

City of Graham City Council Meeting Minutes March 14, 2023



The City Council of the City of Graham held a regularly scheduled meeting at 6:00 p.m. on March 14, 2023, in the Council Chamber, City Hall Municipal Building located 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
Josh Johnson, City Engineer

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Jennifer Talley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and presided.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Rev. Dr. Gary Thorpe, First Baptist Missionary Church gave the invocation and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION: Graham Fire Department Awards

Fire Chief Tommy Cole shared the following 2022 call statistics:

- Total Incidents - 2,241
- Fire Related Calls - 816
- Medical Related Calls - 1,625
- Structure Fires - 23
- Motor Vehicle Accidents - 167
- Cardiac Arrest Calls - 47

Fire Chief Cole recognized members of the Graham Fire Department for awards received for 2022:

2022 Rookie Firefighter of the Year: Firefighter Maison Mayton (Not pictured)

- Joined in March 2022
- Recent graduate of the ACC Fire Academy

2022 Volunteer Firefighter of the Year: Firefighter Dennis Bullis

- Joined in February 1979
- Retired with 44 years of service on February 1, 2022
- Served as Treasurer of the GFD Volunteer Firefighter Fund
- Served as Treasurer of the GFD Firefighters Relief Fund



2022 Career Firefighter of the Year: Fire Fighter Matthew Bradsher

- Hired in February 2020
- Coordinator of the GFD Fire Explorer Post



2022 Officer of the Year: Captain Kevin Squires

- Joined in February 1998
- F/T Engineer with the Morrisville Fire Department



2022 Chiefs Award:

- **Chaplain Darryl Peebles**
- Joined in January 2003
- Retiring in 2023 with 20 years of service



2022 Medical Life Saving Awards:

February 2022 successful CPR Save:

- Fire Fighter Chris Presley
- Fire Fighter Matthew Bradsher

October 2022 successful CPR Save:

- Fire Fighter Clay Davis
- Captain Chris Stokes
- Captain Kevin Squires



Mayor Talley, Engineer Bradsher, Fire Fighter Davis, Capt. Stokes, Capt. Squires, Chief Cole

Fire Chief Cole recognized Vic and Joanne Pate. He shared that on February 2, 2023, Mr. Pate suffered a cardiac arrest while driving on the interstate. The Graham Fire Department responded along with Alamance County EMS and the NC State Highway Patrol. Chief Cole arrived on the scene with NCSHP Troopers Caleb

Kirby and John Eberle to find Mr. Pate in his vehicle. He had hit the jersey wall and come to a rest. Troopers Kirby and Eberle forced entry into the vehicle and with the help of Chief Cole, they pulled the patient onto the roadway and began CPR. Graham Engine 10 and Engine 30 arrived and assisted with CPR and Defibrillation. Captain Jason Cook delivered one shock with the AED and Fire Fighters Hasten Watson and Shaun Riley established an airway and continued chest compressions. Mr. Pate was loaded in the ambulance and transported to Alamance Regional Medical Center and then transferred to Duke University Hospital. He was later released to come home where he is recovering. This was the first time Mr. Pate had the opportunity to meet the firefighters and troopers who assisted him.

Chief Cole recognized the following personnel that assisted on this call:

- Trooper Caleb Kirby
- Trooper John Eberle
- Captain Jason Cook
- Captain Michael Quigley
- Firefighter Hasten Watson
- Firefighter Shaun Riley
- Firefighter Rob Patterson



Chief Cole thanked the Pate family for attending and thanked the City Council for allowing the Graham Firefighters and Troopers to be recognized during the meeting.

Mayor Talley, Capt. Cook, Mr. Pate, Ms. Pate, Trooper Kirby, Trooper Eberle, Chief Cole

HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMISSION REPORT - HISTORIC PLAQUES – Chair Zipporah Clark-Baldwin

Chairperson Clark-Baldwin and Commission Member Ms. Chin gave an overview of the process of identifying historic buildings downtown. Ms. Clark-Baldwin shared three quotes received for the cost of bronze plaques to match the ones already on numerous buildings. Ms. Chin stated they would be contacting Walter Boyd to determine the language to be used on the plaques. Ms. Clark-Baldwin stated there were funds for ten plaques and asked for additional funds for ten more plaques.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- To approve February 14, 2023, City Council meeting minutes.
- To approve a Budget Amendment Ordinance increasing City Council’s travel budget from \$4,000 to \$7,000.
- To approve the following tax releases in the amount of \$366.48.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Hall to approve the foregoing Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilmember Parsons. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Jackie Fortner asked to hold a Gospel Concert on May 13, 2023, in the Colonial Hardware parking lot and to close a portion of E. Elm Street for vendors and food trucks. Assistant City Manager Holland provided his email address to be able to assist Mr. Fortner through the application process. Council consensus was to place this item on April 11, 2023, City Council agenda for consideration.

CITY STAFF COMMENTS

City Engineer Josh Johnson stated the Albright Avenue water line construction project had begun and design work had started for the 10” replacement line from the water plant to downtown.

Assistant City Manager Aaron Holland asked Council to recommend interested persons to serve on the Pedestrian Plan Update Committee. Mayor Talley stated she would like to serve on the committee.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council discussed the proposed NC DOT roundabout at E. Elm and Hardin Streets. Council voiced concerns about trucks being able to make safe turns without intruding on the inside roundabout and whether it would be safe for pedestrians to cross. Mayor Talley stated for the record she did not support the roundabout and would like for staff to have a conversation with NC DOT expressing Council concerns and the possibility of a redesign.

Mayor Talley stated the old Sagebrush restaurant had been renovated and voiced concerns about traffic entering the restaurant. Council discussed how to extend Bruce Turney Road to East Crescent Square Drive. Assistant City Manager Holland stated it would be costly due to having to cross the creek and floodplains.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall asked if staff could look into the placement of a stop light at the intersection of West Gilbreath and Holt Avenue. Correction: Street light at the intersection of W. Gilbreath Street and Holt Street. Staff relayed the street light request to Duke Energy.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall asked Council to consider funding \$6,500 for Alamance County Transportation Authority (ACTA). Mayor Talley stated she was not a supporter of funding ACTA. The Council consensus was to have staff review how ACTA is funded and report back.

ADJOURN

Mayor Pro Tem Hall motioned to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Chin. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm.

Renee M. Ward, CMC
City Clerk