

January 21, 2021

The Graham City Council met in REGULAR SESSION in the Council Chambers at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 21, 2021 with the following members present:

MEMBERS:	Mayor:	Neal Blanton
	Mayor Pro-Tem:	Lee Boyd
	Council Members:	Kyle Peavy
		Shana Weatherbee-Wolfe
		Alex Heartfield
	City Manager:	Brandon Anderson
	City Secretary:	Sharon McFadden
	City Attorney:	Dan De La Cruz (absent)
	Municipal Judge:	Teresa Bishop (absent)
	Police Chief:	Brent Bullock
	Fire Chief:	Jim Don Laurent (absent)

VISITORS: Thomas Wallner, Randall Dawson, Sarah Lundgren, Kelli Shifflett, Dorman Holub, Reverend Gary Elrod, David Lipsey, Police Sergeant Daryl Bell, Police Corporal Blake Davis, Police Lieutenant Jeff Smith, Kristy Nantz, Toree Lipsey, and Matt Hughes.

ORDER: Mayor Blanton called the meeting to order. At the request of Mayor Blanton, Reverend Gary Elrod conducted prayer.

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

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from the Regular Session Council meeting held on Thursday, January 7, 2021 were considered. Lee Boyd made the motion to approve the minutes. Kyle Peavy seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved 4-0.

#### CONSIDER AND ACT ON THE DECEMBER 2020 FINANCIAL REPORTS AND THE QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT AS PRESENTED BY THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OR HER DESIGNEE:

Sharon McFadden reviewed the departments in the general fund that were currently exceeding budget and explained causes for overages. Brandon explained the truck purchase for animal control that was approved and purchased last year (2019-2020) budget. The truck was delivered in this current fiscal year and the first annual payment toward the truck has already been made. Brandon said the animal control truck was purchased through a capital loan and that is why there was a first payment of three has already made toward the truck. Staff will be working with auditors to correct the entry. Mayor Blanton asked what "book processing" included for the library expenses. Sharon said she would obtain clarification on "book processing" and follow up with Mayor Blanton. Mayor Blanton asked Randall Dawson how often a smoke test takes place. Randall stated that TCEQ (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) required the smoke test due to TCEQ assessing the City of Graham with a violation. Rather than the City paying the assessed fine, the City was able to supplement the cost of the work needing to be done. Brandon said the violation (two fines in his five-year tenure) is due to the sewer plant infiltration during heavy rain filling up the sewer system. When sewer system is full, the system must be shut down causing the ammonia level to exceed an acceptable level. Brandon said when TCEQ assesses a fine, they (TCEQ) offer an opportunity to do what they (TCEQ) call an SEP. The SEP allows a City to take the funds for the assessed fee to fix the identified problem. Brandon said TCEQ has worked with the City both times. The first time TCEQ allowed the repair of six manholes where water could no longer seep through in high water areas. Brandon said this time the smoke test identifies infiltration issues. Kyle Peavy asked if the smoke test identified any issues. Randall said there were three issues on actual main lines. Most of the smoke testing took place on the west side of town which is the area where the BRA (Brazos River Authority) land transfer occurred. Randall said there are a lot of clean-outs that need "capped off" where houses once stood and were demolished. Sharon referred to the Quarterly Investment Report in the Council packet. There has been public concern regarding the park improvement fund (Fund 22) has a balance of \$1,222,673 is what remains in reserve for park development. No major transaction occurred during this quarter (October to December 2020). Sharon referred to the second page of the quarterly investment report and stated the items listed were purchases exceeding \$10,000. Alex Heartfield made the first motion and Shana Weatherbee-Wolfe seconded. The financial reports and the quarterly investment report were unanimously accepted 4-0. Sharon asked if the motion included both the financial reports and the quarterly investment report. Mayor Blanton confirmed both reports were considered in the motion.

#### DISCUSS THE SALES TAX REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2020 RECEIVED IN JANUARY 2021:

Brandon said there was an 8.24 percent increase in sales tax received over the same month for the previous year. Brandon said the recent increases are promising to the City. Mayor Blanton said with Braum's store coming in, the increases will likely continue, and it is encouraging. Lee Boyd asked if there is any sales tax applied to the sale of property. Brandon said he does not believe there is sales tax on property sales.

#### CONSIDER AND ACT ON RESOLUTION #123 NAMING DORMAN HOLUB THE OFFICIAL HISTORIAN FOR THE CITY OF GRAHAM:

Shana Weatherbee-Wolfe said she is making the motion for Resolution #123 naming Dorman Holub the official historian for the City of Graham. Lee Boyd seconded, and the request was unanimously approved 4-0. Mayor Blanton read the resolution aloud, then presented the resolution to Dorman Holub. Lee Boyd said Dorman Holub visited with him at Salt Creek where the trees and brush are being removed. Mr. Holub shared the history of the area with Lee Boyd. Dorman Holub has agreed to assist with history signage along the trails of Salt Creek. Mayor Blanton congratulated Mr. Holub.

#### CONSIDER AND ACT ON ORDINANCE #1107 ORDERING AN ELECTION TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MAY 1, 2021 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING TWO (2) ALDERMEN (PLACE 3 AND 4); ESTABLISHING THE DATES AND PLACE FOR VOTING; ESTABLISHING APPLICATIONS FOR BALLOTS BY MAIL; ESTABLISHING DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING BALLOTS BY MAIL; ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE:

Lee Boyd asked if this is the same as what took place last year (2020 election). Sharon said that Council places three

(3) and four (4). Brandon said the City has returned to the normal May election process. Sharon said the application process began on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 and no applications have been submitted. The final date of application is Friday, February 12, 2021. Kyle Peavy made the first motion. Alex Heartfield provided the second motion. Ordinance #1107 was unanimously approved 4-0.

**CONSIDER AND ACT ON A REQUEST FROM THE REMEMBERING WYATT DALE WATER SAFETY AWARENESS BOARD TO HANG THEIR BANNER OVER ELM STREET FOR THE "RUN FOR THE CHILDREN" EVENT FROM APRIL 10, 2021 THROUGH APRIL 24, 2021:**

Mayor Blanton said he was not aware that this action required Council approval. Brandon said the item is on the agenda so the Council will need to consider. Lee Boyd made the first motion to approve the request. Shana Weatherbee-Wolfe seconded, and the request was unanimously approved 4-0.

**OATH OF OFFICE:**

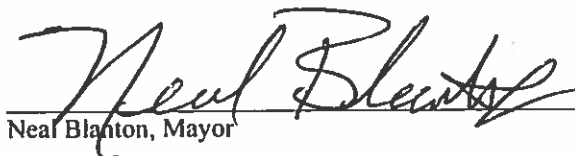
Police Chief Brent Bullock introduced new Police Officer David Lipsey. Mr. Lipsey graduated from Graham High School and served in the United States Marine Corps. Chief Bullock said Officer Lipsey is married and has children. He completed the Police Academy at the end of December 2020 and will be a good addition to the police department. Officer Lipsey is currently field training with supervisors. Sharon conducted the Oath of Office. Mayor Blanton congratulated Officer Lipsey.

**REPORTS:**

- Brandon mentioned the December 2020 Library Monthly Report was in the Council packet. The lake level is 94.6 percent full. Brandon encouraged everyone to visit Fireman's Park to see the work that has been completed. The Council approved the clearing project at the last Council meeting held on January 7, 2021. Brandon said the view is very nice and hopes the community will take notice of the changes. Brandon complimented Lee Boyd on his forward-thinking actions for display of progress while awaiting grant funds. Brandon said he and Sharon are visiting with auditor this week.
- Lee Boyd invited those in attendance to review the maps he had in his possession during the Council meeting. Lee said the clearing is from the highway bridge down to the dam. The equipment used was not able to clear as close to the creek as he had planned. Additional clean up will be required but will not pose a problem. Lee said there are dead trees and live trees in the creek. Jason Cottongame has a piece of equipment that has a grabble hook and cable. The grabble hook can remove the trees and City staff can dispose of the debris. Lee said once the trail grant funds are received, the preparation of the trail will begin. The same type of clearing will take place near the soccer fields. Lee said the highway department is supposed to build walkways under the highway bridge to connect the trail. The final trail should be approximately a two-mile circular trail. Lee said they are finishing up on the park grants proposal that is due February 1, 2021. Lee said he has been fortunate to have Laura Taylor and Clark Miracle helping with it (park grant proposal). Lee said there are plans for a nature trail up the side of the hill and there was a former trail there previously. Lee said the grant proposal will include the main trail on the creek and the nature trail. There are plans to work with the hatchery below the dam (referring to Possum Kingdom Lake area) to see if there are options to establish a fish stocking program. Keep Graham Beautiful has applied for a grant elsewhere to rebuild the former boat ramp/dock for canoes and kayaks. Dorman Holub stated the ramp/dock was used for paddle boats. Lee said former city manager Larry Fields told him the City previously owned canoes. Brandon said the clearing will enable patrol officers to see clearly through the park. Lee said funds from the park grant will be used to install lighting. Mayor Blanton said that Fireman's Park is a real jewel and has so much potential. Lee added that there are some beautiful trees in the area.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion by Kyle Peavy, a second from Lee Boyd, the Council meeting was unanimously adjourned.

  
Neal Blanton, Mayor

ATTEST:   
Sharon McFadden, City Secretary