

July 16, 2014

The Graham City Council met in REGULAR SESSION in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 16, 2014 with the following members present:

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

VISITORS: Allen Phillips, Wyatt Irby, Dean Hinton, Eddie Gellner, Sandra Helvey, Robert San Miguel, Jason Cottongame, Jerry David, Jim Helvey and Casey Holder.

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

PUBLIC FORUM:  
 None

MINUTES APPROVED:

Minutes from the July 03, 2014 regular meeting were approved 3-0 on a motion from Spencer Street and a second from Darby Brockway.

DISCUSS PRELIMINARY FINDINGS OF ALTERNATIVE WATER SOURCE STUDY:

Previously the Council authorized retaining Jacobs and Martin Engineers of Abilene, Texas to study potential alternative water sources should the drought continue and lake levels continue to decline. Previous studies by a different consultant, La Costa, indicated that with continued dry or near normal conditions that the lake could drop to 20% capacity by January 2016. Should lake levels drop that low the water supply for the city would be in jeopardy. Jacobs and Martin have investigated the feasibility and costs associated with exercising Possum Kingdom options, re-use of effluent and ground water exploration and development.

Allen Phillips with Jacob and Martin told Council that Graham is 60 miles from a major water aquifer and over 80 miles from any minor one. The Thrifty Sand formation is closer, could provide 2% of the target water needs per well and has good quality. A large number of wells would be required. These would be located in the area of Jean and Loving. Wells have to be spaced 600-1,000 feet apart and there would have to be 14-20 wells at a total cost of \$3.7m to \$4.8m. The life of the wells is undetermined. Possum Kingdom Lake (PK) is higher in chlorides and salt. The City could tie into the source at the water line south of Ivan, requiring 19 miles of line to town, a pumping facility and storage at the water treatment plant all at a cost of \$9.8m. Additional annual costs to the operating budget would be \$640,000 (\$1.97/1,000 gallons of treated water). The option to pull from PK cannot be increased. The final option of reusing effluent requires TCEQ approval which hinges on the method used to move water from the Waste Plant to the intake for the Water Plant. A final report on this option is scheduled for October. Depending on the continuing drought the City has about 18 months to establish an alternate source of water.

CONSIDER ORDINANCE # 1022 CONCERNING PERSONNEL POLICIES:

This ordinance would amend certain sections of Chapter 2 of the Graham Code of Ordinances to bring them into compliance with applicable laws and best practices.

This ordinance would clarify prohibited political activity, clarify submission for drug, background, driving and credit checks as a condition of employment, clarify probationary periods at initial employment, require advertisement of open positions except in certain situations, clarify rules on sick leave use and establish a sick leave pool, delete mandatory retirement at age 65, define exempt and non-exempt positions, clarify overtime compensation to be compliant with applicable laws, and define reduction in force termination. Staff recommends approval. This was the third and final reading. Spencer Street made the motion to approve Ordinance #1022, Darby Brockway made the second and motion passed 3-0.

CONSIDER ORDINANCE # 1023 CONCERNING COST OF SERVICE ADJUSTMENT FOR TEXAS GAS COMPANY:

This ordinance would adjust the agreement with Texas Gas Company to reflect increases in the cost of service. The city of Weatherford has been negotiating with Texas Gas in the region and recently adopted a cost of service adjustment of \$2.48 per customer. Wyatt Irby with Texas gas was present to discuss the adjustment with City Council. The increase amounts to \$2.48 per customer. The City of Weatherford negotiated on behalf of Graham. This was the first reading. Darby Brockway made the motion to approve Ordinance #1023, Spencer Street made the second and motion passed 3-0.

DISCUSS BUDGET VISION AND GOALS FOR FY 2015:

In previous meetings, presentations were made concerning major city departments and background information concerning sales tax and property tax revenue. Other departments and sources of income were discussed. Staff recommend a sales tax growth rate and property tax collection rate for council discussion and direction. The Council work shop has been scheduled for the evening of August 20. David Casteel presented the highlights of the initial General Fund budget for

discussion. Pam and Darby questioned the need for the pool ramp at this time. David Casteel said that the lifts were installed which makes the pool ADA certified. The ramp will be dropped from the final budget. The water and sewer funds will be discussed July 31.

REPORTS:

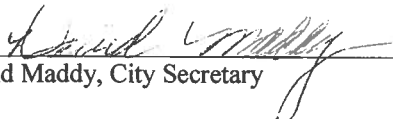
Council looked at the 2014 year to date code violations report prepared by Robert San Miguel. David Casteel said that crews are seal costing streets in several areas. City crews will build the Shawnee Springs retaining wall. No bids were received on the other part of the wall as it was a small project so City crews will do the work and the State will still reimburse for the work. He reported the lake level at 1061.99' or 43.2%. 1075' is full.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

  
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John Chiles Graham, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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David Maddy, City Secretary