

City of Graham

City Council Meeting Minutes

November 4, 2025



The City Council of the City of Graham held a regularly scheduled meeting on November 4, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall Municipal Building, 201 South Main Street, Graham, NC.

Council Members Present:

Mayor Jennifer Talley - *Absent*
Mayor Pro Tem Ricky Hall
Council Member Bobby Chin
Council Member Bonnie Whitaker

Staff Present:

Megan Garner, City Manager
Aaron Holland, Assistant City Manager
Bob Ward, City Attorney
Bryan Coleman, City Attorney
Renee Ward, City Clerk
Brian Faucette, Director of Recreation & Parks

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Pro Tem Hall called the meeting to order and presided.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Chin gave the invocation, and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A.** To approve the October 14, 2025, City Council meeting minutes and Closed Session meeting minutes.
- B.** To approve a budget amendment transferring \$21,000 in appropriated fund balance to the Police Department for use in repairing damage at the range sustained by Tropical Storm Chantal.
- C.** To approve a budget amendment for \$60,000 for a grant received from Impact Alamance to purchase and equip a van to be used as Park and Play.
- D.** To approve tax releases for \$476.60.

Motion by Council Member Whitaker to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Council Member Chin. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall requested that Public Comments be moved to the front of the agenda to allow Coach Eggleston to speak.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Coach Casey Eggleston, 309 Ashbrook Lane, Graham, asked for support for the 8U Flag Football tournament being held in Charlotte.

NEW BUSINESS

ITEM 1: DONATION OF DOCUMENTS – HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The City Council considered donating deeds, land grants, and surveys to the Government Records Section of the North Carolina State Archives.

Recreation and Parks Director Brian Faucette stated that staff had uncovered documents dating back to the 1700s, which are very fragile. He noted that staff did not have the expertise or the environment in which to protect them into the future. He proposed to the Council that these documents be forwarded to the Government Records Section of the North Carolina State Archives for safekeeping. The documents have been digitized and are accredited to the Graham Historical Museum.

Council Member Chin asked if the City would still maintain ownership and loan them to the State for archival purposes or transfer ownership.

Mr. Faucette stated that transferring ownership would be clearer, and if, at some point, the State Archives no longer wished to hold the documents, they would return them to the Museum, which could be specified in the donation form.

Council Member Whitaker asked what Mr. Chin was asking. She asked if he wanted to reword it, then it would need to come back to the next Council next month, or to donate the documents.

City Manager Garner stated that the City was not equipped to store documents of that age and hoped to place these documents in the hands of those who had the expertise and could properly maintain them. She stated that General Statutes require that when items are donated, they must be presented to the governing body for approval.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Hall to approve donating items to the Government Records Section of the North Carolina State Archives, seconded by Council Member Whitaker. The motion passed unanimously.

CITY STAFF COMMENTS

City Manager Garner introduced Graham's new Police Chief, Brian Neil. She shared that Brian had most recently come from the Elon Campus Police, but had over 25 years of experience with the State Bureau of Investigation. She noted that a very extensive and lengthy process took place with numerous checkpoints along the way, and said she truly believed Graham ended up with the best candidate, Chief Neil. She shared that she was excited to see what the future held for the Graham Police Department.

Chief Neil stated he looked forward to working with the Council and the community and was excited to be here. He noted that the Council's return on investment in public safety here in Graham would be that you never have to question that.



CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

No comments.

CLOSED SESSION

City Council considered going into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5) to consider the purchase of 1771 N. Jim Minor Road in Haw River, parcel ID number 152551, owned by Thomas and Linda Stewart, adjacent to Graham Regional Park, for the intended use of park and recreational facilities, and to discuss a potential litigation matter in accordance with N.C.G.S. Section 143-318.11(a)(3).

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Hall to go into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5) to consider the purchase of 1771 N. Jim Minor Road in Haw River, parcel ID number 152551, owned by Thomas and Linda Stewart, adjacent to Graham Regional Park, for the intended use of park and recreational facilities, and to discuss a potential litigation matter in accordance with N.C.G.S. Section 143-318.11(a)(3), seconded by Council Member Chin. The motion passed unanimously.

The closed session was held.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Hall to go out of closed session, seconded by Council Member Whitaker. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Hall to return to open session, seconded by Council Member Chin. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Council Member Whitaker to move forward with condemnation proceedings for the following properties of easement acquisitions for the 10-inch water line replacement project, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hall. The motion passed unanimously.

- 1) Riley Rental, LLC GPIN#8895624197
- 2) Gudino Norley CPIN#8895415363

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Hall to approve the purchase of 1771 N. Jim Minor Road in Haw River, parcel ID number 152551, owned by Thomas and Linda Stewart, adjacent to Graham Regional Park, for the intended use of park and recreational facilities, for a purchase price not to exceed \$335,000, and approve the budget amendment recognizing \$307,725 in grants and \$27,275 in appropriated fund balance, seconded by Council Member Whitaker. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Hall to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Chin. The motion passed unanimously. (6:30 p.m.)

Renee M. Ward, CMC
City Clerk

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