May 23, 2013

The Graham City Council met in REGULAR SESSION in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 23, 2013 with the following members present:

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

VISITORS: Eddie Gellner, J. McLemore, Jennifer Conway, Sandra Helvey, Robert San Miguel, Jessica James and Gina Brown.

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

PUBLIC FORUM:

None

MINUTES APPROVED:

Minutes from the May 09, 2013 regular meeting were approved 4-0 on a motion from Pam Scott and a second from Jack Graham.

OATHS OF OFFICE:

Judge Gina Brown administered the oath of office to returning council members Pam Scott and Spencer Street III.

SELECTION OF MAYOR PRO-TEM**:**

Pam Scott made the motion to reappoint Jack Graham, Spencer Street made the second and motion passed 4-0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF POSSUM PEDAL BIKE RIDE:

The Chamber of Commerce requested approval of the annual bike ride set for Saturday, June 29. Jennifer Conway reported 340 participants last year and said the Chamber is planning for 500+ this year. Jack Graham made the motion to approve the event, Pam Scott made the second and motion passed 4-0.

CONSIDER REQUEST TO CLOSE CHERRY STREET FOR FIRST BAPTIST VBS:

The church requested the closure of the block between Third and Fourth Streets from 5:30 – 9:30 p.m. June 10-14. Pam Scott made the motion to approve, Spencer Street made the second and motion passed 4-0.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION FOR PAYMENT OF UTILITY BILLS AND FEES BY CREDIT CARD:

Larry introduced the topic, saying that citizens had been requesting the service. David explained that he had been working with the City's software provider and two credit card processing companies to implement a system for payment of utility bills, court fines and building permits either across the counter or online. Upfront hardware costs are $6,470.00 and the annual maintenance and website hosting is $5,160. Discussion centered on the discounts and fees that the card processor and issuing banks charge the vendor (the City). Barry felt that the customer should pay whatever charges were permissible to the customer in order to limit the cost to the City. Jack said that if VISA did not permit surcharges to be passed onto their customers then the City should decline VISA cards until that situation changed. Jack Graham made the motion to authorize the set

up of the new system, Pam Scott made the second and motion passed 4-0. David will continue working to get the system set up and implemented as Council directed.

REPORTS:

Chief Covey turned in the April Fire Rescue report and reported receiving a Forest Service grant for safety equipment in the amount of $7,190. He is hiring for two vacated positions and said that 105 of the City's 427 hydrants had been tested. Robert San Miguel said that the ordinance banning parking on yards is now in enforcement. Larry reported the lake level at 1068.46 or 68.4% capacity. 1075' is full. The Cherry Street traffic control cones appear to be effective. Speed limit signs will be installed soon. The park project is progressing with the environmental study completed. The water improvement project is proceeding as planned.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Jack Graham, a second from Spencer Street and a vote of 4-0 the Council meeting was adjourned.

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Barry White, Mayor

ATTEST:

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David Maddy, City Secretary