

May 10, 2012

The Graham City Council met in REGULAR SESSION in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 10, 2012 with the following members present:

MEMBERS: Mayor: Barry White  
Mayor Pro-Tem: Jack Graham  
Council Member: Spencer Street III  
Pam Scott  
Greg Montgomery  
City Manager: Larry Fields-absent  
City Secretary: David Maddy  
Public Works Director: David Casteel  
Police Chief: Tony Widner  
Assistant Police Chief: Brent Bullock  
Fire Chief: Dennie Covey-absent

VISITORS: Roy Robinson, Ed Hinson, Jimmy McLeroy, Doug Stroud, Jerry Schultz, Sandra Helvey, Neal Blanton, Jessica James, Jerry David, Jason Cottongame and Cherry Rushin.

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

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

Neal Blanton, representing the Community Foundation, presented a check in the amount of \$7,000 to the City for the new shade area awning.

**MINUTES APPROVED:**

Minutes from the April 26, 2012 regular meeting were approved 4-0 (Pam Scott arrived later) on a motion from Greg Montgomery and a second from Spencer Street.

**CONSIDER WALKER-SAYLE INMATE WORK PROGRAM AGREEMENT:**

The State Prison System allows prison units to participate with municipalities to contract for inmate work projects. David Casteel and Larry Fields met with the Warden, Rocky Moore, of the Walker-Sayle unit in Breckenridge. They recommended that Council approve the agreement between the unit and the City of Graham. Roy Robinson was present to explain that the unit could not contract directly with a non-profit such as the Keep Graham Beautiful organization; only with a governmental entity. The City must provide transportation, tools, cell phone to the supervising officer and, if needed, sanitary facilities. The vehicle will be donated by Kent Pettus and the City has any extra cell phone so the only expense will be the gas, tools and any portable facilities. The City compiled a list of projects such as cleaning the creeks, street gutters, cleaning, repairing and painting in the parks and cemeteries among a list of other work. The contract is for 90 days at a time and for the hours of 7:00 to 11:00 several days a week. Pam Scott made the motion to authorize Larry Fields to execute the contract, Greg Montgomery made the second and motion passed 5-0.

**CONSIDER DEMOLITION ORDER FOR 711 CHERRY:**

The structures at this address have been condemned as unsafe. There has been no response from any know owners. This item is a Public hearing prior to a demolition order being approved by the Council. Mayor White opened the Public Hearing and the Board of Appeals at 9:40 a.m. No one was present to speak to the item and Mayor White closed the hearing. Jason Cottongame said the house had been condemned some time back, but then squatters have occupied the address for the last 1 ½ years. They are now gone. All requirements for demolition have been met. Jack Graham made the motion to approve the demolition order, Pam Scott made the second and motion passed 5-0. The order will now be confirmed by a judge and the demolition is planned for June 2012.

**CONSIDER ORDINANCE #987 PRESCRIBING COMMERCIAL GARBAGE RATES:**

A spreadsheet presenting commercial garbage rates being billed by the City compared to the rates IESI charges the City was presented to Council. The City has not increased commercial rates since 2007 and IESI has had three CPI increases in that period. A 4% increase is needed to equal the IESI billing. Larry recommended a 6% increase to allow the City to capture the cost involved in billing and other costs associated with garbage service. Ordinance #987 was prepared to allow Council to determine the percent increase in rates. Pam Scott made the motion to approve Ordinance #987, Greg Montgomery made the second and motion passed 5-0. All of Council was present so this was the final reading.

**REPORTS:**

Jessica James said the QR meeting with merchants was successful. The Art Walk last weekend was also considered a success with increased traffic in the shops. Main Street has initiated a monthly newsletter to merchants on the Square. David Casteel reported that demolitions are progressing. He commented that the April financials had been given to Council in their packets. The Mayor asked about the number of water line breaks. David Casteel said there had been no increase but the breaks were bigger. The lake level was 1074.41' or 99.5% capacity. 1075' is full.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Greg Montgomery, a second from Spencer Street and a vote of 5-0 the Council meeting was adjourned.

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Barry White, Mayor

ATTEST:

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David Maddy, City Secretary