

April 20, 2017

The Graham City Council met in REGULAR SESSION in the Council Chambers at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 20, 2017 with the following members present:

MEMBERS: Mayor: Jack Graham
 Mayor Pro-Tem: Darby Brockway
 Council Member: Brint Albritton
 Lee Boyd
 Kyle Peavy
 City Manager: Brandon Anderson
 City Secretary: Sharon McFadden
 Police Chief: Tony Widner
 Assistant Police Chief: Brent Bullock
 Fire Chief: Jerry David
 Assistant Fire Chief: Jim Don Laurent

VISITORS: Thomas Wallner, Krisa De La Cruz, Jenea Knight, Diana Theal, Sandra Helvey, Jason Cottongame, Chris Blanton, Neal Blanton, Dennis Fellows, Scott Swanson, Teresa Rogers, and Jimmy McLeroy.

ORDER: Mayor Jack Graham called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

PUBLIC FORUM: No comments were made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the April 6, 2017 Council meeting were approved unanimously with Kyle Peavy making the motion and Brint Albritton making the second.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON THE FINANCIAL REPORTS AND SALES TAX REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2017:

Sharon McFadden provided a brief overview of the reports. Lee Boyd made the motion to approve, Darby Brockway made the second, and financials were approved 4-0.

HEAR PRESENTATION FROM SCOTT SWANSON WITH LACOSTA ENVIRONMENTAL ON THE WATER RATE STUDY THE CITY AUTHORIZED THEM TO COMPLETE:

Brandon Anderson introduced Scott Swanson and Teresa Rogers. Scott provided details regarding the water rate study analysis he and Teresa conducted. Scott emphasized the City is not going to be able to meet the annual budgeted expenses based on current rates. The study shows a need to make water rate adjustments to ensure M & O and debt service payments are covered. Water consumption has dramatically decreased since installation of the new meters. Brandon said the data Scott and Teresa analyzed were based on the past eight (8) months of usage. Brandon said with record lows in the past three (3) months reflecting the lowest usage recorded in the past ten (10) years. Scott explained the differences in options one (1) and two (2) to the City Council. Kyle Peavy mentioned a negative effect on consumption from the usage of water wells. Brandon said water studies needs to occur annually and rates reconsidered on an annual basis. Kyle said action needs to be taken by raising rates to meet our obligations. Kyle recommended informing the public ahead of time. Brint Albritton said water study is clear and informative and will assist in educating the public. Brandon said the Water Rate Study will be posted on the City's website along with the Water Rate Comparison Sheet. The Comparison Sheet shows our rate increases are in line with other communities in our area. Mayor Graham said people have questioned our need for the new water plant. Dennis Fellows, Water Plant Supervisor, described the collapse of the old system. Mayor Graham said the new water plant was justified, there was no choice. Scott said no other communities he is aware of provide any free water (referring to the first 2,000 gallons the City includes with the meter charge). Mayor Graham said for low-usage people, there is little difference. Mayor Graham stated that high water users should pay a little more if they choose to water lawns. Mayor Graham, the City Manager and Council Members pointed out and discussed differences between options 1 and 2. Brandon said he would like to bring an Ordinance to the next Council meeting and possibly have a public hearing.

Brandon recommends option 2. Kyle said we need to get the new rates as soon as possible in order to capture the necessary revenue. Mayor Graham asked that the information be put on the website, add a link to the actual study to the Police, CVB, and Chamber websites. Mayor Graham requested a public hearing take place before the next scheduled Council meeting. Lee suggested creating an Executive Summary for communicating to the public which summarizes the rate study and the reasoning for rate increases.

Brandon said his concern was to have an honest and independent rate study. Mayor Graham said hot water heaters in homes that are aged can cause water discoloration. Mayor Graham said not all issues are 100 percent City problems. Darby suggested adding a rate time-line into the Executive summary for public view. Mayor Graham, the City Manager, and Council Members discussed options of building reserves for future needs. Mayor Graham said at this point we need to pay our bills. Mayor Graham said table everything for now. Mayor Graham and the City Manager, Brandon Anderson, agreed that an Ordinance would be prepared for the next Council Meeting.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON A REQUEST FROM THE WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD COMMITTEE TO CLOSE THE INTERIOR OF THE SQUARE FROM 9 – 11 A.M. ON THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2017 FOR A PARADE OF CHILDREN 4 YEARS OLD AND YOUNGER:

Mayor Graham said this has been a well-attended event. Kyle Peavy made the motion to approve the request, Darby Brockway made the second, and request was approved 4-0.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON A REVISED REQUEST FROM THE GRAHAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR STREET CLOSURES DURING THE POSSUM PEDAL BIKE RIDE ON SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2017:

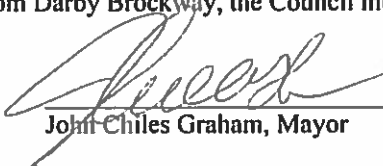
Diana Theal said the addition to the revision is for the Little Joey Jaunt children's ride. The route will be on a route from Grove Street (2nd Street to 3rd Street), Pecan Street (2nd Street – 3rd Street), 2nd Street from Pecan to Grove, and 3rd Street from Pecan to Oak. Brint Albritton made the motion to approve the request, Lee Boyd made the second, and the request was approved 4-0.

REPORTS:

- Jerry David, Fire Chief, said applications have been submitted for open positions. Jerry has four applicants he intends to interview and test.
- Diana Theal, Chamber of Commerce Manager, said there is still a need of five morning teams for the golf tournament.
- Jenea Knight, CVB Manager, mentioned the Food Truck Championship is busy preparing for the event. They are seeking volunteers and sponsors. Jenea said Aaron Watson is the headliner for the concert.
- Neal Blanton, Director of GEIC, mentioned that he has been visiting with three (3) prospects for land and/or buildings. Neal said each year the private GIA has an annual meeting to go over finances and the yearly accomplishments. This year on March 30th the GIA conducted the 61st annual meeting, making it one of the oldest, if not the oldest economic development organization in the state.
- Dennis Fellows, Water Plant Supervisor, said the PLC computer programs that run the Water Plant are not functioning properly. Dennis said repairs are in the process of being made.
- Brandon Anderson said the lake level is at 98.9 percent full. Brandon stated the suspension bridge at Salt Creek (Fireman's Park) has been closed due to safety concerns. Jason Cottongame met with an Engineer and is working on a plan to revive the bridge. Brandon said there will be replacement of cables, changing from wood to metal planks, and addressing other concerns for public safety. Public Works is working with a foundation group on the Shawnee Springs fountain. Brandon said repairs are in process and should be completed soon. Brandon mentioned the fountain is known as an historic wading pool for the community.

ADJOURNMENT:

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



 John Chiles Graham, Mayor

ATTEST:



 Sharon McFadden, City Secretary