

August 8, 2019

The Graham City Council met in REGULAR SESSION in the Council Chambers at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 8, 2019 with the following members present:

MEMBERS:	Mayor:	Neal Blanton
	Mayor Pro-Tem:	Darby Brockway
	Council Member:	Brint Albritton
		Lee Boyd
		Kyle Peavy
	City Manager:	Brandon Anderson
	City Secretary:	Sharon McFadden
	City Attorney:	Dan De La Cruz
	Municipal Judge:	Teresa Bishop
	Police Chief:	Brent Bullock
	Fire Chief:	Jerry David
	Assistant Fire Chief:	Jim Don Laurent

VISITORS: Jimmy McLeroy, Sandra Helvey, Thomas Wallner, Joe Beruda, Sara Lundgren, Krisa De La Cruz, Elton Montgomery, Jack Graham, Jason Cottongame, Lisa Kinkead, Kristin Wilson, Krisa De La Cruz, JW Budge, BJ Cook, Jack Edwards, Glenn McGee, Karen Woody, Jessi Ribble, Matt Hughes, Andy Heath, and Chris Blanton.

ORDER: Mayor Neal Blanton called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

PUBLIC FORUM: Elton Montgomery stated he objects to not having a place on the agenda. Mr. Montgomery said he has met with City Attorney, Dan De La Cruz for discussion.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes from the Regular Session Council meeting held on Thursday, July 25, 2019 were considered. Darby Brockway made the first motion. Brint Albritton seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved 4-0.

**CONSIDER AND ACT ON ACCEPTING OR REJECTING ANY AND ALL BIDS RECEIVED FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE NEW CITY HALL TO BE FUNDED BY A GIFT AND TO BEGIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF AN ACCEPTABLE BID IS RECEIVED AND AUTHORIZING THE GO AHEAD FOR THE PROJECT:**

Brandon said the bids were opened and reviewed on July 24, 2019. There were two local bids received and there should be at least three bids considered. The two bids received were good qualified bids. Brandon said he has advised those bidding of the need to open the scope of the bid. Brandon said he plans to advertise in the Wichita Falls newspaper and extend bids open for an additional 30 days. Brandon said he intends to bring bids back to Council on the Thursday, September 12, 2019 meeting. Brandon recommended a motion to bid on a wider scale as a best practice. Brandon addressed Mr. Montgomery by informing him there is a 30 day window available for him work on and discuss his concerns. Brint Albritton made the first motion. Kyle Peavy made the second and the extension of bids was unanimously approved 4-0.

**CONSIDER AND ACT ON A POSSIBLE PERCENTAGE RATE INCREASE FOR UPCOMING TAX HEARINGS REQUIRED BY THE STATE:**

Brandon said at the previous Budget Workshop (Special Called Meeting) held on Tuesday, July 16, 2019 that Council discussed the need for an additional tax hearing if a tax increase is intended. Brandon said we need to have a hearing to adopt last year's rate or the effective tax rate. Brandon mentioned that yesterday (Wednesday, August 7, 2019) that he received the tax rate from Luke Robbins and Luke visited with Brandon and Sharon. Evaluations have slightly increased and our effective tax rate will slightly decrease. Brandon said the budget workshop discussion included consideration of a tax increase of up to four percent. However, the increase may be two to three percent. The current tax rate is 0.658126 and the effective rate submitted to the City was 0.650943. Brandon recommend four percent would be the maximum to consider and it is necessary for Brandon and Sharon to meet with Luke Robbins on the publication in the paper, set hearings for budget and tax rate. Brandon requested Council authorized staff to visit with Luke to obtain the proper publication material for the budget and tax rate hearings. Brandon continued with requesting that today Council move forward with proposing to increase the tax rate not more than four percent and allow Brandon and Sharon to work with Luke on required publication dates and hearings. Kyle Peavy made the motion to approve. Lee Boyd seconded and the request was unanimously approved 4-0.

**CONSIDER AND ACT ON A REQUEST FROM WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC. TO INCREASE RATES CALCULATED BY THE MECHANISM WITHIN OUR AGREEMENT BY 1.47 PERCENT (LETTER AND CPI INFORMATION ATTACHED):**

Brandon referred to the letter and additional information within the City Council packet. Brandon stated that every year Waste Connections has exercised their right to increase rate and it is consistent with the language of the contract. The request was unanimously approved 4-0 with Kyle Peavy making the first motion and Brint Albritton providing the second.

**CONSIDER AND ACT ON AUTHORIZING A NEW COMMERCIAL LAKE LOT LEASE WITH RANDALL REID THE OWNER OF THE CRAPPIE HOUSE WITH NEW SURVEY UPDATE:**

Brandon referred to the survey map and notes in the Council packet. Randall Reid is from Midland area and has the only commercial lease on the lake. Brandon said the only people that use that area are those visiting the Crappie House. Mr. Reid wants to make it a nice facility. Brandon referred to the map and said it currently is only the peninsula and the new survey includes the road. The new survey will allow Mr. Reid to better watch his recreation vehicle and also watch ingress and egress to the area. Mr. Reid intends to install a fence to stop the ability to go into and out of the area beyond the Crappie House. Brandon said the addition to the lease is beneficial to Mr. Reid and to the City. Lee Boyd made the motion to approve the new commercial lake lot lease. Darby Brockway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved 4-0.

**CONSIDER AND ACT ON CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR AS RECOMMENDED BY CITY MANAGER:**

Brandon said Jason Cottongame has resigned and his last day is tomorrow (Friday, August 9, 2019). Brandon informed Council that he posted the position at City Hall and placed an advertisement in the Graham Leader newspaper. Brandon stressed an important part of the position is the familiarity with system and the community. Brandon said the position needs to be held by an individual having water and wastewater licenses and a good working relationship with TCEQ. Brandon said there were two applicants within our ranks, both were well qualified, and currently hold leadership roles. Brandon also reached out to an individual on the outside and that individual was not interested. No other applications were submitted. Brandon requested the appointed Randall Dawson and said Randall has been with the City since 2006. Randall has the required licenses and is currently supervising the water line and waste water line departments. Mayor Blanton said his experience with Randall has been positive and that Randall is eager to do what is necessary and said he is an excellent choice. Darby Brockway made the first motion to appoint Randall Dawson as the new Public Works Director. Kyle Peavy seconded and the appointment was unanimously approved 4-0.

**COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS AS NEEDED BY MAYOR:**

Darby Brockway said he has recommendations for appointments. Christy Chappell to CVB, Mickey Schoenhals to GEIC, and Chris Blanton to the Airport Board. Darby said these appointments will fill some of the Board vacancies. Darby Brockway made the first motion and Brint Albritton seconded. The appointments were approved 4-0.

**REVIEW FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 BUDGET CALENDAR:**

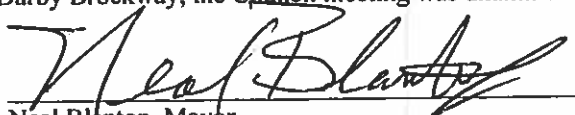
Brandon reviewed the pertinent dates of the budget calendar. A budget workshop meeting will be held upstairs in the former Council chambers at City Hall on Thursday, August 15, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. If necessary, Brandon said there could be another workshop meeting on Tuesday, August 20, 2019 or Wednesday, August 21, 2019. Kyle Peavy will not be able to attend Tuesday, August 20, 2019 or Wednesday, August 21, 2019. Brandon said he will present an official calendar at the next meeting (Thursday, August 22, 2019).

**REPORTS:**

- Police Chief Brent Bullock said his department and the Fire Department along with the Chamber are planning to serve citizens popcorn with a back to school movie night. The event will take place at the National Theatre in the evening on Monday, August 12, 2019.
- Brandon said the sales tax report is in the back of the packet and will be officially presented at next meeting. He announced the City Hall Activities Report and the Utility Clerk Report are in the back of the packet. Jason's last official Council meeting is today (Thursday, August 8, 2019). Brandon thanked Jason for his service to the City of Graham.
- Judge Bishop provided Council with the June 2019 Official Municipal Court Monthly Report.
- Brandon said as of today (August 8, 2019), the lake level is at 95.9 percent full.
- Krisa De La Cruz, CEO of the Chamber and CVB, said the sound system on the Square is currently being installed and will be ready for use in about a week. The Graham Independent School District (GISD) teacher appreciation breakfast will occur the morning of Monday, August 12, 2019. The evening of Monday, August 12, 2019, Krisa mentioned the "Shop Local Late" event with retail stores during the hours from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. There will be live in-store giveaways and several retailers offering discounts and special offers. She mentioned the "Serving Our Citizens" at the National Theatre sponsored by De La Cruz & Reddell (see Police Chief Bullock's Report above).

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

  
Neal Blanton, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
Sharon McFadden, City Secretary