

June 23, 2022

The Graham City Council met in REGULAR SESSION in the Council Chambers at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 23, 2022, with the following members present:

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

VISITORS: Jimmy McLeroy, Shelby Brogdon, Heather Allen, BJ Cook, Kim Shawver, David Aleshire, Gary Elrod, Lisa Shook, Thomas Wallner, Sarah Lundgren, Michael Williams, Sonya Ramos, and Carla Ritchie.

LEGISLATIVE 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. Michael Williams said he is receiving calls from people reporting loose running dogs. Mr. Williams said the calls are being received on weekends and after normal business hours. Mr. Williams expressed his concerns for animals and asked for an explanation for the process of how animals will be euthanized. Mayor Blanton said he cannot respond to the questions, but ordinances related to animals will take place at the next Council meeting on July 7, 2022. Mayor Blanton said the attorneys have not responded with recommendations yet, but the revised ordinance will be presented. Mr. Williams continued to explain he is receiving after-hours calls, and no one (referring to Animal Control/Police) are not responding. Animal Control Officer, Kim Shawver requested to speak. Officer Shawver said when she is not available in evenings and weekends, officers do respond to calls. Officer Shawver said last week (June 12 to June 18, 2022) police officers did pick up several dogs. Officer Shawver said citizens should not take matters into their own hands, citizens should contact the Sheriff's Department at 940.549.1212 so that officers can respond. Officer Shawver said she does receive off hours calls and does respond. Ms. Shawver said a typical dog running at-large is usually not picked up after 5:00 p.m. and on weekends. Officer Shawver said she is the only Animal Control Officer on staff and most citizens know her work hours, but they also know police officers can issue a citation, which is done quite often. Officer Shawver said in Mr. Williams situation, the complaint needs to be handled by contacting the police department. Mr. Williams continued expressing his concerns for the situation of loose dogs. Mayor Blanton told Mr. Williams the police need to be contacted and there is nothing further that can be done. Mayor Blanton asked if anyone else wanted to speak in the public forum. No additional comments were made.

REPORTS:

- Municipal Judge Jim Reeves provided the Municipal Court report for June 2022. No comments were made.
- Randall Dawson, Public Works Director, said waterways are still being cleared and that staff are "prepping" streets. Plans are finalized for the alternate water line. There are three (3) easements needing secured. The next step will be going out for bids. Randall hopes that will be done by Friday, June 24, 2022. There is a TxDOT meeting scheduled for Monday, June 27, 2022, to discuss the right of ways. The wastewater plant belt press is out for bids now and bids should be received soon.
- Airport Manager, Jon Delamarter, said the asphalt is down on one (1) of the runways and awaiting seal-coating. There are negotiations occurring with the engineer and contractor and hope to have additional work completed at the airport by July 1, 2022. Jon said he attended a meeting with TxDot last week and there are two (2) grass runways that are not actually designated as runways. Steve Pierce has maintained the grass runways the past 20 (twenty) years. The FAA passed a new amendment to allow acknowledgement of the grass runways. The FAA is supposed to visit the airport today (June 23, 2022).
- Chamber Manager, Lisa Shook, said the July 4, 2022, celebration will take place with the pancake breakfast that will be at First Baptist Church. Events will include honors ceremony, Chalk Walk on the square, and fireworks at the soccer fields in the evening. There was a letter in the time capsule that was addressed to the Governor. Lisa said she mailed the letter to the current Governor. A response letter was received from the Governor and the letters will be on display at the OPOMAC. Mayor Blanton said Preston Smith was the Governor at that time (1972). Mayor Blanton said he read the letter and it was genuinely nice and complimentary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes for the Regular Council Meeting held on Thursday, June 9, 2022, were considered. Randy Cantin made the first motion approving the minutes and Alex Heartfield seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved 2-0.

DISCUSS SALES TAX REPORT FOR APRIL 2022 REVENUE RECEIVED IN JUNE 2022:

Mayor Blanton said it is good to see that last month (May 2022) was an anomaly and is now back up to 11.50 percent overall. The State (of Texas) was up 10.51 percent. Mayor Blanton said that is a good indicator of good sales tax and hopes the trend continues for the remainder of the year (2022).

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

Mayor Blanton said the updates have not been verified by the attorney. Mayor Blanton said the item will be added to the next Council agenda (for the July 7, 2022, Council meeting). The potential changes for Chapter 5 ordinances were tabled.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON A SPECIAL USE PERMIT REQUESTED BY MR. HAROLD FROEHMER. MR. FROEHMER IS REQUESTING PERMISSION TO TEMPORARILY LIVE IN AN RV ON HIS PROPERTY WHILE REPAIRS ARE MADE TO HIS HOME DUE TO A FIRE. PERMIT REQUEST IN THE COUNCIL PACKET:

Code Enforcement Officer, BJ Cook said Mr. Froehmer presented the request and said he (Mr. Froehmer) resides in Mineral Wells and is only in Graham on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays to work on the house. BJ Cook said Mr. Froehmer is requesting temporary permission to live in an RV on the property while repairs are being made to the home. Mayor Blanton asked if the permit was for only 30 days. BJ said the request is only for 30 days and Mr. Froehmer understands once 30 days passes, the permit process will have to be done again. Alex Heartfield asked if the permit would renew automatically for another 30 days. BJ Cook said the permit is only good for 30 days and then Mr. Froehmer would have to apply again for another 30 days and then Council would have to review the permit to extend another 30 days. Randy Cantin asked where the property is located. BJ Cook said the property is at 1103 First Street, Graham, Texas (close to First Street and Carolina Street). Alex Heartfield said he did not see a problem with the request. Alex Heartfield made a motion to approve the permit request. Randy Cantin made the second motion, and the permit was approved by a vote of 2-0.

ENTERED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Blanton announced the entrance into Executive Session at 9:11 a.m.

551.072 Deliberations Regarding Real Property

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

Lots # 146, # 147 & # 148
Lot # 162 & # 163 (third review)
Lot # 168

Lot # 204
Lot # 257
Lot # 520

551.074 Personnel Matters

-Discuss Employee Transition

EXIT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Blanton announced the exit from Executive Session at 9:38 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 bids received on Lake Lots # 146, # 147 & #148, Lot # 257, Lot # 520. Randy Cantin made the second motion and the bids for those Lake Lots were approved 2-0.

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. Alex Heartfield requested a letter be sent to the lease holder requesting assistance in feedback from the appraiser. Randy Cantin made the second motion, and the bids were tabled by a vote of 2-0.

Alex Heartfield said he wanted to make a motion to deny the bid received on Lake Lot # 168 because it did not meet the requirements of the appraised value. Randy Cantin made the second motion, and the bid was denied 2-0. Alex Heartfield stated the request for Lake Lot # 204 needs to continue with the lease and deny the request to purchase later at the current appraised value. Randy Cantin provided the second motion, and the vote to continue the lease and deny the purchase request was unanimous 2-0.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON A MORATORIUM OF LAKE LOT LEASE CHARGES FOR LOTS THAT THE CITY COUNCIL HAS ACCEPTED:

Alex Heartfield said he would like to make the motion to offer a moratorium on the lake lot leases that have approved bids to this point. Randy Cantin seconded, and the moratorium was approved 2-0.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON AN APPOINTMENT OF AN INTERIM CITY MANAGER:

Randy Cantin said he would like to hire Larry Fields, a previous Graham City Manager, and a temporary interim for 90 days. Alex made the second motion; Larry Fields was unanimously accepted as Interim City Manager by a vote of 2-0.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON AFFAIRS RELATED TO EMPLOYEE TRANSITION:

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Blanton said all Executive Session items have been addressed. Alex Heartfield made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Mayor Blanton said, "So moved."


Neal Blanton, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Sharon McFadden, City Secretary