

February 27, 2014

The Graham City Council met in REGULAR SESSION in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 27, 2014 with the following members present:

MEMBERS:	Mayor:	Barry White
	Mayor Pro-Tem:	Jack Graham
	Council Members:	Spencer Street, III
		Pam Scott - absent
		Greg Montgomery
	City Manager:	Larry Fields - absent
	Public Works Director:	David Casteel
	City Secretary:	David Maddy - absent
	Police Chief:	Tony Widner
	Assistant Police Chief:	Brent Bullock
	Fire Chief:	Dennie Covey
	Assistant Fire Chief:	Jerry David

**VISITORS:**

Sandra Helvey, Brian Rash, Jennifer Conway, Sarah Barron, Jason Cottongame, Jim Helvey, Ernie Jackson, James Jackson, Zach Husen, Jeff Parker, Randy Saylor, Layne Kramer, Frank Herpeche, Randall Dawson, Robert San Miguel, Neal Blanton, Eddie Gellner, J. McLeroy. Minutes taken by Monica Johnston.

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

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

Graham Chamber Director, Jennifer Conway, introduced Sarah Barron as the new CVB Director. Sarah is a recent graduate of Texas Tech University.

**MINUTES APPROVED:**

Minutes from the February 13, 2014 regular meeting were approved 4-0 on a motion from Greg Montgomery and a second from Spencer Street.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BIDS FOR A BOOSTER PUMP HOUSE ON BARCLAY:**

David Casteel reported to the council that the water pressure at the Arena is low. The staff proposes putting in a booster pump to be located on the property of the girl's softball field. The estimated cost was \$15,000.00. Ernie Jackson with E3 Land Development Company had the lowest bid at \$13,966.20 and the staff recommends approval. Spencer Street made the motion to approve the variance, Jack Graham seconded, and motion passed 4-0.

**CONSIDER REVISIONS TO A PRELIMINARY PLAT FOR BRAZOS VIEW ESTATES:**

Randy Saylor and Layne Kramer representing Brazos View Estates addressed the Council in August of 2013. Since then, the developers have modified the plat. The plan calls for smaller residential plots that have been approved by the Planning and Zoning. The Front 250 ft. (R1) is requested to be billed as commercial Zone. At this time R2 is not being developed. Mr. Saylor requests the City proceed with annexation to accept utilities prior to their moving forward. Brazos View Estates will provide the utilities. The City already has utilities up to the edge of the property. On a motion by Greg Montgomery, a second by Spencer Street, the motion passed 4-0.

**DISCUSS PARKING IN DOWNTOWN AREA:**

Public Works Director, David Casteel addressed the Council about the parking in Downtown. This is for discussion only and no action is required. Mr. Casteel stated that Fourth Street is the most pressing with tight traffic turning, especially for trucks. The City proposes keeping parking on the courthouse side. The area on Fourth between Oak and Elm would be designated as two lanes with the right lane for turning and a joint left and thru lane with a 5 ft. buffer zone. The downside is losing a left turn lane and the upside is creating larger lanes. Zach Husen, with TXDOT, agrees with the modifications. David Casteel then discussed parking on Elm Street, between Fourth and Second streets. The City believes that parking would be more friendly and safer if parking was moved over 3 ft., making it wider however resulting in no parking on the Courthouse side. The City's goal is to first improve safety and second to improve business access. Council member, Jack Graham asked if any business owners have been talked to. David suggested having the Chamber and Main Street talk to businesses in the Downtown area. Jennifer Conway, Chamber Director, stated that there was plenty of parking available inside the Square and that safety was more of an issue. The discussion then focused on parking inside the Downtown Square where an architect has already been consulted. Frank Herpeche with the Street Department measured the parking width and stated it is sufficient for 90 degree straight or 60 degree angled. Mayor Barry White suggests that the City coordinate with the County. The discussion of making the

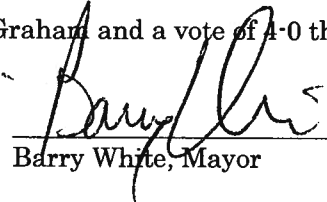
traffic two ways vs. one way was brought up. Jennifer Conway stated that one way traffic deters visitors from stopping at the Chamber, restrooms and Museum because they are not familiar with the traffic flow. The County will be demolishing the old jail for green space in the future but no other plans for that space have been made. David Casteel stated that there is no time frame and that the City will talk with the County and Businesses.

**REPORTS:**

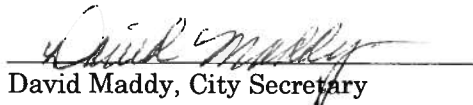
Tony Widner provided council with copies of the monthly police report. He also reported that the Racial Profiling report was included. He stated that calls were down and burglary was down as well. He reported that the courts and police were working well together. Neal Blanton of GEIC and GIA reported that the new company, Valew, will host a job fair at NCTC on March 22, 2014. He stated that welders are a priority but they will be looking for a broad spectrum as well. Valew is looking to hire 35-50 before the summer. Frank Herpeche, City Street Supervisor, reported the City is overlaying Fourth, Pine and Fawn Trail. Randall Dawson reported the City will be smoke testing the sewer lines in the McCracken addition next week. He also reports that the Lake Graham relief system at the dam will have divers plug the inlet and replace the valve. Jim Helvey reported that the City is cleaning Mad Creek. Jennifer Conway with the Chamber reported meeting with an architect on the Visitor's Center. She stated that she should have a report and annual plan by March 31<sup>st</sup>. Sarah Barron, the CVB Director, reported 17 new followers on social media. Fire Chief Covey had no report. City Inspector, Jason Cottongame, had no report. Code Enforcement Officer, Robert San Miguel had no report. David Casteel reported the Lake level at 50.8%, 12.11 ft. below full.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion by Greg Montgomery, a second by Jack Graham and a vote of 4-0 the meeting was adjourned.

  
 Barry White, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
 David Maddy, City Secretary