

April 6, 2017

The Graham City Council met in REGULAR SESSION in the Council Chambers at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 6, 2017 with the following members present:

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

VISITORS: Thomas Wallner, Krisa De La Cruz, County Judge John Bullock, Jenea Knight, Gordon Drake, Alex Heartfield, Sandra Helvey, Marci Bueno, Jason Cottongame, Neal Blanton, and Jimmy McLeroy.

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

PUBLIC FORUM: Mayor Jack Graham mentioned the sudden loss of citizen Eddie Gellner. The Mayor said Mr. Gellner was an asset to the community, consistently attended Council meetings, and that his input will be missed. No other comments were made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the March 9, 2017 Council meeting were approved unanimously with Darby Brockway making the motion and Kyle Peavy making the second.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON REALLOCATING LAND BY ABANDONING THE 7TH STREET RIGHT OF WAY EASEMENT BETWEEN HIGHWAY 380 AND HIGHWAY 16, AND MAKE IT A UTILITY EASEMENT AND AUTHORIZE A SURVEY TO ADD THE LAND TO THE CUURENT PROPERTY, AUTHORIZE EASEMENTS AND LEGAL DOCUMENTS TO BE DRAWN, AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR SIGN:

Brandon Anderson explained details of the property boundaries by referring to the map within the Council packet. Brandon said the City owns right-of-way and vacated properties. The City plans on turning the property over to the GIA for future promotion. Brandon informed Council the intention is to close the right-of-way and that the City plans to continue maintaining the easements. Brandon said this action item will allow it all to be processed and give the Mayor authority to sign supporting documents. Kyle Peavy and Brint Albritton made the motion to approve, Lee Boyd made the second, and motion passed 4-0.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON THE FINANCIAL REPORTS AND SALES TAX REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2017:

Sharon McFadden provided a brief overview of the reports. Lee Boyd made the motion to approve, Brint Albritton made the second, and financials were approved 4-0.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON ORDINANCE #1057 DENYING THE PROPOSED CHANGE IN RATES OF ONCOR ELECTRIC DELIVERY COMPANY LLC, DETERMINING THAT THE MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Brandon Anderson said Oncor is filing for a seven and a half (7 ½) percent rate increase and recommended Council deny the request. Gordon Drake, Oncor Representative, explained the reasoning for request and the length of time since an ONCOR request has been made with the PUC (Public Utility Commission). Mr. Drake said the increase is for \$317 million which is a seven and a half (7 1/2) percent increase request. Mr. Drake feels a rate increase is justified and will add approximately \$6.85 monthly on the customer's bill. Mr. Drake asked City Council to deny the request. Oncor intends to appeal actions through the PUC and combine all the communities. ONCOR wants rates will be the same for all customers and the charges to customers is identified on their bill as a wire charge. The Mayor said this is the same form of request presented to Council previously and it was also denied. Kyle Peavy the motion to deny, Darby Brockway made the second, and motion was denied 4-0.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON ORDINANCE #1058 AMENDING ARTICLE 3, DIVISION 4, SECTION 2-68 VOLUNTARY TERMINATION:

Brandon Anderson said he has met with department heads and there is a need for definitive action. Brandon said the old verbiage on Ordinance #1058 read that a one week notice is required and no sick or vacation leave paid on termination. Brandon read the new verbiage that states an employee must give at least a two (2) weeks' notice of intention to resign. Vacation leave will be paid out up to an equivalent of four (4) weeks straight pay in a lump sum amount to be received with the employee's final regular paycheck, if the employee has that much in his or her bank. No Vacation Leave will be paid to employees discharged for cause. "Good Standing" will be subject to disciplinary actions in the employee's personnel file and if 5 or more disciplinary actions are valid then "Good Standing" will be at the discretion of the Department Supervisor and City Manager and could be subject to loss of vacation pay upon termination date. Brandon said it is not fair to deny any vacation pay at termination. Most organizations and other cities honor vacation pay at termination. Brint Albritton made the motion to approve the amendment, Lee Boyd made the second, and amendment passed 4-0.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON ORDINANCE #1059 AMENDING ARTICLE 4, DIVISION 4, and SECTION 2-95 EMPLOYEE MEDICAL BENEFITS ELIGIBILITY FOR RETIREES:

Brandon said this amendment covers retiree health benefits. Brandon added that Ordinance #1059 was recently revised to specifically include the City of Graham. At this time, the City provides fifty-seven (57) percent of retirees' insurance coverage. Brandon said the new verbiage would specify that an employee hired in last 5 years will receive twenty-nine (29) percent of the medical benefit. An employee hired after April 6, 2017 will not receive any portion of health coverage from the City of Graham. Brandon said our overall plan still covers retirees and there is a gap of retirees under age 65. Kyle Peavy questioned if those over 65 were covered on a supplement. Brandon said those retirees are covered under Medicare with the supplement being offered to the retirees. Kyle Peavy made the comment that this may need to be revisited at a later date. Kyle Peavy made the motion to approve the amendment, Darby made second, and the amendment was approved 4-0.

HEAR PRESENTATION FROM SCOTT SWANSON WITH LACOSTA ENVIRONMENTAL ON WATER RATE STUDY THE CITY AUTHORIZED THEM TO COMPLETE:

Brandon Anderson said the rate study is not complete so the presentation will be scheduled at a later date.

REPORTS:

- Police Chief Tony Widner provided details regarding the Police Departments February 2017 Monthly Report.
- Krisa De La Cruz, CEO of the Chamber and CVB, mentioned the 20th Annual Chamber Ambassador Golf Tournament scheduled for April 24, 2017. Krisa said there are still openings for sponsorships and anyone interested in playing should contact the Chamber.
- Sharon McFadden, City Secretary, mentioned attending the TCMA Leadership Course that covered ethics, leadership, technology, social media, and effective communication. Sharon introduced Marci Bueno as a new employee in Accounting.
- Brandon Anderson said the Code Enforcement report is in the Council packet and the lake level is at 99.4 percent full. Brandon stated the bridge at Fireman's Park has been closed due to safety concerns and Jason Cottongame is working with an Engineer on a refurbishing plan.

ADJOURNMENT:

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



 John Chiles Graham, Mayor

ATTEST:



 Sharon McFadden, City Secretary