEES:**

Jack Little said there was a body (referring to YCAD) that issued a tax on City (of Graham) property without us (City Council) knowing, to the lease holders at the lake. Jack Little said they (YCAD) cannot make a decision on the this (Mr. Tapscott's request). Jack Little said he is going to contact the board (referring to the YCAD board). Jack Little said if it is not addressed, then we (City Council) will be looking at these types of requests all the time. Alex Heartfield said there needs to be clarification on what their YCAD's authority is. Brandon said if Council would like to make another motion that he, as City Manager, reach out and ask Luke Robbins to come to the next Council meeting to explain waiver of fees and guidelines they (YCAD) are going to follow moving forward. Brandon said if

the City (of Graham) is going to pay an entity (referring to YCAD) \$68,000 to take care of the City (of Graham) tax business, then why is something this minor (referring to penalty waiver request) is going to be presented (to City Council). Mayor Blanton said he assures that Graham ISD is not going to address every single one of these (penalty waiver request). Jack Little said he knows this is not the first time this (penalty waiver request) has occurred and wants to know how it has been handled in the past. Randy Cantin said he makes a motion to give Brandon the authority to discuss with him (Luke Robbins of YCAD). Jack Little made the second motion. The motion was unanimously approved 4-0.

Jack Little said this covers our (referring to City Council) part of it and asked if this will be issued to all five (5) entities. Mayor Blanton said all five (5) entities received the email and whatever action those entities take is their decision. Jack Little said if we (City Council) are the only entity making the call, then what will happen. Mayor Blanton said he does not know but will find out. Jack Little asked Brandon to find out what happens. Brandon said he will handle it.

**CONSIDER AND ACT ON A REQUEST BY RANDALL REID REGARDING THE PROPERTY LEASE OF 312 HOT POINT LOOP AND PEANUTS CRAPPIE HOUSE. MR. REID IS ALSO REQUESTING TO ADD TWELVE (12) ADDITIONAL RV HOOKUPS, TWO (2) MOBILE CABINS, AND TWENTY (20) CAMPSITES:**

Brandon said Mr. Reid is present at the Council meeting. Mr. Reid has approached Brandon and Randall Dawson (Public Works Director) about what is being requested. Brandon referred to the letter submitted by Mr. Reid. Mr. Reid introduced himself and thanked Council for their time. Mr. Reid stated he and his wife are owners of the Crappie House and are in their second year of a five (5) year lease. There is approximately ten (10) acres at 312 Hot Point Loop. Currently there are eight (8) RV hookups and a fishing house. There is an additional RV hookup for he and his wife. Mr. Reid said there is also another hookup for their children when they come to visit. All the RV spots are booked through January 2022. Mr. Reid said there is a big need for additional RV spots and people call every day and he is having to turn them away every day. Mr. Reid said Brandon has worked with him and a lot of money has been spent building restrooms, building the road, and making the area something the City of Graham can be proud of. Mr. Reid said he wanted to compliment on how the City (of Graham) is being ran and doing good in sales tax. Mr. Reid said he is "Pro Graham" and respectfully requests you (City Council) allow additional site requested be allowed. Mr. Reid said that at this time, there is only about one-third of the property leased is being used. Brandon said 8.988 acres is being leased by Mr. Reid. Mr. Reid said some of the acreage is low and may not be feasible for campsites. Brandon asked Mr. Reid how he reached the numbers for the request, if there is a layout of how it would look. Mr. Reid said he did not make one (layout plan) but if they (Council) are familiar with the property, the west part is water frontage that cannot be utilized. From the existing RV park over to Highway 380, they are not able to use any of that property and the lease does not permit anymore than the campsites for eight (8) RV's. Mr. Reid said he would like to put two (2) portable cabins over there. Randy Cantin asked how the septic system is equipped to handle the additions Mr. Reid said he is not going to offer sewer for the additional ones, only water and electricity. He said they make install a dump site. Mr. Reid said he is permitted for everything he currently has on the property with engineering and permits. The current septic system can handle what is currently there and there are no intentions in making additional septic system at this present time. Brandon told Mr. Reid that what needs to be presented is a layout of what he (Mr. Reid) is wanting. Brandon said this is the first he has heard about not including additional septic and asked how a drop station would be put in. Mr. Reid on top of the hill there is a big rock that could be removed, and a holding tank installed. Brandon said per ordinance, it would likely must be tied into the sewer. Brandon said there are talking points and would like to see a layout and set guidelines. Brandon told Mr. Reid in advance that the request would be on the agenda. Mr. Reid said this is his third time to present and he has talked to you (referring to Brandon) numerous times. Brandon told Mr. Reid that as soon as that was done, Brandon would bring the request to Council. Brandon asked Mr. Reid if this was his request (referring to the information provided in the Council packet). Mr. Reid confirmed his request submitted. Mr. Reid this is his second request for this. Brandon said the first request brought to Council was for the lease. Mr. Reid agreed with Brandon. Brandon said prior to the lease (agreement with Mr. Reid), the property was poorly managed. Brandon said the agreement was for only five (5) years because the City (of Graham) wanted to see the results and when driving down highway 380, that is what the public sees. Brandon said his concern is with stringing twenty (20) campsites down the shoreline. Mr. Reid said there are more than twenty (20) campsites over at the RV park at Lake Eddleman. Brandon told Mr. Reid that is not going to be discussed. Mr. Reid said he was going to discuss it and he does not see what the difference is. Brandon said with Mr. Reid's demeanor, the City (of Graham) can say they are happy with the current lease. Mr. Reid said he has spent \$15,000 to build a restroom and that people over at Eddleman Park come over to that location (312 Hot Point Loop) to use the restroom. Brandon told Mr. Reid he is bringing up items that have been addressed and are going to be fixed with the new lease the City (of Graham) has got. Brandon said he hears Mr. Reid's frustration and either Mr. Reid is willing to sit down and logically discuss the next step, or he (Mr. Reid) is not. Mr. Reid said he thought that is what he was doing here today. Brandon said he recommends City Council to table the request for staff to get with Mr. Reid. Brandon said he recommends Mr. Reid provide a site plan of what he is proposing and then the ordinance will be reviewed regarding the sewer requirements. Jack Little told Randall Dawson that is our water supply (referring to the lake) for the City (of Graham) and his question is the size of septic Mr. Reid intends to install. Brandon said it is all according to code. Mr. Reid said he had this all planned out, he contacted 911 and presented to them, he got a permit, and they came out and inspected the site. Mr. Reid said he laid all the sewer system, and he has a permit of everything that has been done out there so far (improvements at 312 Hot Point Loop). Jack Little said they (referring to Council) need to review the request and people will want a bathroom somewhere. Jack Little said if they (Council) allow twelve (12) more trailers (RV's), there will be dumping going on somewhere even if there are no hook up's (for water and sewer). Jack Little said a very important item to him is will you (Mr. Reid) will be capable to taking care of the necessities that are on a point. Jack Little said the Council's obligation to constituents is to protect the water (lake) and not just Mr. Reid's facility, but also any other facility. Mr. Reid said he realizes where you (Council) are coming from (concerns), and Mr. Reid wants to protect his own interest too. Mr. Reid said he has done everything he can to work with Mr. Anderson, work with all the rules, existing rules, and he got permits to build the restroom, permits for the sewer. Mr. Reid said that is how this transpired, he came to get a permit to start all these additions and that is where we have come to today. Mr. Reid said he drew out a plan for the sewer system and a certain distance from the water. Jack Little said his last visit to the area, he noticed the improvements and all the activity. Jack Little said it appeared to be eight (8) or nine (9) hook up's (for RV's). Randy Cantin said there are eight (8) hook up's, one (1) for the owner, and one (1) he (Mr. Reid) has for family. Jack Little said there were a lot more trailers when he visited the area in the area than what was in Mr. Reid's lease. Jack Little asked Mr. Reid if that statement was true. Mr. Reid said there have been as many as five (5) trailers (RV's) waiting on hook ups to become available, the trailers (RV's) were not hooked up to anything (water, sewer, electric). Mr. Reid said he has two (2) children that have trailers

(RVs), and he has those parked out there (312 Hot Point Loop). Mr. Reid said if they (referring to his children) can visit him for a couple of weeks, he will move their trailers (RV's) over and hook them up. Mayor Blanton said the request needs to be reverted to City (of Graham) staff. Brandon needs to meet with the staff to look at the site plan and show Council exactly where it is going to be. Jack Little said he recognizes Mr. Reid becoming aggravated and understands but they (Council) are obligated to determine what is best for the City (of Graham) and him (Mr. Reid) too. Jack Little said that is our (Council) obligation. Mr. Reid said he thinks everything that is good for him many not be good for the City (of Graham). Jack Little said he agrees with Mr. Reid and thanked him. Mr. Reid said he agrees, he will do all he can, has worked hard, and probably spent \$200,000 on fixing it up (improvements to 312 Hot Point Loop). Mr. Reid said more than \$20,000 was spent just on the road and if not familiar, the property looks nothing like it did at that time (beginning of his lease agreement). Mr. Reid said he has spent over \$15,000 on cleaning up the underbrush. Jack Little said that has been to the Crappie House and now Mr. Reid is reaching out to try and make a whole different deal which is the concern. Mr. Reid said he leased one (1) acre with the Crappie House and the City (of Graham) approached him wanting to lease him the additional land for the same \$600 a year amount as Crappie House. Mr. Reid said he agreed to take the other and started spending money on it. Mr. Reid said he now has a new five (5) year lease that has increased over 400 percent. Brandon said the lease was increased only when the RV hook ups were added. Brandon said this has been a good relationship with Mr. Reid and he has done a very nice job on improving things. Brandon said when he first came (six years ago), he received more complaints on the road to the Crappie House more than any other road in town. Brandon said the original agreement was to give Mr. Reid the rest of the land to use for fishing off the shore. Brandon said the lease agreement was changed prior to Mr. Reid's lease. Brandon said the only business there is the Crappie House and that was the reason for the change. Brandon said the change in the lease came when Mr. Reid came to add the nine (9) RV hook up's we (City of Graham) negotiated. Brandon told Mr. Reid he signed that lease in good faith. Mr. Reid said regarding the road, when he leased that road went all the way through 312 Loop and went all the way to the east side. Mr. Reid said he built a gate to shut the traffic off. Brandon said that was part of the reason in the original agreement. Mr. Reid said he did that (stopped the traffic flow). Brandon agreed that Mr. Reid accomplished stopping traffic flow. Brandon said there needs to be a plan presented and what he (Mr. Reid) is proposing, Brandon questions because he does not see Mr. Reid fitting all the request into the usable land, he (Mr. Reid) has available. Brandon told Mr. Reid that asking him (Mr. Reid) to put the request into a layout (plan) is not too much and Council will likely not take action until it (layout plan) is presented. Brandon said there is also a requirement to follow the ordinances. Mr. Reid said it has got to be different than what is at Eddleman Park. Brandon told Mr. Reid if he is upset about Eddleman Park, that is stage five (5) of the parks plan. Brandon said the City (of Graham) cannot wait for the change but bringing up Lake Eddleman is not going to change his (Mr. Reid's) request. Alex Heartfield said two (2) months were spent in negotiating for that (Eddleman Park lease) and they (RKJ Adventures lease) had site plans. Mr. Reid said he wants them to know (Council) where he is coming from because he is getting upset, agitated, and apologized. Alex Heartfield told Mr. Reid that we (Council) appreciate all he has done there (312 Hot Point Loop). Mr. Reid said he has worked hard and spent a lot of money fixing it up (312 Hot Point Loop). Mr. Reid said he is proud of what he has done and wants the City of Graham to be proud too. Mr. Reid said he has no intentions of doing anything that is not in agreement with everyone. Mayor Blanton told Mr. Reid that they (Council) are not telling him "no" and are wanting to table his request currently and refer to them (City of Graham staff). Mayor Blanton suggested Mr. Reid to get a site plan together showing exactly where he wants to do everything and the positions we are going to have. Mayor Blanton said we (Council) are not declining his request, they (Council) are wanting to table the request. Alex Heartfield said they (Council) need more information. Mr. Reid thanked Council for their time. Simultaneously, Council members and Mayor Blanton thanked Mr. Reid. Alex Heartfield made the first motion to table the request. Jack Little provided the second motion, and the request was tabled with a unanimous vote of 4-0.

**CONSIDER AND ACT ON A REQUEST BY THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE GRAHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND THE GRAHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT TO HOLD A TRUNK OR TREAT EVENT ON THE DOWNTOWN SQUARE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2021, BEGINNING AT 5:00 P.M. THE REQUEST ALSO INCLUDES BLOCKING THE SQUARE FROM 4:30 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M. (SEE ATTACHED MAP):**

Lisa Kinkead, Chamber of Commerce Manager, said the Chamber, Graham Police Department, and Graham Fire Department would like to host Trunk or Treat inside the square, directly across from the Graham Leader. Other local businesses have been invited to participate. Lisa said the request is strictly for the interior of the square, not the streets. Mayor Blanton asked if a request to Young County needed to be submitted. Brandon said if on the county courthouse lawn, then yes. Lisa said the event will not take place on the county side of square. Randy Cantin made the first motion to approve the request and Shana Weatherbee-Wolfe seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the request 4-0.

#### REPORTS:

- Brandon Anderson said there is a bid opening today (September 16, 2021) on the TxDOT Aviation project and is excited to get it done. That will take place today (September 16, 2021) at 2:00 p.m. at City Hall (612 Elm Street, Graham, Texas). The lake level is at 92 percent full. Brandon said there is an agreement with the CVB, and a copy of the CVB budget is in the Council packet. The CVB budget was voted on yesterday (September 15, 2021) and approved. The funds the City of Graham give to the Chamber to manage the CVB for the City (of Graham). The last calendar year income in hotel and motel tax dollars must be spent toward putting "heads in beds." The funds are restricted to be spent in a certain manner. The CVB is a recognizable manner for the City (of Graham) to spend the hotel and motel tax dollars. This year we (CVB/City of Graham) are budgeting \$197,000 and the figure is reflected in the CVB budget. Many of the events hosted have benefitted and are revenue generating. The CVB does a great job for Graham, Texas. There is no action to be taken, just provided for awareness and that the CVB is fulfilling the contracted agreement. The appraisal district budget (provided in Council packet) was approved yesterday (September 15, 2021). The one (appraisal budget) presented to the City (of Graham staff) in June 2021 and presented to City Council in July 2021. The first (Council) meeting in August 2021, Council voted to deny the ten (10) percent increase (in appraisal district budget). There was not a lot of information provided once he (Brandon) sent the denial back. However, last Wednesday (September 8, 2021) he (Brandon) and Mayor Blanton attended their (YCAD) budget meeting to adopt the budget. They (Brandon and Mayor Blanton) voiced their concerns regarding the City Council denial. After that, he (Brandon) provided the appraisal district with more information and YCAD provided some information of their own. Yesterday (September 15, 2021), the deadline for YCAD to adopt a budget was September 15, 2021. Luke Robbins (YCAD) presented a similar budget and instead of a 10.88 percent increase in overall budget was reduced to a 9.6 percent increase. The result will be the City of Graham paying approximately \$1,000 less. The amount to pay YCAD (for tax appraisal services) will be \$68,022 and last year (2020) the amount paid (to YCAD) was \$61,634. This is still a substantial increase to our general fund budget. Brandon said if the Council prefers, the YCAD budget can be brought back to the next Council meeting for action or if in agreement,

there is no action since we (Council) concur the budget is acceptable. Mayor Blanton suggested the YCAD budget be brought back to Council in two (2) weeks (September 30, 2021) and take formal action. Randy Cantin said he agrees with Mayor Blanton. Brandon said the YCAD budget will be on the next (Council) agenda. The Council packet also has a court report. Brandon asked if Municipal Judge Jim Reeves wanted to present his court report to Council.

- Municipal Judge Jim Reeves told Council since the last Council meeting (September 2, 2021) they have taken \$4,151. Pre-trial took place on September 7, 2021, and there was one (1) defendant that asked for a jury trial and did not show up. Warrants were issued for those. Final dispositions were reached on thirteen (13) cases and five (5) were rescheduled at the request of an attorney. There was a total of 22 cases on that date, we got settled. Brandon said he appreciates what they are doing at Municipal Court.
- Randall Dawson, Public Works Director, said street work took place on Fourth Street yesterday (September 15, 2021) and will be finished off next month with sursey seal. The guys (line maintenance staff) are repairing a lot of water leaks regularly. City staff were able to get the ducks for the Rotary Duck Derby moving so next Saturday's event (September 25, 2021) should be good.
- Council member Randy Cantin said he wanted to add to the fixing of some of the water leaks. Last night (September 15, 2021) driving down Indiana Street, he saw water running down the street, so he followed the trail. There was a crew there between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. and between 8:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. they had a six (6) inch line break at a tap. The crew had to cut 34 inches and several cuts to get into good pipe to replace the pipe. The crew did an excellent job, good timing, and this meeting is being live streamed. He asked those who are watching live stream that if they see a crew working, to give the crew some "kudos." He asked Randall to tell the crews. Randall thanked Randy Cantin and said he would inform work crews of the appreciation.
- Brandon said the fire department had to abruptly leave the Council meeting. At Graham Junior High School, a student dropped some mercury. Everything is fine currently. Police Chief Brent Bullock informed Brandon that Fire Chief Jim Don Laurent has the mercury confined to one (1) room. All vents are going to be sealed off, the door and A/C (air conditioning) to the room have been disabled. HazMat has been contacted and (Fire Chief) is talking to them (HazMat) on the next step to clean it (mercury) up safely. Mayor Blanton asked if the Junior High was going to be evacuated. Brandon said it is contained to one (1) room and is assuming there will not be a need to evacuate. Brandon said Graham ISD will be issuing a notice to parents in a few moments. There were 30 to 50 BB sized drops of mercury on the floor. The situation is under control and advised those viewing the live stream to watch for Graham ISD notification.

#### ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Randall Reid asked if he could address Jack Little a second for the additional trailers (RVs) that are out there (312 Hot Point Loop). Mayor Blanton advised Mr. Reid that he is welcomed to talk with him (Jack Little) after the Council meeting. Mr. Reid thanked Mayor Blanton. Mayor Blanton asked if there was anything else (that needs to be presented to Council). There were no responses.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

Jack Little made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Alex Heartfield seconded. Mayor Blanton thanked everyone for attending.



Neal Blanton, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sharon McFadden, City Secretary