

**CITY OF GRAHAM
REGULAR SESSION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2017
7:00 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Graham met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 7, 2017, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building located at 201 South Main Street.

Council Members Present:

Mayor Jerry Peterman
Mayor Pro Tem Jimmy Linens
Council Member Griffin McClure
Council Member Chip Turner
Council Member Lee Kimrey

Also Present:

Frankie Maness, City Manager
Aaron Holland, Assistant City Manager
Darcy Sperry, City Clerk
Keith Whited, City Attorney
Nathan Page, Planning Director
Alexa Powell, City Planner
Brian Faucette, Recreation & Parks Director

Mayor Jerry Peterman called the meeting to order and presided at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Jimmy Linens gave the invocation and everyone stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of Minutes – October 3, 2017 Regular Session*
- b. Tax Releases & Refunds*

CITY OF GRAHAM RELEASE ACCOUNTS				
NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETING				
<u>ACCT #</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>REASON FOR RELEASE</u>	<u>AMOUNT RELEASED</u>
142329	2014-2017	STRIGO PLUMBING INC	PROPERTY SOLD AT BK AUCTION JAN 2014	526.11
68156	2009-2015	JOHN A SOMERS	MOVED TO BURLINGTON	174.29
507650	2017	SAMUEL CRAIG ANDREWS	DID NOT OWN BOAT JAN 2017	6.17
54063	2017	IRMA COLLINS	QUALIFIED FOR HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION	6.61
154642	2017	NELLIE RUTH WHITE	QUALIFIED FOR HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION	74.01
660253	2017	MARGARET ALLISON L/E	QUALIFIED FOR HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION	165.69

**CITY OF GRAHAM
REFUNDS**

NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

<u>ACCT#</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>REASON FOR REFUND</u>	<u>AMOUNT REFUNDED</u>
659452	2017	WIZARD INTERNATIONAL INC	LEASED EQUIPMENT NOT IN CITY	11.62
659452	2016	WIZARD INTERNATIONAL INC	LEASED EQUIPMENT NOT IN CITY	12.92

c. Report of Non-Substantial Changes to the Development Ordinance

d. Request by Alamance County to close the 200 Block of West Elm Street on December 8, 2017 from 2:30pm-4:30pm

Council Member Chip Turner made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Council Member Griffin McClure. All voted in favor of the motion.

Recommendations from Planning Board:

a. Public Hearing: AM1708 Overlay Access. Request from the Planning Board to address cross-access agreements for commercial development within the Overlay Districts

Planning Director Nathan Page explained that this is an amendment to both the Highway 54 and Highway 87 Overlay districts. He added that the intention of this amendment is to change the language to require internal connections between driveways within commercial development. Mr. Page stated that this proposed change will help alleviate traffic congestion and make for safer travel along the Overlay districts.

Following a brief discussion between Council Members and Staff regarding traffic congestion along these thoroughfares, Mayor Peterman opened the Public Hearing. With no comments forthcoming, he closed the Public Hearing.

Council Member Lee Kimrey made a motion that the text amendment be approved, the text amendment is consistent with the The Graham 2035 Comprehensive Plan and this action is reasonable and in the public interest for the following reason: It will help alleviate traffic congestion. Council Member Turner seconded the motion and all voted in favor of the motion.

Creative Give Back Program Presentation by Creative Economic Development Consulting:

Mr. Page explained that Graham was selected as the 2017 Creative Give Back winner by the Creative Economic Development Consulting firm. He added that this award is a way for this consulting group to give back to the field of economic development. Mr. Page introduced Ms. Crystal Morphis and Ms. Penny Whiteheart from Creative Economic Development Consulting.

Ms. Whiteheart presented Council with an overview of their program, the research they conducted and how it affects the City of Graham. She spoke of ways to spur downtown revitalization and entrepreneurship.

Ms. Whiteheart stated that during her firm's research, several businesses were interviewed and surveys conducted. Based on their results, the firm concluded that there is approximately \$150,000,000 being spent outside the City of Graham. She encouraged Council to continue to find ways to bring people to Graham and continue to be a "good partner".

Council Members thanked Creative Economic Development Consulting for selecting Graham and identifying ways for the City to continue to build economic growth in our downtown area. Mayor Peterman thanked Mr. Page for all of his hard work and asked City Manager Frankie Maness to put a "well done" letter in Mr. Page's employment file. In addition, Mayor Peterman asked Staff to draft a thank you letter and send it to the Co/Operative Extension in Graham for their effort in helping Graham secure this award.

Pine Street Bike Lanes:

a. First Reading: An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Graham, Amending Chapter 20, Article V, Sec. 20-142 Of The Code Of Ordinances Of The City Of Graham, North Carolina

Mr. Maness reminded Council that in May of 2017, the City Council authorized Staff to apply for funding assistance from Impact Alamance to establish bike lanes. He stated that Pine Street was identified for placement of bike lanes based on City owned right of ways and it's connectivity between neighborhoods and the downtown area. Mr. Maness advised that the final design of the bicycle lanes is complete but that clarification is now needed for parking within these lanes during a funeral.

Council Members and Staff discussed frequency of funerals at Linwood Cemetery, bike lane placement on the street and the effect bike lanes will have on traffic speed and home owners along Pine Street. Council Member Turner expressed some concern that lawn service providers and delivery trucks won't be able to park along Pine Street any longer. Staff advised that there are multiple side streets that can be used for parking of equipment and vehicles that might not fit into a driveway.

Ms. Jan Searls of 526 East Pine Street Graham stepped forward to address Council. She stated that she was under the impression that the bike lanes would only be on one side of the street, allowing for bikes to travel each way. Staff advised that the bike lanes will be placed on both sides of the street.

Ms. Marcy Green, program director at Impact Alamance thanked Mr. Page and Recreation and Parks Director Brian Faucette for their help with this grant. She encouraged Council to approve this proposed Ordinance amendment. Mayor Peterman thanked Ms. Green and asked her to thank Impact Alamance for selecting us.

Ms. Searls addressed Council again and asked for additional street lights if bike lanes are going to be placed on both sides of the street. Mayor Peterman agreed that more lights are needed.

Mr. Chap McQueen of 1002 East Willowbrook Drive Burlington sees this as a huge opportunity for Graham. Mr. McQueen advised that he is on the Board of Trustees for Impact Alamance and a former resident of Graham. He explained that Impact Alamance is all about children's health, education and welfare and sees this as a great way for children to get out and exercise in a safe manner.

Ms. Chelsea Dickey of 200 North Main Street Graham stepped forward on behalf of Co/Operative. She stated that they continue to see an increase in the number of bicycles in our downtown area and encouraged Council to approve this Ordinance amendment.

Council Member McClure indicated that he is a big proponent of the plan, stating millennials are looking for untraditional paths of travel. He stated he wished that Staff had been in better communication with property owners whose street frontage will be affected by these bike lanes.

Mayor Peterman made a motion to approve Amending Chapter 20, Article V, Sec. 20-142 of the Code of Ordinances of the City Of Graham, seconded by Council Member McClure. All voted in favor of the motion.

Issues Not Included on Tonight's Agenda:

Mayor Pro Tem Linens mentioned a vehicle accident that recently occurred on Rogers Road and Lacy Holt Road. He asked Staff last month to reach out to NCDOT about the dangers this intersection poses, which Mr. Maness has done.

At 8:06 p.m. Council Member Turner made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Kimrey. All voted in favor of the motion.

Darcy Sperry, City Clerk