GRAHAM CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
FEBRUARY 17, 2026

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT
Mayor: Alex Heartfield
Councilmember Place 1: Shana Weatherbee-Wolfe
Mayor Pro-Tem/Place 2: Jeff Dickinson
Councilmember Place 3: Jack Little
Councilmember Place 4: Brendan Weatherman

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT
None.

STAFF PRESENT
Eric Garretty, City Manager
Marci Bueno, City Secretary/Finance Director
B.J. Cook, Code Enforcement Officer
Brent Bullock, Chief of Police
David Aleshire, Assistant Fire Chief
DeAnna Bullock, Library Director
Jim Don Laurent, Fire Chief
Jon Delamarter, Airport Manager
Kyle Ford, Police Lieutenant
Melinda Brown, Assistant City Manager, GEIC/GIA Executive Director
Randall Dawson, Director of Public Works

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
   Mayor Alex Heartfield called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. **NOTICE OF POSTING:** NOTICE OF THIS SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAHAM TEXAS WAS DULY POSTED AT A PLACE READILY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC AT LEAST THREE BUSINESS DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE AND TIME OF THIS MEETING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT.

3. **OPENING PRAYER AND PLEDGES TO U.S. AND TEXAS FLAGS**
   Brent Bullock led the invocation followed by the U.S. Pledge and Texas Pledge.

4. **ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS PRESENT**
   Mayor: Alex Heartfield
   Councilmember Place 1: Shana Weatherbee-Wolfe
   Mayor Pro-Tem/Place 2: Jeff Dickinson
   Councilmember Place 3: Jack Little
   Councilmember Place 4: Brendan Weatherman

5. **PUBLIC FORUM.**
   Crystal Castro stated her opinion on ending the 'School Resource Officer' program. She was against ending the program.
   Debbie Rhodes questioned why the City's retirement participation rate needs to increase from 10 percent to 14 percent.
   Gabe Pratt stated the city has always been at a deficit. He does not agree about cutting employees.
   Andy Jones stated his opinion on the School Resource Officer being valuable. He also stated Data Centers will increase taxes for all surrounding taxing entities.
   Lori Kramer stated she is praying for the city.
   Brent Bullock provided an update on the suspicion item at the Gateway Inn. He stated the item was removed and properly disposed of. He stated that the situation is now an open police investigation.

6. **PRESENTATION BY CITY MANAGER ERIC GARRETTY ON THE STATUS OF BUDGET DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 ANNUAL BUDGET:**

   a. City Manager Observations

   b. Proposed Initiatives

   c. Rough Cut Major Operating and Capital Budgets

d. Way Ahead

City Manager Eric Garretty presented the status of the budget development topics above.

7. **CONSIDER AND ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO CREATE THE 'FIRE APPARATUS ACQUISITION' PROJECT FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING A PROJECT TO ACQUIRE A NEW, PRIMARY FIRE APPARATUS FOR THE FIRE/RESCUE DEPARTMENT.**
   Motion made by Jeff Dickinson and seconded by Jack Little to authorize the City Manager to create the 'Fire Apparatus Acquisition' project for the purpose of establishing a project to acquire a new, primary fire apparatus for the Fire/Rescue Department. Motion passed unanimously 5 – 0.

8. **CONSIDER AND ACT TO DIRECT THE CITY'S FINANCIAL ADVISOR AND BOND COUNSEL TO DRAFT A 'NOTICE OF INTENT' TO ISSUE CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $14,600,000 (FOURTEEN MILLION SIX-HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS) IN SUPPORT OF THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT REHABILITATION PROJECT AND THE FIRE APPARATUS ACQUISITION PROJECT.**
   Motion made by Brendan Weatherman and seconded by Shana Weatherbee-Wolfe to direct the City's Financial Advisor and Bond Counsel to draft a 'Notice of Intent' to issue Certificates of Obligation in the amount not to exceed $14,600,000 (fourteen million six-hundred thousand dollars and no cents) in support of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation project and the Fire Apparatus Acquisition project. Motion passed unanimously 5 – 0.

9. **CONSIDER AND ACT TO DIRECT THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP AN ANNEXATION PLAN AND PRESENT SAME TO THE CITY COUNCIL NOT LATER THAN AUGUST 6, 2026.**
   Motion made by Brendan Weatherman and seconded by Jeff Dickinson to direct the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee to develop an Annexation Plan and present same to the City Council not later than **August 6, 2026**. Motion passed unanimously 5 – 0.

10. **CONSIDER AND ACT TO DIRECT THE CITY MANAGER TO NOTIFY THE GRAHAM INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT THE CITY INTENDS TO END THE 'SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER' PROGRAM, EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026, OR PROVIDE ALTERNATE DIRECTION TO THE CITY MANAGER REGARDING AMENDMENT OF THE CURRENT 'SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER' PROGRAM.**
    Motion made by Jeff Dickinson and seconded by Jack Little to direct the City Manager to negotiate with the Graham Independent School District that the City would like to have 2 School Resource Officers with a 75 percent split to the Graham Independent School District and 25 percent to the City of Graham to fund the 'School Resource Officer' program. Motion passed unanimously 5 – 0.

11. **CONSIDER AND ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF YOUNG COUNTY (HSYC) PURSUANT TO A PROPOSAL TO DRAFT AN ANNUAL CONTRACT, BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY AND HSYC, FOR THE PROVISION OF ANIMAL CARE SERVICES DURING FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027.**
    Motion made by Jeff Dickinson and seconded by Brendan Weatherman to authorize the City Manager to enter into negotiations with the Humane Society of Young County (HSYC) pursuant to a proposal to draft an annual contract, by and between the City and HSYC, for the provision of animal care services during Fiscal Year 2026-2027, for $500 per animal. Motion passed unanimously 5 – 0.

12. **CONSIDER AND ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO DEVELOP A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RELATED TO AN INITIATIVE TO SECURE A VENDOR TO OPERATE THE CITY'S CONVENIENCE STATION.**
    Motion made by Jeff Dickinson and seconded by Brendan Weatherman to authorize the City Manager to develop a Request for Proposals related to an initiative to secure a vendor to operate the City's Convenience Station. Motion passed unanimously 5 – 0.

13. **CONSIDER AND ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ISSUE A 'NOTICE OF INTENT' REGARDING A PROPOSED 'REDUCTION IN FORCE' OF**

CITY PERSONNEL.
Dies for lack of motion.

14. **CONSIDER AND ACT TO DIRECT THE CITY MANAGER TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO INCREASE THE CITY'S TEXAS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT PROGRAM PARTICIPATION RATE FROM 10 PERCENT TO 14 PERCENT.**
Motion made by Jack Little and seconded by Brendan Weatherman to direct the City Manager to develop a plan to increase the City's Texas Municipal Retirement Program participation rate from 10 percent to 14 percent. Motion passed unanimously 5 – 0.

15. **CONSIDER AND ACT TO DIRECT THE CITY MANAGER TO DEVELOP DESIGN PLANS, AND AN OPINION OF PROBABLE COST, RELATED TO THE INSTALLATION OF GENERATORS AT THE YOUNG COUNTY ARENA AND CITY HALL.**
Motion made by Jeff Dickinson and seconded by Jack Little to direct the City Manager to develop design plans, and an opinion of probable cost, related to the installation of generators at the Young County Arena and City Hall. Also direct the City Manager to ask Young County to share the costs for installation of 1 generator at the Young County Arena. Motion passed unanimously 5 – 0.

16. **CONSIDER AT ACT TO SET BUDGET WORKSHOP NO. 2, TO BE HELD AT THE CITY COUNCIL'S REGULAR CALLED MEETING ON MARCH 19, 2026, AT 8:30 A.M. (OR SHORTLY THEREAFTER) AT 608 ELM ST., GRAHAM, TEXAS.**
Motion made by Jack Little and seconded by Shana Weatherbee-Wolfe to set **Budget Workshop No. 2**, to be held at the City Council's Regular Called Meeting on **March 19, 2026**, at 8:30 a.m. (or shortly thereafter) at 608 Elm St., Graham, Texas. Motion passed unanimously 5 – 0.

17. **DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.**
Future agenda items included generators, School Resource Officer program, proposals on leasing the Convenience Station.

18. **RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER THE FOLLOWING PROVISION OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE:** Mayor Alex Heartfield recessed the Council into Executive Session at 8:38 p.m.

    Sec. 551.087 – Deliberations Regarding Economic Development

    - Deliberate an economic development Letter of Intent submitted by Headwaters Site Development, a Texas Limited Liability Company.

19. **RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AND TAKE SUCH ACTION AS MAY BE REQUIRED.** Mayor Alex Heatfield reconvened from Executive Session at 9:26 p.m.

    NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

20. **ADJOURNMENT.**
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:57 p.m. Motion made by Jack Little and seconded by Alex Heartfield.

Alex Heartfield, Mayor

Marci Bueno, City Secretary/Finance Director