

June 11, 2020

The Graham City Council met in REGULAR SESSION in the Council Chambers at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 11, 2020 with the following members present:

MEMBERS:	Mayor:	Neal Blanton
	Mayor Pro-Tem:	Darby Brockway
	Council Member:	Brint Albritton
		Lee Boyd
		Kyle Peavy
	City Manager:	Brandon Anderson
	City Secretary:	Sharon McFadden
	City Attorney:	Dan De La Cruz
	Municipal Judge:	Teresa Bishop (absent)
	Police Chief:	Brent Bullock
	Fire Chief:	Jerry David
	Assistant Fire Chief:	Jim Don Laurent (absent)

VISITORS: Thomas Wallner, Marci Bueno, Randall Dawson, Sarah Lundgren, Krisa De La Cruz, Valerie Halverson (representing MWH Group), Randall Reid, and Jeff Smith,

ORDER: Mayor Neal Blanton called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

PUBLIC FORUM: No comments were made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from the Regular Session Council meeting held on Thursday, May 28, 2020 were considered. Brint Albritton made the first motion and Kyle Peavy seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved 4-0.

HEAR AUDIT PRESENTATION FROM VALERIE HALVERSON WITH MWH GROUP P.C.:

Valerie Halverson, Audit Manager representing MWH Group, informed Council the audit has been completed for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019. Ms. Halverson said this is the second year to perform the audit for the City of Graham. Smoother this year than previous year. Final draft was ready at the end of March 2020 but due to COVID-19 presentation has been delayed this year. Intends to present the Fiscal Year 2020 audit in March 2021. Ms. Halverson explained the key sections of the audit to Council. After Valerie concluded, Brandon mentioned we (he and Sharon McFadden) had met with Valerie and discussed the audit prior to the presentation. Brandon noted that Marci Bueno was attending this presentation. Brandon said the necessary changes have been a slow process but his expectation is that the issues will be resolved. Brandon said we intend to report back to Council in the next three to four months. Brandon said he will provide the CVB financials to Marci Bueno for documentation. Brandon stated we need to determine a process to account for the figures but not to account in multiple places. Lee Boyd discussed changes in accounting requirements with Ms. Halverson.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON ACCEPTING THE AUDIT REPORT AS PRESENTED:

Darby Brockway made the first motion and Lee Boyd seconded. The audit report was approved unanimously 4-0.

DISCUSS THE APRIL 2020 SALES TAX REPORT:

Brandon said he was anticipating the impact COVID-19 may have on sales tax for April and May 2020. Hotel motel tax has been more affected. We experienced a 6.5 percent increase. Although people were staying home, they were spending money on projects by spending dollars at essential businesses. Kyle Peavy said since people could not travel out of town, they spent money locally. Krisa said she talked with the retail and restaurant group and was told their sales are higher this year (2020) compared to last year (2019). Lee Boyd questioned Krisa on whether Amazon purchases (referring to sales tax portion) are returned to the local area. Krisa confirmed sales tax portion is returned locally. Mayor Blanton asked Krisa if she knew how many local businesses have an Amazon presence. Krisa said there are very few and many of our local retailers are selling online but not necessarily through Amazon. Mayor Blanton said he hopes to see continuing increases in sales tax.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON A REQUEST FROM THE GRAHAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR USE OF THE DOWNTOWN SQUARE ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2020 FROM 4:30 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M. FOR THE 2020 SHOP LOCAL LATE EVENT (DETAILS IN REQUEST LETTER):

Brandon said this will take place the evening before the Possum Pedal. This event occurred the past few years. Brint Albritton made the motion to approve the request. Kyle Peavy seconded and the request was approved unanimously 4-0.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON A REQUEST FROM MOUNT ZION CHURCH FOR USE OF THE DOWNTOWN SQUARE ON SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2020 FOR A UNITY WALK (DETAILS IN REQUEST LETTER):

Brandon said Andrea Tate contacted him and believes this request is in response to the event that occurred in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The intent is for Graham to stay as is and wants a march and unity walk in the downtown square. The Graham Police will be involved and the church has invited community leaders to attend. Their heart is in right place at this event. Brandon recommended approval of the request. Kyle Peavy made the first motion to approve the request. Lee Boyd made the second motion. The request was unanimously approved 4-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Neal Blanton requested all attending to exit the Council Chamber for the Executive Session.

ENTERED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:27 A.M.

TLGC Sec. 551.072 Deliberations Regarding Real Property

Discussion on Proposed Changes to Commercial Lake Lease on Lake Eddleman with Owner of the Crappie House.

EXIT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:50 A.M.

CONSIDER AND ACT (IF NEEDED) ON ANY CHANGES TO BE MADE TO THE COMMERCIAL LEASE AT LAKE EDDLEMAN:

Darby Brockway motioned to accept the lease agreement with the changes of adding Mrs. Reid's name, no permanent residents allowed at the location, changing lease term from one (1) year to five (5) years, and adding an additional seven (7) recreational vehicle sites (nine total). Brandon restated the previous and added that the lease rate would change. Mayor Blanton confirmed that Darby Brockway made the first motion that included the changes mentioned. Brint Albritton made the second motion and the lease was unanimously approved 4-0.


Mayor Blanton stated at this time he wanted to make an appointment to the Convention and Visitor's Bureau (CVB). Brandon said Jay Brewer will be taking Muriel Stephens place on the CVB Board. Mayor Blanton stated he is now making the appointment for Jay Brewer to serve on the CVB Board.

REPORTS:

- Police Chief Brent Bullock said they have been in the hiring process for a long time and informed Council that David Lipsey has been offered a conditional position pending completion of the Academy. Mr. Lipsey has been accepted into the Police Academy. After graduating, he will attend field training and then begin patrol. Mayor Blanton asked how long the Academy is. Chief Bullock said the training will take six (6) months to complete. Mayor Blanton asked if there were two dogs. Chief Bullock said the department currently has one (1) canine currently in service and an additional canine unit will join in July 2020.
- Fire Chief Jerry David said since COVID-19 has slowed down for now, they have started doing business inspections and flowing the hydrants.
- Public Works Director Randall Dawson said they will be flowing the hydrants after the fire department completes their flow testing.
- City Manager Brandon Anderson said the Municipal Court reports for three (3) months (February, March, April 2020) is in the packet. The packet also includes the May 2020 Library Report, Code Enforcement Report for May 2020, and the 2020 Municipal Court Warrants Report. The update for the Census by self-reporting and Internet reports Graham at 61 percent and the State of Texas is at 55 percent. Last census resulted in 67 percent participation. He encouraged the community to complete the census. Currently 61 percent of Graham and 55 percent in the state of Texas have completed the census. Tomorrow (June 12, 2020) at 12:30 p.m. there will be a Facebook Live meeting regarding status of COVID-19. There are twelve (12) positive that are recovering at home. According to Dr. Martin, most are only experiencing sinus and headaches, pain, and sniffles. We are not seeing any hospitalizations at this time. State of Texas is experiencing higher amounts of hospitalizations but we are not experiencing it. CEO of Graham Regional Medical Center told Brandon it is strange how the cases occur. For example, there may be 19 hospitals in the metroplex with two having a large number of patients. Brandon said it (COVID-19) appears to be localized with "hot spots." Brandon said he is comfortable with the handling of Covid-19 locally. Brandon said Dr. Martin and the hospital (referring to GRMC) is prepared should patients require hospitalization. Brandon said the Facebook Live event will occur tomorrow (June 12, 2020) at 12:30 p.m. The lake level is 99.9 percent full.
- Council Member Kyle Peavy questioned the month of May 2020 with 20 illegal parking within the 2020 Code Enforcement Report. Randall said the majority were unregistered vehicles parked on the streets. Mayor Blanton asked, "If a car is parked on the street without a current sticker, is that considered a violation?" Randall confirmed a car parked on the street without a sticker is in violation and BJ Cook (Code Enforcement Officer) citations for illegal parking.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Darby Brockway, a second from Kyle Peavy, the Council meeting was unanimously adjourned.


Neal Blanton, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Sharon McFadden, City Secretary