

July 21, 2022

The Graham City Council met in REGULAR SESSION in the Council Chambers at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 21, 2022, with the following members present:

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

VISITORS: Jimmy McLeroy, Heather Allen, Lisa Shook, Thomas Wallner, Sonya Ramos, Cathy Partridge, BJ Cook, Carla Ritchie, Casyn Smith, Kim Shawver, Sandra Helvey, Roy Pitcock, Jr., Cayley Strickland, Ashlyn Weaver, and Jennifer Neff.

LEGISLATIVE PRAYER: Mayor Blanton called the meeting to order and opened with a prayer.

PUBLIC FORUM: Mayor Blanton asked if anyone would like to speak in the Public Forum. Sonja Ramos said she resides at 401 South Street. Ms. Ramos voiced her concerns for distracted driving. No additional comments were made.

REPORTS:

- Interim City Manager, Larry Fields informed Council that Randall Dawson, Public Works Director, is on vacation this week. The street maintenance program is proceeding, and he is receiving public acknowledgement. Randall Dawson will be able to provide updates on status of projects at the next meeting (August 4, 2022). Mayor Blanton mentioned streets that have already been repaired.
- Police Chief Brent Bullock said two (2) new cadets are in Weatherford attending six (6) months of training. There is still one (1) officer position open. Last week the police department was audited by the State (of Texas) and passed requirements.
- Fire Chief Jim Don Laurent provided an update on the fire situation at Possum Kingdom.
- Grant Ingram, Executive Director of GEIC, said the property purchased at 510 Corporate Drive has a new tenant under lease. The tenant is Cow Kids Clothing Company. GEIC is supporting the business to help get it off the ground. The fire department's new uniforms are very sharp. Randy Cantin asked if the fire department assisted on any of the fires. Chief Laurent said they assisted on 1287 and the Stephens County line.
- Cathy Partridge, CEO of the Chamber and CVB, introduced two (2) new staff members. Ashlyn Weaver is the new Administrative Assistant. Cayley Strickland is moving from Administrative Assistant to the Chamber Manager position. Lisa Shook is leaving as Chamber Manager and today (July 21, 2022) is her last day. Cathy thanked Lisa for her contributions to the Chamber.
- Mayor Blanton said the lake level is at 88.4 percent full.

PROCLAMATION:

Mayor Blanton read the Proclamation being presented to Lisa Shook, Manager of the Graham Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Blanton proclaimed Thursday, July 21, 2022, as "Lisa Shook Day" in Graham, Texas. Lisa thanked everyone.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes for the Regular Council Meeting held on Thursday, July 7, 2022, were considered. Shana Weatherbee-Wolfe made the first motion approving the minutes and Jack Little seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved 4-0.

DISCUSS SALES TAX REPORT FOR MAY 2022 RECEIVED IN JULY 2022:

Mayor Blanton said there was another banner month and we (City of Graham) continue to excel with sales tax revenue. Mayor Blanton asked Grant Ingram to provide an explanation of why sales tax revenue has increased. Mr. Ingram said the high cost of goods in combination with the success of the Chamber of Commerce influence of "shopping local." Jack Little asked what happened from March to May with a one (1) percent difference. Jack Little asked where the numbers on the report came from. Mayor Blanton said the State (of Texas) and Larry Fields said the Comptroller's office. Larry Fields explained how to research the data on the website of the Comptroller. Larry Fields said those reporting quarterly cause variations.

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

Larry Fields said he has reviewed the proposed ordinance being presented. Mr. Fields said it is his understanding the questioning of the ordinance was caused by concern for dangerous animals, specifically pit bulldogs. The City (of Graham) already has an ordinance for dangerous animals that provides animal control the authority to address all of the concerns. Mr. Fields said, in his opinion, he cannot support the proposed ordinance for the town the size of Graham. The litter permits and stud permits are getting too intrusive on people's lives. Mr. Fields questions how those permits are going to be enforced. Jack Little asked Mr. Fields if there was already a policy in place for vicious (dangerous) animals. Larry Fields said, "Yes." Randy Cantin asked if citizens felt adequately protected. Mr. Fields said if the current ordinance is enforced, it will take care of the concerns. Jack Little asked if anyone else (referring to Council) was aware of the current ordinance. Mayor Blanton said no one was aware until now. Larry Fields said, in his opinion, the authority already exists in the current ordinance. Shana Weatherford-Wolfe asked if there is a dangerous situation, does the current ordinance provide what is needed. Shana said the girls (referring to Heather Allen and Young County Humane Society staff) have worked extremely hard on preparing the new ordinance. Shana suggested tabling the new ordinance until the new city manager comes in. Heather Allen asked Council to table the request at this time. Jack Little asked if there is already an ordinance, then why has it not been enforced. Animal Control Officer, Kim Shawver, said the dog in question is not dangerous toward humans. When the dog

would get out, the dog would attack feral cats. If the dog were to attack a citizen's cat, then Kim said she would be able to deem the dog as a dangerous animal. Feral Cats are considered wild animals running loose and the loose dog attacking the feral cats is not considered dangerous. Kim said the dangerous animal law is taken very seriously in Graham and there are two (2) pit bulldogs at the Humane Society right now that will not be returned to the owner unless all ordinance requirements are met. Kim said the ordinance requires a six (6) foot tall fence, 24 inches into the ground, and insurance on the dog. Kim said there has not been a dangerous animal attack reported in Graham since the late 1980's. Kim said if she picks up a dangerous animal, the animal generally is not returned to the owner. Mayor Blanton asked if the calls come directly to her or to 911. Kim said the calls come through the police department and she is dispatched to the scene. Jack Little said what bothers him is there is already an ordinance, and no one was aware of the ordinance. Alex Heartfield said he has read the ordinance written by Larry Fields and the proposed ordinance. Alex said the current ordinance could be updated to include licensing, microchips, and fines. Mayor Blanton and Randy Cantin said the new ordinance can be considered when the new city manager arrives. Kim Shawver said during her down time she traps feral cats and last week she trapped 23. Kim said there is a feral cat colony living on Fourth Street behind the Quilt Box (at Tennessee and Fourth Street). Mayor Blanton said the recommendation is to suspend the ordinance. The proposed ordinance was tabled.

ENTERED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Blanton announced the entrance into Executive Session at 9:24 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 # 11
Lot # 17
Lot # 18

Lot # 61
Lot # 168
Lot # 204

Lot # 583

551.074 Personnel Matters

-Discuss Employee Transition
-Discuss Appointments to Committees

EXIT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Blanton announced the exit from Executive Session at 10:12 a.m.

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

Mayor Blanton said Council has reviewed and decided to proceed with what has already been completed. The bids that have been accepted within the replats are ready to move forward. Alex Heartfield said once the attorney's finish reviewing, the plats will be presented to Council and will be able to close on those properties.

Alex Heartfield made a motion to approve the bids received on Lake Lots # 11, # 17, # 18, # 61, #204, and # 583. Randy Cantin made the second motion to approve the bids, and the bids were approved by a vote of 4-0.

Alex Heartfield made a motion to table the bid received on Lake Lot # 168. Shana Weatherbee-Wolfe made the second motion. Lake Lot # 168 was tabled by unanimous vote of 4-0.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON AFFAIRS RELATED TO EMPLOYEE TRANSITION:

No action taken.

CONSIDER AND ACT ON APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES:

Mayor Blanton said he would like to recommend Wayne Christian be considered for the Airport Board and has previously served on the board. Mr. Christian will replace Bruce Street. Alex Heartfield made the first motion. Jack Little made the second motion, and the appointment was approved 4-0.

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


No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Blanton said there is no further action. Jack Little made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mayor Blanton said, "So moved."


Neal Blanton, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sandra Helvey, City Secretary