

November 29, 2018

The Graham City Council met in REGULAR SESSION in the Council Chambers at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 29, 2018 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
	Police Chief:	Tony Widner (absent)
	Assistant Police Chief:	Brent Bullock
	Fire Chief:	Jerry David
	Assistant Fire Chief:	Jim Don Laurent (absent)

VISITORS: Sandra Helvey, Nathan Lawson, Jason Cottongame, Krisa De La Cruz, Lisa Kinkead, Stephanie Campbell, Jimmy McLeroy, and Sarah Lundgren.

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

PUBLIC FORUM: No comments were made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from the Regular Session Council meeting held on Thursday, November 15, 2018 were approved. Brint Albritton made the first motion. Kyle Peavy seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved 4-0.

DISCUSS SALES TAX REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2018:

Brandon reviewed the sales tax report and mentioned a positive start to the new fiscal year. The sales tax collections are nearly \$34,000 over the predicted year-to-date amount.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON ORDINANCE #1077 AMENDING APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE #1063 APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS FOR THE CITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTMEBER 30, 2018:

Sharon McFadden explained the necessity of the ending fiscal year 2018 appropriation budget entries. Lee Boyd made the first motion. Darby Brockway made the second. Ordinance #1077 was approved 4-0.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON ORDINANCE #1078 AMENDING ARTICLE V – SIGN REGULATIONS; 1- GENERALLY; SECTION 16-61 – OFF PREMISES SIGNS PROHIBITED; OF THE GRAHAM, TEXAS CODE OF ORDINANCES, BY ADDING THE FOLLOWING “WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SIGNS FOR LOCAL PLACES OF WORSHIP.”:

Brandon and Jason Cottongame provided a detailed explanation for the adding local places of worship to the ordinance. Brint Albritton made the motion and Lee Boyd seconded. Ordinance #1078 was approved 4-0.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON ORDINANCE #1079 TO CLOSE WEST STREET FROM FOURTH STREET TO FIRST STREET, CLOSING THIRD STREET FROM PECAN STREET TO WEST STREET, SECOND STREET FROM PECAN STREET TO WEST STREET, AND THE TWO BLOCK SECTION FROM SHORT STREET TO PECAN STREET WHICH WOULD CLOSE ONE BLOCK OF WEST STREET AND ONE BLOCK OF SOUTH STREET TO AUTHORIZE THE CLOSURE PROCESS TO BEGIN CLOSING:

Brandon referred to the map presented in the previous Council packet. Mayor Blanton said he has been questioned by several individuals regarding the closures. Attorney Dan De La Cruz referred to the statistics within the Council packet and explained the laws regarding speed signage and violations. Brandon explained details on the need for closure of the “by-pass” that does not service residents. Ad Valorem (property) taxes are used to maintain and Brandon considers inappropriate use of tax dollars in maintenance. Mayor Blanton mentioned he had visited the area and said that likely speed signs will not be followed and that area is being used as a convenience rather than necessity. Jason said that access will still be available for franchises such as gas and electric. Lee Boyd made the motion to approve. Kyle Peavy made the second motion. Ordinance #1079 was approved 4-0.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) RESPONSES FOR AUDITOR SELECTION FOR THE 2017-2018 FISCAL YEAR:

Brandon stated there was a possible conflict of interest with one of the auditors. It has been reviewed by an outside source and the opinion letter was provided to Council members. Brandon discussed the financial costs of the three RFQ submissions. Brandon explained the \$4,000 single audit and possible occurrence with future grant funds. Brandon said he assigned Sharon to research each auditor thoroughly. Sharon provided factual data, opinions of each firm, and her reasons for recommending MWH. Brandon supported Sharon’s recommendation. Darby Brockway made the motion to approve selecting MWH as the auditor. Kyle Peavy provided the second motion. MWH was unanimously approved 4-0.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON ADJUSTED ROUTE PLAN FOR THE GRAHAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CHRISTMAS PARADE:

Brandon referred to the map in the Council packet and provided explanations for the changes. The changes are intended to primarily reduce traffic congestion. Kyle Peavy made the first motion. Brint Albritton made the second motion. The adjusted Christmas parade route was unanimously approved 4-0.

REPORTS:

- Fire Chief Jerry David said training for the new ladder truck is in process and the ladder truck will soon be fully operational.
- Krisa De La Cruz, CEO of the Chamber and CVB mentioned the Christmas Parade, Stroll and the Chocolicious competition taking place on the downtown square on Thursday, December 6, 2018.
- City Attorney Dan De La Cruz said the City is currently six months into his contract. He said fees have decreased as expected and mentioned the case load of Municipal Court has significantly decreased.
- City Manager Brandon Anderson said a Toys for Tots collection box is at City Hall, The lake level is 100 percent full and has remained full the past month. He said the evaporation rate decreased with the cooler weather. The You Lead group toured the City's water plant and wastewater plant on Wednesday, November 28, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT:

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


Neal Blanton, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sharon McFadden, City Secretary