

June 05, 2014

The Graham City Council met in REGULAR SESSION in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 05, 2014, 2013 with the following members present:

MEMBERS:	Mayor:	Jack Graham-absent
	Mayor Pro-Tem:	Pam Scott
	Council Member:	Spencer Street III - absent
		Brint Albritton
		Darby Brockway
	City Manager:	David Casteel
	City Secretary:	David Maddy
	Police Chief:	Tony Widner
	Assistant Police Chief:	Brent Bullock
	Fire Chief:	Dennie Covey

VISITORS: Greg Stuckey-Luminant, Gene Carter-Luminant, Adrian Attaway, Bud Attaway, J. McLeroy, Ashleigh Moore, Anna Moore, Amy Moore, Zach Husen, Cassidy Bullock, Warren Bachman, Dean Hinton, Sandra Helvey, Jim Helvey, Robert San Miguel, Jason Cottongame, Jennifer Conway and Casey Holder.

ORDER: Mayor Pro-tem Pam Scott called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

Warren Bachman addressed council on his concerns about the noise and dust that would result from the ATV Park being discussed. He lives ½ miles from the site and is afraid his land value would decrease. He also felt it was not a tourism item and he would go to court to stop it if needed.

**MINUTES APPROVED:**

Minutes from the May 22, 2014 regular meeting were approved 3-0 on a motion from Darby Brockway and a second from Brint Albritton.

**CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION FOR PARK FACILITIES:**

The Graham 4H Clover Kids donated funds to assist with construction of playground equipment in the new park. These funds would be deposited and earmarked for playground facilities.

Several Children with their 4-H sponsor presented \$160 for the new park to Council. The money was raised through their own fundraising efforts. Pam Scott accepted the donation on behalf of the City and David Casteel said it would be applied toward playground equipment.

**DISCUSS WELDING PROGRAM AT NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE- GRAHAM:**

The Economic Improvement Corporation along with the Graham Industrial Association, NCTC and private individuals have identified a need for an enhanced welding program to support local industry and recruitment. These groups and individuals will fund the program. The EIC will contribute funds in the amount of \$200,000.00 to the program. In accordance with articles of incorporation and applicable state law, the City Council must hear and vote on the use of funds for such endeavors. This item fulfills the requirement of hearing of the planned use. Neal Blanton explained this was a 90 day certification program and other locations had been received as well.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF EIC FUNDS FOR WELDING PROGRAM AT NCTC-GRAHAM:**

In a previous item the City Council openly heard and discussed the need and funding plan for improving the welding program at NCTC-Graham. The EIC requested council concurrence and approval from the city council for the application of EIC funds to the project. In 60 days the funds may be applied to the project. Brint Albritton made the motion to approval the funding plan, Darby Brockway made the second and motion passed 3-0.

**DISCUSS DESTINATION SIGNING OPTIONS:**

The Convention and Visitors Bureau and Chamber of Commerce have heard comments from businesses and the public concerning a need for improved signing for the downtown area and other destinations such as the library, museum, visitor center, arena, auditorium, parks and athletic facilities.

TxDOT has a program that allows cities to utilize unique signs to direct visitors to destinations and areas of interest. The program is called the Wayfinding Sign Program. Cities participating in this program, such as New Braunfels and Abilene, erect and maintain their own signs with TxDOT concurrence. TxDOT has other signing options including conventional directional signing, historic area signing and city pride signing. Examples of signage were provided by Jennifer Conway with the CVB and Zach Husen with TxDOT and reviewed by Council. Banner signs for the Square and signs at the entrances to town are desired by the time the new visitor's center is completed. The Chamber and CVB could head the project and vote later when costs are obtained. They requested that money could be earmarked in next year's budget.

**CONSIDER LAKE LEVELS AND OPTIONS FOR RAW WATER INTAKE:**

In previous meetings, consultants and staff have analyzed data and made forecasts of future lake levels under various precipitation scenarios.

This data indicates that under dry and normal conditions that lake levels could fall to an elevation that could impede the ability to draw raw water from the lake for treatment.

Indications from previous reports are that the lake level could be at an elevation requiring altered raw water intake methods during the fall of 2014.

Staff and consultants have examined various options for allowing raw water to be removed from the lake for treatment in the event of continued lowering of the lake levels.

The options explored include:

- A. Dredging at the existing raw water inlet
- B. Constructing a permanent new raw water intake structure on Lake Eddleman or Lake Graham
- C. Constructing a temporary raw water intake facility on Lake Eddleman or Lake Graham
- D. Construction of a facility to manipulate lake elevations between the two lakes to maintain a higher elevation on Lake Eddleman.

Several staff, partners and consultants discussed the various options and costs. Options were reviewed by Council. Greg Stuckey with Luminant that operates the power plant at the lake expressed concern about the road to the plant being closed if the Lake Eddleman dam is built. David Casteel said there were ways to work around the problem. Three actions were presented to council for authorization.

- A. Authorizations to develop and execute a change order with the plant contractor, Gracon, to install a temporary pump at Lake Eddleman and tie it to the plant at an estimated cost of \$300,000 which will include 12 months of pump rental.
- B. Authorization to develop and execute a change order with the plant contractor, Gracon, to excavate silt, soil and rock at the inlet to the existing raw water house to an elevation of 1055 or less. The authorization is for up to \$200,000.
- C. Authorization to develop plans and secure permits to build a dam structure in the channel between Lake Graham and Lake Eddleman at an estimated cost of \$20,000 for engineering and permits. The work would be with Dean Hinton, P.E. as an extension to his work with the water treatment and distribution project. Construction would be authorized at a later date, if needed.

Brint Albritton made the motion to authorize the above items, Darby Brockway made the second and motion passed 3-0.

**CONSIDER REQUEST TO CLOSE CHERRY STREET FROM FOURTH STREET TO THIRD STREET FOR SPECIFIC DATES AND TIMES TO ACCOMMODATE ACTIVITIES AT THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH:**

The First Baptist Church of Graham has requested the closure of Cherry Street from Fourth Street to Third Street between the hours of 5:30 and 9:00 pm during the period June 9 through 13, 2014. This closure is requested to improve safety of children during the church's Vacation Bible School. Staff concurs with the request and recommends approval. The church obtained approval from the police department. Darby Brockway made the motion to authorize the street closure, Brint Albritton made the second and motion passed 3-0.

**CONSIDER CHANGES TO THE CITY OF GRAHAM LOGO AND BRANDING:**

The Economic Improvement Corporation, Graham Industrial Association, Chamber of Commerce and Convention and Visitor Bureau have examined the existing logo and branding for the community.

Each entity is developing a logo that will include the new branding.

The old logo "Graham, the North Star of Texas" is being replaced with "Graham, where Texas comes home".

Staff recommended the City adopt a logo incorporating the new branding, as well. Staff recommended the logo adopted by the EIC and GIA be adopted by the City. City signs, truck decals and letterhead will be changed to reflect the new logo and branding. Costs to implement should be minimal as changes will be made as replacements over time as existing inventories are depleted. Staff recommended approval. Jennifer Conway and Neal Blanton presented a copy of the new logo. Neal said that G.E.I.C. is paying to combine all city websites. Darby Brockway made the motion to approve the new logo, Brint Albritton made the second and motion passed 3-0.

**CONSIDER ORDINANCE #1020 CONCERNING CONNECTION TO CITY POTABLE WATER SYSTEM:**

This ordinance would add Section 25-20 to the Graham Code of Ordinances and would require structures where people live or have a business that utilize water and are located in the city to be connected to the city potable water system or acquire from the building official a variance for other water source use.

This ordinance addresses an issue identified by the building official whereby persons cancel their utility service and connect their structure to either a well or a portable water tank. These persons could continue to utilize city sewer and garbage systems without charge since they are not receiving a water utility bill. The variance requirement would allow the building official to work with the utility billing section to accurately assess sewer and garbage charges to such persons. There would be no charge for the variance.

Persons not connected to the city water system and not obtaining the required variance would be in violation of city code. Jason Cottongame explained the details of the proposed ordinance. Staff recommended approval. This was the first reading. Darby Brockway made the motion to approve Ordinance # 1020, Brint Albritton made the second and motion passed 3-0.

**CONSIDER ORDINANCE # 1021 CONCERNING WATER WELLS IN THE CITY:**

This ordinance would add Section 25-21 to the Graham Code of Ordinances and would require persons with water wells for potable or irrigation use to display a sign in their yard indicating such.

This is common practice in many cities and avoids the confusion caused by watering restrictions resulting from application of the drought contingency plan related to the use of potable water from the City. Persons with wells are not subject to City system restrictions. Members of the public have expressed concern about some persons not abiding by the restrictions and when investigated it has been determined that many times the concern was about a residence with a well. Staff recommended approval. Jason Cottongame explained the details of the ordinance. The Homeowner pays for or obtains the sign, which must be legible but small. Brint Albritton made the motion to approve Ordinance # 1021, Darby Brockway made the second and motion passed 3-0.

**REPORTS:**

Chief Widner told Council that the City had been purchasing bullet proof vests for officers with 50% of the cost covered by a federal grant. Congress was considering dropping the funding and supporters of the funding gave Graham officer Putman as an example of the vests saving officers' lives. The program was voted to continue. Robert San Miguel said that the Country Club wants to water on Wednesdays and Fridays, 1/2 of the facilities each day. Council said as long as they restricted watering to before 10:00 a.m. and after 7:00 p.m. they would still be in compliance with the restrictions. David Casteel reported that the Water Plant construction would begin within two weeks. He reported the lake level at 1062.5' or 45.23%. 1075' is full. David Maddy reviewed the monthly sales tax report for May noting collections were up 13.69% over April but down 7.44% from May 2013.

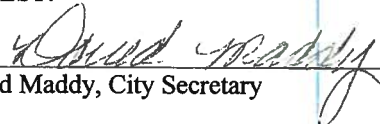
**ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion by Darby Brockway, a second from Brint Albritton and a vote of 3-0 the Council meeting was adjourned.




---

John Chiles Graham, Mayor

**ATTEST:**



---

David Maddy, City Secretary