

May 4, 2017

The Graham City Council met in REGULAR SESSION in the Council Chambers at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 04, 2017 with the following members present:

MEMBERS: Mayor: Jack Graham
 Mayor Pro-Tem: Darby Brockway
 Council Member: Brint Albritton
 Lee Boyd (absent)
 Kyle Peavy
 City Manager: Brandon Anderson
 City Secretary: Sharon McFadden
 Police Chief: Tony Widner
 Assistant Police Chief: Brent Bullock
 Fire Chief: Jerry David
 Assistant Fire Chief: Jim Don Laurent

VISITORS: Mark Fullerton, Joyce Fullerton, Thomas Wallner, Krisa De La Cruz, Diana Theal, Sandra Helvey, Neal Blanton, Jason Cottongame, Municipal Judge Teresa Bishop and Jimmy McLeroy.

ORDER: Mayor Jack Graham called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

PUBLIC FORUM: No comments were made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the April 20, 2017 Council meeting were approved unanimously with Darby Brockway making the motion and Brint Albritton making the second.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON THE APPROVAL OF THE SUBDIVISION OF A LOT AT THE CORNER OF FOURTH AND TENNESSEE:

Brandon Anderson referred to the map within the Council packet and described the intended division of the property. Brandon said the Planning and Zoning Commission has reviewed and has no concerns. Brint Albritton made the motion to approve, Darby Brockway made the second, and the subdivision was unanimously approved.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON ORDINANCE #1060 AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 25 OF THE CITY OF GRAHAM CODE OF ORDINANCES, PRESCRIBING WATER AND SEWER RATES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY:

Mayor Jack Graham suggested tabling this item until the next Council meeting (Thursday, May 18, 2017). He said they do not want to rush through it. Brandon Anderson suggested that there be another review of the commercial businesses and voiced his concern that the escalated rate on the higher tiers could cause a burden on businesses. Brandon said that right now rates are only residential and there is a need to pursue a commercial rate structure. Brandon agreed with the Mayor that there needs to be more discussion on what was heard at the public hearing. Brandon noted a factor error in the rate study. Brandon referred to the Effect Rate Increase on Your Water Bill chart that he created for City employees to explain rates to customers. High use figures had an incorrect figure and Scott Swanson with LaCosta has corrected the error. Brandon said the error occurred on the 36,000 and the 58,000 gallons consumption on 5/8 and 3/4 meters. Kyle Peavy said we are trying to cover a fixed cost with a variable revenue stream. Kyle stated that the elasticity of demand and effect of weather may interfere with suggested fixed cost of each meter turning a variable revenue into a fixed revenue to meet the obligations of the fixed cost. Kyle said the down side to this will cause a heavier burden on lower usage customers. Kyle agreed with Mayor on the need to take additional review. Darby Brockway asked if other communities use surcharges. Kyle said the revenue from higher tiers may not meet the intentions due to cut-backs from the higher use customers that may curtail their usage. The Mayor said he fears people will cut back on consumption with the higher rates. The Mayor said there is a need to have faith in the experts who conducted the study. Kyle mentioned eight (8) months of skewed data. Brint Albritton referred to Scott Swanson's comment that a 10 percent rate increase results in only 3% loss in consumption. The Mayor said that this has likely already been factored into the study. The Mayor said there are transparency concerns and we must proceed with caution. The Mayor suggested to wait another two weeks before making a decision. The Mayor said when using a professional, there is a need to rely on their professional opinion. Mayor suggested tabling for now. Darby Brockway made the motion to table, Kyle Peavy made the second, and Ordinance #1060 was unanimously tabled.

REPORTS:

- Police Chief Tony Widner said the officers are taking advantage of the physical fitness program. Chief Widner said patrol has increased on individuals bicycling and walking in neighborhoods. He said scams are on the increase. Chief Widner commended one of the officer's that apprehended a jail escapee during a routine traffic stop. Kyle Peavy asked if any progress has been made on the radio issue. Mayor Jack Graham said there are options being researched through the state.
- Fire Chief Jerry David said he has hired a new Firefighter and noted the shift schedule. Chief David said the hiring of this individual brings the department back to being fully staffed.


- Municipal Judge Teresa Bishop said the Court is staying extremely busy.
- Krisa De La Cruz, CEO of the Chamber and CVB, said there is a business after hour's event on May 16, 2017 at Mike's Westside Rental. Krisa said the Chamber Luncheon and You Lead graduation will occur on May 23, 2017. The Food Truck event is coming up on June 3, 2017.
- Brandon Anderson said the lake level is 97.2 percent full. Brandon said there is an organization soliciting for a new dog park and there is no dog park in the City's plan at this time. There was an escape at the jail on Tuesday, May 2, 2017. The inmate work program that provides labor to the City was put into lock down and remains locked down at this time. However, the inmate work program should resume tomorrow morning (Friday, May 05, 2017).

ADJOURNMENT:

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



John Chiles Graham, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sharon McFadden, City Secretary