

**CITY OF GRAHAM
SPECIAL SESSION
THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2021
8:30 A.M.**

The City Council of the City of Graham met in virtual special session at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 4, 2021, via livestreaming media.

Council Members Present:

Mayor Jerry Peterman
Mayor Pro Tem Chip Turner
Council Member Melody Wiggins
Council Member Jennifer Talley
Council Member Ricky Hall

Staff Present:

Aaron Holland, Assistant City Manager
Darcy Sperry, City Clerk
Julianne Cordon, Finance Officer
Brian Faucette, Recreation & Parks Director
Tommy Cole, Fire Chief
Jeff Wilson, IT Systems Manager
Kristy Cole, Police Chief
Rodney King, Assistant Police Chief
Crystal O'Neal, Police Sergeant
Burke Robertson, Public Works Director
Nathan Page, Planning Director
Mary Faucette, Downtown Development Coordinator
Tonya Mann, Utilities Director

Mayor Jerry Peterman called the meeting to order and presided at 8:31 a.m. Mayor Peterman advised that this meeting is an opportunity for City staff to present their budget requests to the Council. He asked Council Members and members of the public to submit questions they have to Interim City Manager Aaron Holland. Mr. Holland will see that all questions get answered and become part of a future public record.

Budget Status and Project Updates:

Mr. Holland introduced the budget process. He and Finance Officer Julianne Cordon presented an overall update on the status of the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget and provided a snapshot of where departments are performing. Their presentation included budget preparation, current tax rates in Alamance County, growth in Graham, how the Covid-19 pandemic affects the current and future fiscal years and the impact the new census numbers may have on Graham.

Roundtable Discussion of 2021-2022 Budget and Capital Improvements with Department Heads:

Council Members were presented with a Power Point presentation as well as hearing from each department head.

Recreation & Parks Director Brian Faucette presented his department's budget requests and reviewed the Recreation & Park's Master Plan timeline and the plan itself.

Mr. Faucette presented Council with his Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) requests for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 for the Parks, Recreation and Graham-Mebane Lake divisions located within his department.

Fire Chief Tommy Cole presented Council with a brief history of his department, followed by his budget requests for additional fire stations, fire apparatus and personnel. Chief Cole reviewed what he sees as his department's strengths and weaknesses.

IT Systems Manager Jeff Wilson reviewed how the Covid-19 pandemic has affected his department and the challenges that go along with that. Mr. Wilson highlighted the need for computer replacements, network refresh, City Hall phone replacement and firewall replacement as his department's biggest needs. Mr. Wilson advised that while downtown Wi-Fi project is part of his CIP requests, it is a low priority for him.

At 10:07 a.m., Mayor Peterman recessed the meeting to allow for a break. At 10:20 a.m., he reconvened the meeting.

Police Chief Kristy Cole, Assistant Police Chief Rodney King and Police Sergeant Crystal O'Neal presented their department's requests for the upcoming budget. Their presentation centered on police reform with their biggest need being 10 additional officers for their patrol operations. Additionally, Chief Cole reviewed the CIP requests for her department.

Public Works Director Burke Robertson spoke of the increased demand placed on his department due to growth in Graham. He reviewed the budget requests for his department, identifying a trash truck and dump truck as two of his biggest needs.

Planning Director Nathan Page reminded Council of several new developments that have been approved in the past couple of years and the effect they have on existing infrastructure. Mr. Page reviewed the CIP requests for his department which included a Comprehensive Plan update, Transportation Plan and Development Ordinance re-write.

Downtown Development Coordinator Mary Faucette provided Council with an overview of 2020 projects and spoke to Council about where we are headed.

Utilities Director Tonya Mann provided an update on projects within her department for this past year. She presented Council with her department's budget requests which included sewer line replacement on the 300 block of Long Street and Alright Avenue, continuation of slip lining program and roof replacement for the administration building.

Following a brief recap from Mr. Holland, at 11:44 a.m., Mayor Pro Tem Chip Turner made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Hall. All voted in favor of the motion.

Darcy Sperry, City Clerk