January 16, 2014

The Graham City Council met in REGULAR SESSION in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 16, 2014 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
	City Secretary:	David Maddy
	Public Works Director:	David Casteel
	Police Chief:	Tony Widner
	Assistant Police Chief:	Brent Bullock
	Fire Chief:	Dennie Covey

VISITORS: Dean Hinton, J. McLeroy, Eddie Gellner, Sandra Helvey, Robert San Miguel, Jason Cottongame, Jennifer Conway, Jim Helvey, Neal Blanton, Monica Johnston and Brian Rash.

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

PUBLIC FORUM:

Pam Scott thanked the Fire and Police departments for working with the recent fire at her place of business and on the rash of burglaries over the last weeks.

MINUTES APPROVED:

Minutes from the December 19, 2013 regular meeting were approved 4-0 on a motion from Greg Montgomery and a second from Jack Graham (one Council member came late).

CONSIDER BIDS FOR RE-CONSTRUCTING SHAWNEE SPRINGS ENTRYWAY:

An errant vehicle recently damaged the entryway feature at Shawnee Springs Park. A request for bids was placed in the newspaper to repair the structure to its previous condition consisting of removal of contaminated soil, placement of new soil, re-construction of rock walls and replacement of the destroyed water feature and associated irrigation and plumbing. The person damaging the facility will be billed for the cost to repair. Three bids were received and staff recommended the low bid from Ramsey Services dba J. Appleseed be accepted. Their bid was $6,360.00 with bids also received from E3 Land Development for $22,197.48 and LW Burch Fence and Welding Co. for $26,937.07. Ramsey's bid did not include the cost for the water feature estimated at $750-$1,000 or replacing plantings at $1,500.00. The City has expended $400 for cleanup and expects to spend another $350 for inspections during construction. The driver's insurance company wanted to make the bid selection, so Council deferred action on this item.

CONSIDER AMBULANCE SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH GRAHAM HOSPITAL DISTRICT:

Historically the City and County have contributed funds to assist in the purchase of ambulances and offset operational deficits. There has not been a formal agreement in place between the City and Hospital for this contribution and it has been handled as a budget item. With the advent of the Hospital District, a formal agreement is prudent. The proposed agreement obligates the City to one-third of the operating deficit in future years. The obligation is capped at $35,000 per year. In years going forward the Hospital District will provide an operating report detailing any surplus or deficit for computation of the City's contribution. For FY 2014 no such report is available. The budgeted amount for 2014 is $35,000 and the agreement obligates the City for the full budget amount. Any surplus resulting from the 2014 contribution is required to offset any future deficits and City obligations. The Hospital District will cover the cost of ambulance purchases; that item becoming a part of the ambulance surplus or deficit. Jack Graham made the motion to approve the agreement, Pam Scott made the second and motion passed 4-0.

CONSIDER ASSET TRANSFER AGREEMENT WITH GRAHAM HOSPITAL DISTRICT:

completes their process and the City is ready to start at that time with much of the work being started on land already owned by the City.

REPORTS:

Chief Widner presented the December Police report noting the high levels of calls for service (6,600 for 2013), 900 arrests and the large number of repeat offenses. The courts have been encouraged to reduce the repeat offenses. Chief Covey reported 1,069 fire/emergency incidents for 2013 and commented that the remaining group of buzzards seems to be stubborn about leaving their local roosting spots. Robert San Miquel reported 430 compliance complains for 2013 with trash, tall grass and parking being the greatest problems. His report also broke down the offenses by City zones with zones 3, 4 and 6 being the most problematic. Neal Blanton reported that GEIC is announcing a new business moving to Graham. Valew Quality Truck Bodies is taking the former Steel Stadium facilities south of town to build construction-type truck bodies. The company is headquartered in California and will initially hire 75-100 workers with plans to expand to over 200 in the next five years. They expect to start by the end of February 2014. David Casteel reported that the street overlay work with Burkett Co. will be done in March and April. The Woodland tank pump is being repaired. The sewer clarifier pump will be repaired or replaced. Dead trees are being cleaned up at the Cemeteries and Firemen's Park. Robert San Miquel has identified 30 deficient structures and has been helping out as warrant officer until David Uselton can come back to work. Citizens are taking mulch from the convenience station and the station will deliver. Larry Fields reported the lake level at 1064.71' or 52.6%. 1075' is full. The last sales tax payment was down 4.8% which brings the tax revenue under budget. He submitted his letter of retirement to Council setting his retirement date at April 2, 2014. Pam Scott said the City needs to remain aggressive in dealing with the recent burglaries and the public kept informed, suggesting that a task force may be needed.

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