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June 9, 2022

The Graham City Council met in REGULAR SESSION in the Council Chambers at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 9, 2022, with the following members present:

MEMBERS: Mayor: Neal Blanton
Mayor Pro-Tem: Alex Heartfield
Council Members: Shana Weatherbee-Wolfe
Jack Little
Randy Cantin
City Manager: Brandon Anderson (absent)
City Secretary: Sharon McFadden
Municipal Judge: Jim Reeves
Police Chief: Brent Bullock
Fire Chief: Jim Don Laurent (absent)
Public Works Director: Randall Dawson

VISITORS: Jimmy McLeroy, Bivens, Shelby Brogdon, Heather Allen, BJ Cook, Kim Shawver, David Aleshire, Gary Elrod, Brenda Tarpley, Marci Bueno, Dennis Fellows, Lisa Shook, Grant Ingram, Casyn Smith, Thomas Wallner, Sarah Lundgren.

OPENING PRAYER: Mayor Blanton called the meeting to order and invited Pastor Gary Elrod to open with a prayer. Pastor Elrod accepted and opened with a prayer.

PUBLIC FORUM: Mayor Blanton asked if anyone would like to speak in the Public Forum. No comments were made.

OATH OF OFFICE: Police Chief Brent Bullock introduced new police officer Michael Watts. Municipal Judge Jim Reeves conducted the Oath of Office with Officer Watts.

REPORTS:

- Public Works Director, Randall Dawson, said Dennis Fellows (Water Plant Supervisor) will provide details on water. There will be a lot of line flushing taking place over the next week. The parks department staff are working on clearing water ways and should complete the process in the next few weeks. The street department staff are waiting on dump trucks so staff can get started heavy on street work. Mayor Blanton asked for confirmation that someone is looking at roofs. Randall said that is correct and that someone will be coming in to assess city structures for roof damage that may have been caused by recent storms. Jack Little asked Randall the reason for waiting on dump trucks. Randall said some have been ordered for this fiscal budget and should be delivered in the next couple of weeks. Jack Little asked how many dump trucks and Randall said there are two (2). Jack Little asked if the city currently has any dump trucks. Randall said there are three (3) and are in rough condition. Randall said the newest dump truck is from 2009. Randy Cantin asked what public works intends to do with the old dump trucks. Randall said the older trucks will continue to be used. Jack Little said there are three (3) old trucks and waiting on two (2) new trucks. Randall told Jack Little that is correct. Randall said two (2) of those trucks are smaller and not able to haul a lot of material.
- Mayor Blanton asked Dennis Fellows, Water Plant Supervisor, to talk about the water line "burn out." Dennis said there has been no discolored water in the lines and the break point occurred yesterday (June 8, 2022). Dennis said there is a switch from Chloramine to free Chlorine. The "burn out" is taking place for three (3) weeks (usual is two weeks). Dennis said it is likely there will not be another "burn out" occurring for the rest of the year. Dennis said everything is going smooth.
- Municipal Judge Jim Reeves said everything is progressing and that Carla Ritchie (Court Clerk) supplied details in the previous meeting (May 26, 2022). Municipal Court has been busy.
- Grant Ingram, GEIC Executive Director, said he wanted to commend the CVB and Chamber staff on the success of the Possum Pedal Bike Ride and the Food Truck Championship of Texas. There were many hurdles and overcame the challenges. Mayor Blanton agreed with Grant's comments and thanked the CVB and Chamber staff on behalf of himself and Council. Jack Little said the City of Graham staff that helped needed to be recognized for the work of keeping trash moving, remained pleasant, and kept the bathroom facilities clean. Mayor Blanton said a guest told him the bathroom facilities were exceptionally clean.
- Chamber Manager, Lisa Shook, said the Chamber and CVB could not have had such success without the city staff helping in the events. There were 407 riders for Possum Pedal and the weather was perfect for the riders. All the routes were used, and Lisa thanked City of Graham Police, Olney Police, and Young County Sheriff's office for their help.
- CVB Manager, Casyn Smith, said she appreciated everyone that helped in the events. The concert issues were quickly resolved, and a new plan was executed.
- Police Chief Brent Bullock said he was assigned the task of preparing about what police do to counter concerns like what occurred in Uvalde Texas. Chief Bullock supplied Council an overview of the policies and procedures which excludes some of the steps due not being proper to release certain details to the public for protection purposes. School Resource Officer, Sargent Blake Davis, was planning to attend the meeting today (June 9, 2022) but was not able to because of a family emergency. Officer Blake takes all new officers to each school and introduces the officer to school staff. There is a School Marshall that takes on the responsibilities. All police officers have attended Alert Training. Alert Training is the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response training which is a three (3) day class for force on force with drill exercises. Several Graham Police Officers are SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) certified. Each officer has had extensive training through drilling exercise. Sargent Davis is dedicated to protecting children and this is his passion. Sargent Davis also provides private businesses with training for active shooter. Most training is conducted behind the scenes. Sargent Davis does train with teachers and students. Graham Police Department also takes part in the School Guardian Program which like a "secret society" and the names of those guardians are confidential. Graham Police Department has been taking part in that program since 2018. The Graham Police Department collaborate with the School Guardians and train together to prepare for a threat. Graham ISD conducts "lock-down" drills and the police take part in those drills. The last drill was conducted a few months ago and was successful. Randy Cantin asked how often the drills take place. Chief Bullock said the State (of Texas) requires two (2) drills and there is also simulator that can be used. Chief Bullock asked School Marshall, Tom Lewis to supply input on the

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active shooter training. Marshal Lewis said that the School Guardians are TCOLE trained and he runs the program for the school district. There are a lot of Guardians taking part in the program. There is joint training between school districts and police departments. Mayor Blanton asked if more people are being added to the Guardian program. Marshal Lewis said the program includes males and females, concealed carry is required, psychological testing is required, an interview process, and must qualify with their firearm. Marshal Lewis said the biggest part of the program is the training and he is thankful to have partnership with law enforcement. Jack Little asked if they (School Guardians) must be employed by the school district. Marshal Lewis said those taking part must be employed by the school district. Marshal Lewis said the group is keeping up with the Texas Governor's requirements and continuous changes to the program. The high school is the most difficult to control due to the accesses and all the activities. All other schools are locked and the only entrance accessible is through the front office. Chief Bullock said everyone has the mindset to protect the children.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes for the Regular Council Meeting held on Thursday, June 9, 2022, were considered. Shana Weatherbee-Wolfe made the first motion approving the minutes and Randy Cantin seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved 4-0.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON CHANGES TO ORDINANCES RELATED TO ANIMALS AND FOWL (CHAPTER 5):

Mayor Blanton asked Heather Allen to speak and said there are copies available to anyone interested. Ms. Allen explained the changes requested by Animal Control Officer, Kim Shawver, Young County Humane Society (YCHS) staff, and Ms. Allen as President of the Board for the Humane Society. Mayor Blanton asked if the changes are going to affect FFA's rabbit program. Chief Brent Bullock said FFA programs are being excluded. Mayor Blanton said all the requested changes will be sent to the City Attorney and verify the requirements are met. Ms. Allen continued explaining requested changes to Chapter 5 ordinances. Shelby Brogdon, speaking as Director of the UCHS, explained changes her organization would like to see that involve her organization in cooperation with the City of Graham. Ms. Brogdon said her requests are comparable to other cities in our area. Mayor Blanton asked if the Animal Control Officer is not able to catch and restrain an animal on a third (3) offense, will the rule of not relinquishing the animal back to owner still apply. Ms. Brogdon said that it does apply on third offense. Chief Bullock said if the owner does not follow the law, then the police seize the animal. Ms. Brogdon said there is a whole section (in Chapter 5) about dangerous animals. Chief Bullock said police can seize the animal and request a hearing with the Judge for disposition of the animal. Ms. Brogdon said her organizations request to ordinance changes is comparable to what the City of Olney as in place. Sharon McFadden asked if the request for changes includes cats. Ms. Brogdon said the ordinance is not specific to free-roaming cats. Ms. Allen encouraged pet owners have an identification microchip implanted in the neck of the animal. Kim Shawver recommended an animal not be allowed restrained by cable (tethered) for more than three (3) hours in a 24-hour period, and chaining an animal is unacceptable. Ms. Allen and Ms. Brogdon continued with more requests for changes to ordinances. Ms. Brogdon encouraged getting pets "chipped" and will work with those unable to afford the costs. Randy Cantin asked who took part in implementing the ordinances. Ms. Brogdon said Heather Allen (President of YCHS Board), Kim Shawver (Animal Control Officer) Shelby Brogdon (YCHS Director), Brent Bullock (Police Chief), and Brandon Anderson (City Manager), all worked together to figure out the changes needing to be made on Ordinances. Randy Cantin told the group that Council appreciates how swiftly and professionally the group is moving forward with this (changes to Chapter 5 ordinances). Mayor Blanton said he wanted to thank Kim Shawver for the rough job she has, how well she does her job, and that the City of Graham is lucky to have Kim Shawver. Jack Little asked if most of the ordinances been on our books over the past few years. Ms. Brogdon said the only changes being presented are in "green print" in the packet presented to Council. Ms. Brogdon and Kim Shawver said all the information in "blue print" has been on the books since the 1960's. Jack Little said a lot of this has been on the books but has fallen through the cracks because of a lack of attention. Jack Little said it appears to him there is a lot in this, and he does not think there is a "quick fix" and there are not enough personnel in the City (of Graham) to fix a lot of this. Mayor Blanton said there will be no vote on this agenda item because the City Attorney needs to review the requested changes. Jack Little asked if this is common ground with other cities. Ms. Allen and Ms. Brogdon said most of their request for changes came from reviewing ordinances of Olney, Abilene, Vernon, and Wichita Falls. Ms. Allen said the attorney she consulted with said the last update on Chapter 5 ordinances was in 1987. Council and Mayor Blanton thanked Ms. Brogdon, Ms. Allen, and Kim Shawver to their input. Chief Bullock said Kim Shawver has experience in Animal Control. Mayor Blanton said the request will be on the next agenda and hopes Council will be able to act and bring everything up to date. The changes requested for Chapter 5 ordinances was tabled.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON REMOVING SIGNATORY AUTHORITY FOR CITY MANAGER, BRANDON ANDERSON, FROM ALL CITY OF GRAHAM FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS EFFECTIVE JUNE 15, 2022. CONSIDER AND ACT ON ADDING MAYOR NEAL BLANTON AND MAYOR PRO-TEM ALEX HEARTFIELD AS SIGNATORIES ON ALL CITY OF GRAHAM FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS EFFECTIVE AS OF JUNE 15, 2022. WHEN A NEW CITY MANAGER IS APPOINTED, COUNCIL WILL BE PRESENTED WITH TRANSFER OF SIGNATORY AUTHORITY TO THAT INDIVIDUAL:

Jack Little asked who the current signatories on City accounts are. Mayor Blanton said Brandon Anderson and Sharon McFadden are current signatories. Jack Little said the changes will now include three (3) signatories. Mayor Blanton said that is correct. Sharon McFadden said signature stamps will be available for use with one (1) actual signature and a stamp for the secondary signature because checks issued require two (2) signatures. Jack Little asked if there are currently any signatures stamps. Sharon McFadden said there is one (1) for her signature and there was one (1) for Brandon Anderson, but he has taken his. Mayor Blanton repeated Sharon McFadden's comment. Jack Little made the first motion and Shana Weatherbee-Wolfe seconded. The signatory changes requested were unanimously approved 4-0.

ENTERED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Blanton announced the entrance into Executive Session at 9:49 a.m.

551.072 Deliberations Regarding Real Property

-Discuss bids received for Lake Lots, to purchase their lease land from the City of Graham

Lot # 128 (second review)
Lot # 162 (second review)

Lot # 163 (second review)
Lot # 164

551.074 Personnel Matters
-Discuss Employee Transition

EXIT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Blanton announced the exit from Executive Session at 10:43 a.m.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON BIDS RECEIVED ON A LAKE LOTS TO PURCHASE THEIR LEASE FROM THE CITY OF GRAHAM:

Alex Heartfield said he wanted to make a motion to approve the bid received on Lake Lot # 128 pending resolution of the encroachment issues. Jack Little made the second motion and the bid for Lake Lot # 128 was approved 4-0.

Alex Heartfield said he wanted to make a motion to table bids received on Lake Lots # 162 & # 163 until Council receives clarification from the appraiser. Randy Cantin made the second motion, and the bids were tabled by a vote of 4-0.


Alex Heartfield said he wanted to make a motion to approve the bid received on Lake Lot # 164. Shana Weatherbee-Wolfe made the second motion. The bid for Lake Lot # 164 was unanimously approved 4-0.

CONSIDER AND ACT (IF NEEDED) ON ANY OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Blanton called on Airport Manager, Jon Delamarter. It is not on the agenda to act on the Airport Board's recommendation. Mayor Blanton asked Jon Delamarter to briefly describe what came out of the meeting. Jon Delamarter said he did not attend the meeting due to having COVID. Jon Delamarter said Jim Burdarf has been running a small business for quite some time. Mr. Burdarf sells special response first aid kits for pilots. There is also training provided for potential crisis situations. Mr. Delamarter said the business is primarily an online-type business and that Mr. Burdarf may store items related to the first aid kits in his airport hangar. Mr. Delamarter said Mr. Burdarf is doing his due diligence because Mr. Burdarf was unaware under ordinance that he would be required to get City Council approval for any entity to run a business in the airport. Mr. Delamarter said there are commercial pilots that routinely operate out of Graham Municipal Airport. Those commercial pilots have recently started a company called "I Am Assets" and Mr. Delamarter said if it goes as planned, the company will be an asset to the community. There is no airline service, no charter operations, and there are a lot of high-net-worth individuals who have a need to get from "Point A" to "Point B." The idea behind "I Am Assets" is they plan to enter into agreements with variously identified aircraft owners. The business would operate like taxicab service by allowing pilots to use aircraft owners' planes. Mr. Delamarter in addition to those services, there are two (2) new airplanes planning to move to Graham as soon as hangar space becomes available. Mr. Delamarter said there currently is an issue with availability of hanger spaces. Mr. Delamarter explained runway issues and the plan to resolve those issues. Mayor Blanton those two (2) items will be on the next Council agenda. Alex Heartfield said the request letter in the Council packet was for Firebird Aviation, LLC owned by Darrell Morgan. Mr. Delamarter said Mr. Morgan is an upstanding citizen of our community and has experience in aviation. Mr. Delamarter said Mr. Morgan spent many hours voluntarily mowing the grass at the airport when city staff were not able to keep up with the demand. Mr. Delamarter said he highly endorses the request from Mr. Morgan. Jack Little asked Jon Delamarter for an explanation how a public airport can have individual businesses operate. Alex Heartfield read the ordinance in the Council packet. Alex Heartfield said the airport board must present to Council and it is Council's responsibility to decide to allow. Jon Delamarter said since the airport receives federal funding, the airport must have a strong compelling reason to prevent a certain commercial operation at the airport. Jack Little asked if it was acceptable to run a business from a publicly owned airport. Mr. Delamarter said that is true and that is how most airports operate across the state. Mr. Delamarter said it is nearly impossible for someone to personally own and maintain an airport. Jack Little said that was his only concern. Mayor Blanton asked if anyone has other comments or concerns.

ADJOURNMENT:

Jack Little made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Mayor Blanton said, "So moved."


Neal Blanton, Mayor

ATTEST 
Sharon McFadden, City Secretary