

November 08, 2012

The Graham City Council met in REGULAR SESSION in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 08, 2012 with the following members present:

MEMBERS: Mayor: Barry White
Mayor Pro-Tem: Jack Graham
Council Member: Spencer Street III
Pam Scott-absent
Greg Montgomery
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: E. Hawkins, Jay Hawkins, Chris Butler, Devin Smith, Jason Cottongame, Larry Camp, Bruce Street Jr., Alex Heartfield, Jerry Schultz, Jennifer Conway, J. McLeroy, Neal Blanton, Sandra Helvey and Carla McKeown.

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

PUBLIC FORUM:
None

MINUTES APPROVED:

Minutes from the October 25, 2012 regular meeting were approved 4-0 on a motion from Greg Montgomery and a second from Spencer Street.

DISCUSSION OF CORPS OF ENGINEERS SALT CREEK PROJECT:

An update on park planning was discussed. Citizens who volunteered to work on a park planning committee have completed a three week planning effort in conjunction with the City and BRA staffs. After discussion with Council a report will be developed and submitted to the BRA and Corps of Engineers for consideration. It is desired that the BRA and Corps will work with the City during the next few months to execute appropriate agreements to allow funding and construction of the new park in the Salt Creek project during 2013. Alex Heartfield, Jennifer Conway and David Casteel reviewed the committee's plan with Council. The pavilion, restrooms, playgrounds, picnic areas, trails and future uses were covered. Security and lighting were also discussed. Demolitions of property in the area should be completed by February 2013 and the clean up finished by next summer. Construction on the park could begin in the fall of 2013 and be open by summer 2014. It is hoped that BRA will consider a \$1.3 million transfer to the City with \$1 million for capital improvements and \$300,000 for a park maintenance fund.

CONSIDER CLOSING AND ABANDONING ALLEY ROW S ½ Lot 4, Block 20, OLD TOWN:

This alley was dedicated in 1920 and has never been used by the City and is a grassy area. The abutting property owners have requested closure. Action by Council today is to call a public hearing on Dec. 8th, after which an appraisal to establish market value will be done and the abutting property owner must pay market value plus appraisal and legal costs. Greg Montgomery made the motion to call for the public hearing, Jack Graham made the second and motion passed 4-0.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN:

Mayor White opened the hearing at 10:05 a.m. Chris Butler handed out four maps and reviewed the major details. Mayor White closed the hearing at 10:17 a.m.

CONSIDER ADVERTISING FOR SALE TAX TRUSTEE PROPERTY, 0.069 ACRES, BLOCK 73, BEN HILL ADDITION:

This is a small vacant tract of land off of Hwy. 16 N. that the City became trustee through a delinquent tax suit. A person has requested to buy the property which has to be sold by advertised public bid. Bids will be presented on the Dec. 8 agenda if the advertising is approved. Jack Graham made the motion to approve advertising for bids, Spencer Street made the second and motion passed 4-0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BID FOR SEWER LINE EXTENSION HWY. 16 S:

This project was approved by Council several years ago but was delayed by the long process of acquiring the row necessary to install the 6 inch sewer line on the east side of the highway. That has been completed and the request for bids was advertised with one bid received; from Bowles Construction Co. at \$48,620. Greg Montgomery made a motion to accept the bid and take the funds from the Water Improvement Fund. The Sewer Fund will show the expense and transfer of funds. Jack Graham made the second and motion passed 4-0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE #994 APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR SEWER LINE EXTENSION ON HSY. 16 S:

This is to appropriate the needed funds in the previous agenda item and is the first reading. Greg Montgomery made the motion to approve, Spencer Street made the second and motion passed 4-0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CARS & STARS EVENT:

Jay Hawkins with Scene marketing requested use of the Square April 13th, 2013 for the 3rd annual event. They won't need to close Third Street and need some off square parking reserved for trailers. Jack Graham made the motion to approve the use of the Square, Spencer Street made the second and motion passed 4-0.

CONSIDER DECEMBER ONLY SALARY ADJUSTMENT:

Each year The Council considers approval of a December only salary increase for full time employees with at least one year of service equal to 10% of their monthly salary. Full time employees with less than a year are eligible for \$50.00. Part time employees with over a year are eligible for \$50.00 and part time with less than a year \$25.00. This is a budgeted item. Spencer Street made the motion to approve the increase, Greg Montgomery made the second and motion passed 4-0.

REPORTS:

Chief Covey said the Fire department was busy in October with fire prevention month. The City of Windthorst used the fire prevention trailer and other towns have asked for the use. The department sold 450 Breast cancer Awareness tee shirts and handed out 1600 necklaces at the Halloween festivities on the Square. The old 1930 fire truck is back in their possession and is being worked on in time to put it I the Christmas parade; the first time in 42 years. He read a letter from the BRA commending the department in their efforts to recover the drowning victim at Possum Kingdom Lake. David Casteel reported that the Third Street paving was underway and the final information had been turned in to the Texas Water Board for the engineering and environmental portion of the water project. Larry reported the lake level at 1070.82 or 78% capacity. 1075' is full. The Municipal Court report for October reflected \$20,392 in City revenue.

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