

**CITY OF GRAHAM
SPECIAL SESSION
WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2019
12:00 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Graham met in special session at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 15, 2019, in the Conference Room of the Municipal Building located at 201 South Main Street.

Council Members Present:

Mayor Jerry Peterman
Mayor Pro Tem Lee Kimrey
Council Member Griffin McClure
Council Member Chip Turner
Council Member Melody Wiggins

Also Present:

Frankie Maness, City Manager
Aaron Holland, Assistant City Manager
Darcy Sperry, City Clerk
Julianne Cordon, Finance Officer
Nathan Page, Planning Director
Darby Terrell, Administrative Intern

Mayor Jerry Peterman called the meeting to order and presided at 12:03 p.m.

City Manager Frankie Maness reviewed the highlights of his recommended \$22,173,900 budget and gave a general overview of it. He recommended the ad valorem tax rate to remain at 45.5¢ per \$100 of valuation. Additionally, Mr. Maness proposed a 2% cost of living increase and informed Council of an 8% increase in health insurance premiums which affect all employees. Refuse fees are recommended to increase from \$3.00 per unit, per month to \$3.50 per unit, per month. He advised that there will be a mandatory employer contribution increase in the North Carolina Retirement System effective July 1, 2019, a \$90,000 cost to the City. Also included in the recommended budget is the addition of one fulltime position in the Public Works department and 7.29 FTEs of part-time/auxiliary additions to the public safety departments. Mr. Maness advised that expenditures for public safety are estimated to encumber all of the ad valorem tax levy.

Mr. Maness went through the various departments within the General Fund and general discussion ensued. After this discussion concluded, Council Members asked Mr. Maness to appropriate \$5,000 to economic development and \$2,000 for security upgrades at the Graham Historical Museum. Additionally, Council Members by consensus agreed to raise the recycling fee from \$2.36 per month to \$2.75 per month.

Mr. Maness presented an overview of the Water and Sewer Fund where he stated that no increase in fees is recommended for the upcoming year. He did inform Council that next year's discussion about this Fund will have a much more serious tone, as major projects required to comply with State and Federal mandates are on the horizon.

Mr. Maness presented an overview of the Garage Fund, Cemetery Trust Fund and the Water & Sewer Capital Reserve Fund and general discussion ensued.

With no further discussion forthcoming, at 5:12 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Lee Kimrey made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Chip Turner. All voted in favor of the motion.