

May 9, 2013

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

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

VISITORS: Joe Abrams, John Bullock, Mike Sipes, Eric Stendham, Bill Sanderson, Jimmy Mayfield, Eddie Gelner, Jennifer Conway, Neal Blanton, Sandra Helvey, Jason Cottongame, Robert San Miguel, Jerry David, Jason Cottongame, Sandra Edwards and Cherry Rushin.

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

PUBLIC FORUM:

One of the visitors commended Jason Cottongame and Robert San Miguel on their work on code enforcement. The Mayor also commended crews who worked until after 2:00 a.m. to fix the previous night's water leak.

MINUTES APPROVED:

Minutes from the April 25, 2013 regular meeting were approved 5-0 on a motion from Greg Montgomery and a second from Pam Scott.

CONSIDER I-INFO:

I-Info is a web based system for communicating with residents. Residents may be phoned through a reverse 911 approach or may receive texts by signing up for notices. I-Info can be used in case of an emergency such as gas leak, flood or other event requiring evacuation. In addition, messages regarding water outages can be transmitted to specific zones in the city. A license for I-Info has been supplied by the Council of Governments (NORTEX). If the city elects to use the system after the current license expires, it would be responsible for future license use. The possibility exists to partner with the county on future use. Other area cities and counties in the region are currently using the I-Info system. Joe Abrams with North Texas Regional Information System was present to answer questions. The license costs \$1,800 to \$2,000 a year. The city would establish a protocol for using and sending messages. Other departments could be sub licensees at an additional cost for each. Chief Widner said the system could also be used for notifications of missing children and street closings. The next action required by Council would be to approve the city to participate and work with the county to establish the organization and protocols for use. Greg Montgomery made the motion to approve participation in the system and work with the county, Pam Scott made the second and motion passed 5-0.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF EAST/WEST ALLEY, BLOCK 8,
ORIGINAL TOWN FOR AUDITORIUM RENOVATION PROJECT:**

Phase III of the auditorium renovations will begin in a couple of weeks. It is necessary to control access to the east/west alley behind the auditorium. It is proposed to fence off the alley with gates at each end that can be opened to the public when necessary. Jack Graham made the motion to approve the closure, Spencer Street made the second and motion passed 5-0.

CONSIDER ESTABLISHING AN IMPOUND RATE:

From time to time, it is beneficial to impound and store abandoned or junk vehicles on secured city property. Section 16-46 of the City of Graham Code of Ordinances states that the owner may reacquire possession of the vehicle after paying reasonable storage and other charges. After 90 days the vehicle is declared abandoned and may be sold or otherwise disposed. Proceeds from the sale may be applied to satisfy costs incurred in towing and storage. It is recommended that the city establish a reasonable storage rate for impounded vehicles stored on city property and that the rate be \$10/day. A towing fee will be in addition to the impound fee. Jack Graham made the motion to approve the rate, Greg Montgomery made the second and motion passed 5-0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF TAX RESALE DEED, 75 X 175' OUT OF MAYO TRACT, BLOCK 73, BEN HILL ADDITION:

A copy of the Tax Resale Deed to Herbert M. Cohen, who purchased the property in a tax sale, was presented to Council for approval. Greg Montgomery made the motion to approve, Spencer Street made the second and motion passed 5-0.

CONSIDER RELEASE OF LIEN ON 1012 HILLCREST:

This property was sold at sheriff's sale on 2/15/13 and was sold for more than was owed for taxes and costs. The amount over taxes was \$1,116.45 and was applied to city health code liens totaling \$1,579.29 leaving unpaid \$462.84. The purchasers requested the city forgive the lien balance. Spencer Street made the motion to forgive the lien balance, Jack Graham made the second and motion passed 5-0.

REPORTS:

The CVB and Main Street report for March and April showed that 3,857 brochures were distributed, 10,804 visitors to the website and the awarding of an appearance grant for \$250. Three ads in major publications were placed. Robert San Miguel reported 133 code violations and 3 citations. The Public Works report included 27 repair orders on the water/sewer lines and replacing the pool pump. The court report reflected 1,594 pending cases at the beginning of April, 397 new cases filed and 1,596 cases pending at the end of the month. City court revenues were \$24,084. The warrant officer served 57 warrants which resulted in \$7,029 worth of fines. Larry reported the lake level at 1068.67 or 68.8% capacity. 1075' is full. The water improvement project is proceeding as planned.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Barry White, Mayor

ATTEST:

David Maddy, City Secretary