

May 8, 2014

The Graham City Council met in REGULAR SESSION in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 8, 2014 with the following members present:

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

VISITORS:

Tom Pierce, Jerry Schultz, Hester Bender, Erminio Nevez, Mark Thorne Thomsen, Jim McIrvin, Sandra Helvey, Jennifer Conway, Jason Cottongame, Robert San Miguel, Neal Blanton, Eddie Gellner, J. McLeroy, Dennis Fellows, Monica Johnston, Joel Williams, Frank Herpeche, Randall Dawson and Cory Holder .

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

PUBLIC FORUM:

One guest mentioned that the website was not up to date on the agenda postings. Sandra said she was running behind this week. Hester Bender addressed Council about the proposed ATV Park saying she was concerned about the cost, noise and dust on Spivey Hill. Jack said that the City was a ways off from making a decision and that public hearings would be held prior to any decision and the grant had not been approved anyway. Mayor White said that even if the grant were approved and the City did no go ahead with plans the money could be refused or turned back.

MINUTES APPROVED:

Minutes from the April 24, 2014 regular meeting were approved 5-0 on a motion from Pam Scott and second from Greg Montgomery.

DISCUSS COMMUNITY LEADERS AGAINST CRIME:

Previously, the Council authorized Mayor Pro Tem Graham along with Councilperson Scott and staff to attend a meeting with key law enforcement and prosecution personnel to discuss efforts to reduce crime in Graham. There are positive steps being taken in the community to reduce crime. No Action was requested at this time.

Jack Graham listed the attendees, discussed the process from capture to prosecution, potential deficiencies and said the group would meet again in a couple of months. He emphasized the need for the public to be aware and keep houses and cars locked.

At this point Mayor White read a note from the Bangs High School class Honor Society who volunteered to paint the cemetery fence thanking the City for hosting them.

DISCUSS RECYCLING PROGRAM:

In the past two years, the city has undertaken, with the encouragement of Keep Graham Beautiful and the cooperation of Progressive Waste Management, various programs and efforts to help citizens recycle.

Recently, staff, Keep Graham Beautiful and the Chamber of Commerce toured the single stream recycling center operated by Progressive Waste. This facility is located in McKinney and serves several communities including Graham.

Staff and others will report on the tour and discuss options for the future of the recycling program.

No action was requested at this time.

Joel Williams reported that there are nine locations for recycling with 30 bins. The City is filling one large compactor box every three weeks and interest in recycling is picking up. David Casteel, Joel Williams and members of the KGB visited the McKinney recycling center where they viewed the single stream center that Graham sends it materials to. Recycling is not yet a big business in Texas because of the availability of land and cheap dumping, in contrast to the northeast. Only 12-18% of what arrives in McKinney is not recycled and ends up in a dump. The City of Graham will face some issues in the future when the pickup services move to front load and roll out equipment and staff would like to examine the issue of pickup and recycling as one issue reducing cost increases.

DISCUSS DOWNTOWN PARKING:

In a previous meeting, the Council considered options for parking on Fourth from Oak to Elm, Elm from Fourth to Second and inside the square in the downtown area.

Changes to Fourth Street have been implemented. Chamber Director Conway was requested to visit with businesses on Elm Street and those that utilize the inner portion of the square and report back to the council.

Council will hear the report from Conway.

No action was requested at this time.

Jennifer Conway submitted the completed survey of Elm Street merchants all of whom favored widening the parking lane on the east side and eliminating the parking lane on the west side of Elm. The high curb on the east side was seen as a pedestrian impediment. The request was made for the Mayor to get TXDOT to redo the lanes and parking.

DISCUSS MEMBERSHIP ON BOARDS APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL

In a previous meeting data was provided concerning the composition and authorization of various boards. Some boards have term limits and other do not. Some boards have vacancies and some boards currently have members serving beyond term limits.

Staff will present options to council for consideration in reconciling the board memberships.

Direction to staff is requested. No action was requested at this time.

Council was presented with a list of boards and current members. They decided all boards should have term limits, which will be staggered. Council members will serve on GEIC, Water Supply District, Parks, Cemetery and CVB boards. The new Council can appoint resulting vacancies and variances. Staff will serve as consultants to the boards.

DISCUSS LAKE LEVEL:

In a previous meeting the Council authorized the hiring of Scott Swanson, La Costa Consulting, to examine lake levels with differing climatic scenarios.

Preliminary findings will be discussed.

The La Costa report on the lake elevation was discussed. Scott Swanson will present the final report in two weeks. Should Graham receive the average amount of rainfall this year, the impact on lake levels would be minimum. We would need several years of above average rain to replenish the lakes. Stage 3 water restrictions will be enacted on May 22. Tom Pierce asked about restrictions on car washes. David Casteel told him those would be affected in stage 4.

CONSIDER AGREEMENT WITH CIVIC SERVICE CORPORATION AND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR VISITOR'S CENTER:

An agreement has been drafted to transfer ownership of the American Legion Building to the City. This will allow the visitor's center construction to fall within the authority of the city. Assurances for rent and use by civic services clubs and the Chamber of Commerce are included in the agreement.

Staff recommends approval for submission to the other parties. The City would oversee construction and management of the building. Rental rates for the Chamber are outlined and arrangements made for Chamber staff to house at City Hall during construction.

CONSIDER RECOGNITION OF GREG MONTGOMERY:

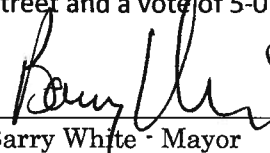
Mr. Montgomery has provided four years of leadership to the community as a member of the City Council. He has elected not to seek election to another term. His leadership, insight, guidance and level headed analysis will be missed. A plaque was presented to him for his years of service.

REPORTS:

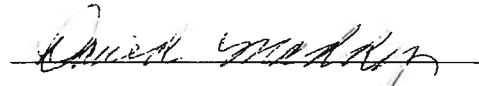
There were no reports

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Greg Montgomery, a second by Spencer Street and a vote of 5-0 the meeting was adjourned.


Barry White - Mayor

ATTEST:


David Maddy, City Secretary