

City of Graham City Council Meeting Minutes April 9, 2024



The City Council of the City of Graham held a regularly scheduled meeting at 6:00 p.m. on April 9, 2024, in the Council Chamber, City Hall Municipal Building at 201 South Main Street, Graham, NC.

Council Members Present:

Mayor Jennifer Talley
Mayor Pro Tem Ricky Hall
Council Member Bobby Chin
Council Member Joey Parsons
Council Member Bonnie Whitaker

Staff Present:

Megan Garner, City Manager
Aaron Holland, Assistant City Manager
Bryan Coleman, City Attorney
Bob Ward, City Attorney
Renee Ward, City Clerk

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Jennifer Talley

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

RECOGNITION – GRAHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT 2023 AWARD RECIPIENTS:

Fire Chief Tommy Cole and Mayor Jennifer Talley recognized the 2023 award recipients.

Rookie Firefighter of the Year - Firefighter Jakob Churchill
Volunteer Firefighter of the Year - Firefighter Zach Odoms
Career/Part-Time Firefighter of the Year - Engineer John Perez
Officer of the Year - Captain Michael Quigley
Chief's Award - Firefighter Bryan Smith

Chief Cole introduced the newest Lieutenant John Harrington, a 20-year veteran of the Fire Department and a fourth-generation firefighter. He also serves as treasurer for the Graham Fire Department Relief Fund Board and will oversee the support firefighter division.



PROCLAMATION: ARBOR DAY – APRIL 26, 2024

City Council recognized April 26, 2024, as Arbor Day in the City of Graham and encouraged citizens to plant a tree.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. To approve the March 12, 2024, regular meeting minutes.

- b. To approve closing the 100 block of W. Elm Street on Saturday, June 1, 2024, from 10:00 am to 9:00 pm for Dino Day.
- c. To approve closing the 100 block of W. Elm Street on Saturday, September 28, 2024, from 1:00 pm to 11:00 pm for Grahamtoberfest.
- d. To approve a budget amendment to increase the Wastewater Supplies and Materials by \$300,000 from \$300,000 to \$600,000.

CITY OF GRAHAM					
BUDGET AMENDMENT ORDINANCE					
2023-2024					
BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAHAM THAT					
THE 2023 - 2024 BUDGET ORDINANCE SHALL BE AND IS HEREBY AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:					
Section 1.					
EXPENDITURES					
DEPARTMENT/ACCOUNT	APPROVED	AMENDED	INCREASE	(DECREASE)	INCREASE (DECREASE)
Wastewater - Supplies and Materials	300,000.00	600,000.00	300,000.00		300,000.00
	300,000.00	600,000.00	300,000.00	-	300,000.00
Section 2.					
REVENUES					
DEPARTMENT/ACCOUNT	APPROVED	AMENDED	INCREASE	(DECREASE)	INCREASE (DECREASE)
Fund Balance Appropriation	\$494,625.00	\$794,625.00	300,000.00		300,000.00
	494,625.00	794,625.00	300,000.00	-	300,000.00
Adopted this 9th day of April 2024.					
Attest:	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> Mayor Jennifer Talley				
<hr style="width: 30%; margin-left: 0;"/> Renee M. Ward, City Clerk					

- e. To approve a budget amendment to recognize \$15,770 insurance proceeds revenue and increase the Police Department Maintenance & Repair Vehicles Equipment budget by \$15,770.

CITY OF GRAHAM					
BUDGET AMENDMENT ORDINANCE					
2023-2024					
BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAHAM THAT					
THE 2023 - 2024 BUDGET ORDINANCE SHALL BE AND IS HEREBY AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:					
Section 1.					
EXPENDITURES					
DEPARTMENT/ACCOUNT	APPROVED	AMENDED	INCREASE	(DECREASE)	INCREASE (DECREASE)
Police Department - Maintenance and Repair Vehic	90,000.00	105,770.00	15,770.00		15,770.00
	90,000.00	105,770.00	15,770.00	-	15,770.00
Section 2.					
REVENUES					
DEPARTMENT/ACCOUNT	APPROVED	AMENDED	INCREASE	(DECREASE)	INCREASE (DECREASE)
General Fund - Insurance Proceeds	2,010.00	17,780.00	15,770.00		15,770.00
	2,010.00	17,780.00	15,770.00	-	15,770.00
Adopted this 9th day of April 2024.					

- f. To approve a resolution providing municipal accounting services, cybersecurity, and technical assistance memorandum of agreement with the North Carolina League of Municipalities to receive up to \$30,000 in grant services through NCLM’s consultant Witt O’Brien.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTING
SERVICES, CYBERSECURITY, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the North Carolina State Budget Act of 2021 (SL 2021-180, as amended by SL 2021, 189, and SL 2022-6) provided to the NC League of Municipalities (League) grant funds provided to the State of North Carolina by the U.S. Treasury pursuant the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds of H.R. 1319, American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP); and

WHEREAS, the League received two Award Agreements (OSBM-NCLM-65) from the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) and the North Carolina Pandemic Recovery Office (NCPRO); and

WHEREAS, the first Award Agreement is identified as OSBM-NCLM-65. This grant enables the League to provide “financial software and assistance programs for units of local government for expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic...” This grant is referred to as the Municipal Accounting Services and Cybersecurity Grant; and

WHEREAS, the second Award Agreement is identified as OSBM-NCLM-66. This grant enables the League “to provide guidance and technical assistance to units of local government in the administration of funds from the Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, as established in Section 2.6 of S.L. 2021-25, and in the administration of projects funded through the State Fiscal Recovery Fund, as established in Section 2.2 of S.L. 2021-25.” This grant is referred to as the Guidance and Technical Assistance Grant; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Accounting Services and Cybersecurity Grant and the Guidance and Technical Assistance Grant are collectively referred to herein as the “League Grants”.

WHEREAS, the League Grants are deemed part of US Treasury Expenditure Category: 6, Revenue Replacement, and shall only be spent on governmental services; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to US Treasury Guidance, units of local government that receive services that are funded by one or both of the League Grants are beneficiaries of one or both of the League Grants, respectively, and such services are provided at no cost to these local governments; and

WHEREAS, the League has established a Municipal Accounting Services, Cybersecurity and Technical Assistance Memorandum of Agreement pursuant to the terms of the League’s Municipal Accounting Systems and Cybersecurity Grant and the Guidance and Technical Assistance Grant; and

WHEREAS, this Municipal Accounting System, Cybersecurity and Technical Assistance Memorandum of Agreement will offer local municipalities:

- (1) Services rendered by the League (League Services) including but not limited

to capital expenditures for special purpose software and computer equipment as set forth in §2 C.F.R. 200.439; and

(2) Services rendered by one or more service providers (Contractor Services), retained by the League on behalf of the Municipality, who are members of a particular profession or possess a special skill as set forth in §2 C.F.R. 200.459; and

(3) Equipment, including information technology systems, and supplies, including computing devices, as set forth in §2 C.F.R. 200.439 and §2 C.F.R. 200.453; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Accounting Services, Cybersecurity and Technical Assistance Memorandum of Agreement is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY/TOWN COUNCIL/BOARD OF THE CITY OF GRAHAM:

1. That, the Municipal Accounting Services, Cybersecurity and Technical Assistance Memorandum of Agreement is hereby approved.
2. That the Manager/Clerk is authorized to execute the attached Memorandum of Agreement (or one substantially equivalent thereto) and such other agreements and actions as necessary in accordance with the League's Municipal Accounting Services and Cybersecurity Grant and the Guidance and Technical Assistance Grant.

Adopted, this the 9th day of April, 2024.

Mayor Talley asked if downtown businesses had been notified of the upcoming street closures on Elm Street.

Assistant City Manager Holland stated during the application process staff encourages the applicant to reach out to downtown businesses. He stated after Council approval an email is sent to the downtown businesses informing them of approved street closures.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall motioned to approve the Consent Agenda items, seconded by Council Member Chin. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

ITEM 1: ANNEXATION – 8.70 ACRES – OFF SOUTH MAIN STREET

A public hearing was set to consider an annexation request to extend the corporate limits for a tract of land totaling 8.70 acres located off South Main Street. (AN2401) (Tabled from the March 12, 2024, City Council meeting.)

Assistant City Manager Aaron Holland stated the attached petition was a request to extend the corporate limits for property located off of South Main Street, which contains approximately 8.70 +/- acres total. He stated water and sewer were located adjacent to the property within the South Main Street right of way, and the applicants' request was to tie onto the City's infrastructure due to a failed well system.

The public hearing was opened and there were no comments.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Hall to close the public hearing, seconded by Council Member Parsons. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Council Member Chin to approve the annexation ordinance to extend the corporate limits to the City of Graham for a tract of land totaling 8.70 acres located off South Main Street, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hall. The motion passed unanimously.

**ANNEXATION ORDINANCE
TO EXTEND THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF
THE CITY OF GRAHAM, NORTH CAROLINA
FOR 8.70 ACRE TRACT OF LAND OFF OF SOUTH MAIN STREET (AN2401)**

WHEREAS, the Graham City Council has been petitioned under G.S. 160A-31 to annex the area described below; and

WHEREAS, the Graham City Council has by resolution directed the City Clerk to investigate the sufficiency of the petition; and

WHEREAS, the City Clerk has certified the sufficiency of the petition, and a public hearing on the questions of this annexation was held at City Hall, 201 S Main Street, Graham at 6:00 P.M. on April 9, 2024, after due notice by publication March 28, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Graham City Council finds that the petition meets the requirement of G.S. 160A-31.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDINATED by the City Council of the City of Graham, North Carolina that:

Section 1. By virtue of the authority granted by G.S. 160A-31, the following described territory is hereby annexed and made part of the City of Graham as of April 9, 2024:

Legal Description GPIN#: 8882392474

That certain tract or parcel of land lying and being in Graham Township, Alamance County, North Carolina, bounded by South Main Street (S. N.C. 87) on the east, Jean Monnett Ross to the south, Little Alamance Creek to the west, and James Edward Ross Jr. to the north and being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a 1" existing iron pipe, on the western margin of the 60-foot right of way of South Main Street (S. N.C. 87), and in the line of Lot 3 of the plat "Existing Parcel Boundary Survey for Jean Monnett Ross" as prepared by Boswell Surveyors, Inc., J. Leo Boswell, Professional Land Surveyor, dated September 13, 2016, Job No. 16-185-400, which plat is dully recorded in Plat Book 78, Page 59, in the

Office of the Register of Deeds of Alamance County, North Carolina and being the property of Jean Monnett Ross, and said existing pipe being N 37°43'07" W, 393.23 feet from a 1" existing iron pipe, a corner between the properties of William T. Kerr and wife Carolyn W. Kerr and in the line of Slippery Elm Properties, LLC; Thence from said Beginning point, along the line of said Lot 3, Jean Monnett Ross property, N 68°05'41" W, 393.55 feet to a 2" existing iron pipe, a corner with said Lot 3, Jean Monnett Ross property, thence along the line of said Lot 3, Jean Monnett Ross property, N 80°24'35" W, 218.70 feet to a point in the center of Little Alamance Creek, thence along the centerline of Little Alamance Creek the following courses and distances; N 34°23'39" E, 39.78 feet; N 06°24'35" E, 107.83 feet; N 25°34'25" W, 200.00 feet; N 24°04'37" E, 199.92 feet to a 1" existing iron pipe on the north bank of Little Alamance Creek, a corner with Lot 1 of said plat, James Edward Ross Jr. property, thence along the line of said Lot 1, James Edward Ross Jr. property, S 87°59'25" E, 264.50 feet to an existing axle, corner with said Lot 1, James Edward Ross Jr. property, thence along the line of said Lot 1, James Edward Ross Jr. property, S 67°25'23" E, 528.67 feet to a point in the centerline of South Main Street (S. N.C. 87), a corner with said Lot 1, James Edward Ross Jr. property, thence along the centerline of South Main Street (S. N.C. 87) the following courses and distances; S 19°49'21" W, 486.07 feet to a point and S 17°19'38" W, 29.22 feet to a point, a corner with said Lot 3, Jean Monnett Ross property, thence along the line of said Lot 3, Jean Monnett Ross property, N 68°05'41" W, 30.09 feet to the point and place of Beginning, containing 8.70 acres ± and being all of Lot 2 as shown on plat entitled "Existing Parcel Boundary Survey for Jean Monnett Ross" as prepared by Boswell Surveyors, Inc., J. Leo Boswell, Professional Land Surveyor, dated September 13, 2016, Job No. 16-185-400, which plat is dully recorded in Plat Book 78, Page 59, in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Alamance County, North Carolina.

Adopted this, the 9th day of April 2024.

OLD BUSINESS:

ITEM 2: SESQUICENTENNIAL PARK – DOWNTOWN GRAHAM

City Council discussed options regarding the Sesquicentennial Park in downtown Graham.

City Manager Garner stated Council had discussed the park at the March 12, 2024, meeting. She stated staff was requesting guidance in advance of the budget process. She stated at the May meeting, the Council would receive budget books and needed to know if the Council desired to retain the property and make investments to repair the flooring or to declare the property as surplus. She shared if the Council elected to declare the property surplus, staff would need direction on the method of disposal the Council would prefer: public auction, sealed bids, or upset bids.

Mayor Talley shared that a comment she made during the last Council meeting was different than what was printed in the newspaper. She stated that this issue was brought up by the City Manager during a budget meeting that the newspapers did not attend. She went on the share that the figure of \$50,000 to repair the floor could not be done for that amount. She stated it would cost significantly more to dig up what was used to fill in the hole of an old basement and then refill it back with solid materials, which could cost up to \$300,000 and that would not include building back what was already there. She stated she did not think the citizens of Graham would want to spend over \$300,000 to fix the flooring, which would continue to sink no matter what repairs were made because it was never properly backfilled in the beginning. She stated Council needed to decide how to move forward.

Council Member Chin stated he misunderstood and thought Staff was asking the Council to budget money to examine options to rebuild or renovate the existing park or the cost of disposing of the land. He stated

this morning on WBAG, it was shared that a third option could be to move the park to another City property or at a City park. He stated it was premature to decide without getting the costs of either moving, renovating, or disposing of it.

City Manager Garner shared it would be difficult to get an estimate until we identify what was underneath the floor. She stated the \$50,000 would be for a mason to go out and determine what was there. She shared that the estimate did not include the dollars associated with having the Public Works Department do a lot of the work. She stated State Statute allowed cities to use in-house labor up to a certain dollar amount, and we would be under that. She stated until everything from that area was removed and we could see what was there, it would be really difficult to get a firm estimate on the actual cost. She stated staff needed direction from City Council on whether to maintain the property and if so, what would need to be budgeted before it continued to sink, or dispose of the property from whichever method the City Council desired.

Council Member Chin stated an additional option would be to relocate the park.

City Manager Garner stated as stated in the staff report, it could be relocated and the bricks would be repurposed.

Mayor Talley stated possibly placing the bricks within a sidewalk so they would be located in the same location and maybe have a condition if something was built there. She stated there could be some type of naming referencing the sesquicentennial and why the bricks were given. She stated her main concern was to continue to honor the people who gave money for the bricks.

Council Member Chin stated the location of the park was not sacred because at one time there was a building there. He stated the intent was not to forget the ceremony and the event of Graham's 150th anniversary but a more appropriate setting at one of the parks.

Council Member Whitaker asked if the property had been assessed and if we knew its value.

City Manager Garner stated there had not been an appraisal ordered because of good stewards of taxpayers' dollars, we did not want to pay for that if the Council opted to retain the property.

Mayor Talley stated you are not only losing sales tax from a business located there, but you are also losing property tax because it was City-owned property. She stated the repairs, in her opinion, would be excessive and it would not make taxpayer sense to continue maintaining the property. She shared she had talked to several citizens and their main concern was to preserve the bricks. She also shared that she preferred a building like what was there before. She stated there was a false statement printed in the Alamance News regarding her personal opinion of the building. She read a piece of the article and stated she would not be purchasing the building and had no interest in the building but she did have an interest in the preservation and the historical renovation of downtown. She stated she found it highly offensive that someone would write that and the article went on to question if politicians could be trusted or relied on and some of Graham's council members were lemmings following the mayor's ill-conceived idea. She stated again she had no interest in the property and if the newspaper editor would like a promise, Mayor Talley promised she would not purchase the property and that she had never had any interest and could not be voting on something that she would later purchase. She stated it was the media who people did not trust these days.

Mayor Talley asked the City Attorney what was the result of the research on this property.

City Attorney Coleman stated as a result of his research with the Register of Deeds, he found no restrictions or agreements on record. He stated he researched from 1983 to the present and again found no agreements or restrictions on record.

Council Member Chin stated if the Council decided to dispose of the property. it was mentioned that conditions could be placed on the developer for the architecture to reflect the same historical look but not to dictate how it would be built.

Council Member Whitaker stated it would be part of the historic downtown and any developer would have to come before Council at a certain point. She stated just because she agrees with what the Mayor was saying and because she wants to be a good steward of taxpayers' money does not make her a lemming. She stated she had her own mind and thoughts and if you look at her voting record it would reflect that.

Council Member Chin stated if the Council agreed to rebuild the park, at the present location, it would be paid for by the taxpayers and it would not be cheap. He stated Council's intention was not to do away with the park but to move the park somewhere where it would be appreciated.

After further discussions, the following motion was made:

Council Member Chin motioned to direct City Staff to assess the cost of bringing the current park to safety standards and incorporating all the current features in its current location and to assess the cost of moving the park to another location with the understanding that consideration be given to expanding the park to reflect the 150 Anniversary that its name after, seconded by Council Member Whitaker. The motion passed 4-1. Mayor Pro Tem Hall voted no.

NEW BUSINESS:

ITEM 3: ARPA PROJECT ALLOCATION – RICHARD MARVIN – NCLM

City Council considered approving the Eligible Use, Conflict of Interest, Non-Discrimination, Records Retention, and Allowable Cost Policies, the new ARPA project ordinance electing to take the standard allowance, as authorized by 31 CFR Part 35.6(d)(1) and expend all the ARPA funds for the provision of government services, and to consider approval of the revised project ordinance amending previously designated ARPA projects to ARPA enabled projects.

City Manager Garner introduced Mr. Richard Marvin who is the ARPA Field Representative with the NC League of Municipalities. She stated Mr. Marvin was here tonight to speak on the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) and would be asking the Council to consider a three-phase approach; 1) to consider adopting the revenue replacement option for ARPA funds; 2) adoption of two separate project ordinances; an ARPA project ordinance reflecting funds expended on personnel-related expenses. She stated anything that had been encumbered to date, which had been previously designated as ARPA, would now be classified as an ARPA-enabled project. She shared there was still around \$77,000 the City Council would need to encumber between now and the end of the calendar year: 3) The Council would need to adopt the five associated policies.

Mr. Richard Marvin presented the following on the reclassification of expenditures for ARPA projects:

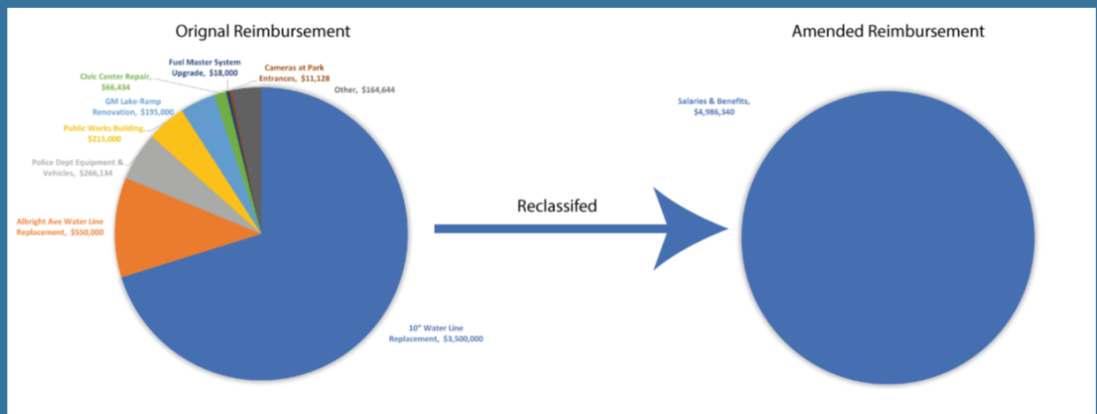
REVENUE REPLACEMENT

- Revenue Replacement (RR) allows the City to replace any Eligible expenditure that was budgeted, obligated and expended after March 3, 2021 **to the end of the obligation period on December 31, 2024**
- Although the projects the City selected are all eligible, they require more extensive compliance with regards to purchase orders, invoices, and allowable cost considerations and documentation
- Utilization of Salaries and Benefits for prior eligible expenditures reduces the need for documented compliance by using the designated payroll records for the department employees and the dates selected

RECLASSIFICATION

- The uniform guidance for the ARP Grant allows for the government to change the projects for reimbursement under the revenue replacement through December 31, 2024 (the end of the obligation period)
- Utilize Salaries and Benefits for Administrative and Utility personnel to max out the ARP Grant
- Amend the Grant Project Ordinance to reflect the reimbursement of Salaries and Benefits from ARP Funds
- Submit an adjusted annual report to the US Treasury in the month of April, 2024
- Although the City will have to file a close out of the ARP Grant in April 2025, there should be no additional adjustments to the Annual Report

RECLASSIFICATION OF PRIOR EXPENDITURES



CONCLUSION

- Once the City passes an amended GPO for prior salaries and benefits, the ARP Funds are obligated and expended under the uniform guidance of the Grant
- The change of expenditures to salaries and benefits for reimbursement will not impact prior audits, it is just a reclassification of reimbursement under the ARP Grant
- The ARP funds now expended on prior salaries and benefits are now unrestricted funds that can be spent on the original projects or any other use allowable under state statute
- Recommend general fund and enterprise fund salaries and benefits be allocated to the appropriate fund to avoid additional transfers (journal entries) to the various funds

City Manager Garner stated for the revised ARPA projects ordinance, staff only used General Fund salaries to equal the \$4.98 million. She stated staff reached out to the City's auditors who reviewed both the staff report and project ordinances in advance to ensure compliance.

Council Member Whitaker motioned to approve the Eligible Use, Conflict of Interest, Non-Discrimination, Records Retention, and Allowable Cost Policies and the new ARPA project ordinance electing to take the standard allowance, as authorized by 31 CFR Part 35.6(d)(1) and expend all the ARPA funds for the provision of government services and also move to approve the revised project ordinance amending previously designated ARPA projects to ARPA-enabled projects, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hall. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Talley inquired about a class action lawsuit for businesses that accept credit cards. She stated the City also offered credit card payments and asked if the City was eligible for reimbursement through the class action lawsuit.

Mr. Marvin stated he was not familiar with the class action suit.

City Manager Garner stated she had submitted the City's claim on March 3, 2024.

ITEM 4: APPEARANCE COMMISSION – BOARD MEMBER REDUCTION

City Council considered an Ordinance amendment to Chapter 2 (Administration), Article II, Division 3. Boards and Commissions of the Code of Ordinances to reduce the total members of the Appearance Commission/Tree Board from seven members to five members.

Assistant City Manager Holland stated City Council directed staff after the March 12, 2024, Council meeting to bring forth a text amendment to the Code of Ordinances reducing the total required members of the Appearance Commission-Tree Board from seven members to five members. He stated because of challenges meeting quorum requirements and a lack of applications, this would offer a more manageable number to stay compliant and move the business of the board forward.

Council Member Whitaker motioned to approve an Ordinance amendment to Chapter 2 (Administration), Article II, DIVISION 3. Boards and Commissions to the Code of Ordinances to reduce the total members of the Appearance Commission/ Tree Board from 7 members to 5 members, seconded by Council Member Chin. The motion passed 4-1. Mayor Pro Tem Hall voted no.

ITEM 5: APPOINT VOTING DELEGATE - NCLM

City Council designated a delegate to vote in the electronic voting process for the North Carolina League of Municipalities Board elections.

Mayor Talley motioned to appoint Council Member Chin as the voting delegate, seconded by Council Member Parsons. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 6: ACCESSIBLE PARKS GRANT APPLICATION AND MATCHING FUNDS

City Council considered directing staff of the Graham Recreation and Parks Department to apply for the 2024 Accessible Parks Grant for ADA entryway doors and ADA/Family restroom projects at the Graham Recreation Center and to approve matching funds in the amount of \$26,250 if the grant is awarded.

Brian Faucette, Director of Recreation and Parks, stated this was a State allocated grant. He stated the grant would be for an ADA entryway door at the Graham Recreation Center and a new ADA/family restroom. He stated this would provide much more access to the Center and much more user-friendly use of the facilities. He stated this was a 5 to 1 matching grant, and for both projects, the total cost was \$131,250, and matching funds from the City would be \$26,250.

Council Member Whitaker motioned to direct staff to apply for the 2024 Accessible Parks Grant for the ADA Entryway Doors and ADA/Family Restroom projects at the Graham Recreation Center and to approve matching funds for \$26,250 if the grant is awarded, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hall. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mayor Talley answered a question by Tom Boney, Alamance News, regarding when the Council held their budget workshop.

City Manager Garner stated it was held on December 18, 2023.

Mr. Tom Boney, Alamance News, asked for a copy of that notification for that meeting. He stated he did not recall receiving such notification for a special meeting. He asked if the meeting was recorded.

City Manager Garner stated it was not recorded and the minutes were approved at the January City Council meeting.

Mr. Tom Boney asked why it was not recorded.

City Manager Garner stated it was held at the Graham Civic Center.

Mr. Tom Boney stated it means people are unaware of whatever discussions you had on not only this topic of the Sesquicentennial Park on future decisions on it and anything else. He stated the meetings should be recorded and posted if they are videoed but at least audio.

City Manager Garner stated notification was sent by the City Clerk on December 14, 2023, at 2:25 pm. She stated that Mr. Boney's Alamance News email was included in the notification.

Mr. William Morrow, 1002 Brotlins Way, Graham, spoke about the foot traffic near and around the Sesquicentennial Park and what was the intent of the design.

CITY STAFF COMMENTS

There were no comments.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Hall thanked the City for the flowers sent when his dad passed away.

Mayor Talley shared the following events:

- Concert Series – Thursdays at Seven beginning on May 23 featuring The Holiday Band
- Catfish Tournament – Saturdays, May 18, June 15, July 13, August 10
- Youth Fishing Day – Graham-Mebane Lake – May 11, 2024, 8:30 am – 11:00 am
- Legacy Bass Tournament – Graham-Mebane Lake – April 20 – 6:30 am
- Musical Chairs Concert Series at Bill Cooke Park beginning Friday, May 3 featuring Mel Melton & The Wicked Mjojors
- Graham Hall of Fame Inductees Ceremony – Saturday, April 13th at 6:00 pm. Recreation Center. Encouraged everyone to purchase tickets and come out and support those being inducted into the Hall of Fame or the Hall of Honor.

ADJOURN

Mayor Pro Tem Hall motioned to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Chin. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Renee M. Ward, CMC
City Clerk