

City of Graham

City Council Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2026



The City Council of the City of Graham held a regularly scheduled meeting on March 10, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall Municipal Building, 201 South Main Street, Graham, NC.

Council Members Present:

Mayor Chelsea Dickey
Mayor Pro Tem Ricky Hall
Council Member Bobby Chin
Council Member Bonnie Whitaker
Council Member Jim Young

Staff Present:

Megan Garner, City Manager
Aaron Holland, Assistant City Manager
Bob Ward, City Attorney
Bryan Coleman, City Attorney
Renee Ward, City Clerk

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Chelsea Dickey

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Invocation - Pastor Josh Gresham, Trailhead Church

PRESENTATIONS:

- Invictus Task Force – Deputy Justin Trogdon, Randolph County Sheriff’s Department
- Alamance County Transportation Authority (ACTA) Update – Executive Director Peter Murphy
- Former Mayor Jennifer Talley by the City Council

ADD-ON: To add a personnel issue to the Closed Session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6).

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Hall to approve the add-on, seconded by Council Member Chin. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A.** To approve the following minutes:
- February 9, 2026 – Special City Council Meeting
 - February 10, 2026 – City County Meeting and Closed Session Minutes
 - February 17, 2026 – Special City Council Meeting
 - February 23, 2026 – Special City Council Meeting.
- B.** To approve a street closure of the 100 block of W. Elm Street for the 6th Annual Esperanza Hispanic Heritage Festival on Saturday, September 26, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- C.** To approve a street closure of E. Market Street between North Main Street and North Marshall Street for the FUMC of Graham Touch-a-Truck Easter Celebration on Saturday, March 21, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

- D. To approve a Resolution declaring the intention of the City of Graham to consider the permanent closing of Wilton Drive and setting a public hearing for April 14, 2026.
- E. To approve a resolution granting an easement area across North Jim Minor Road to Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC, for the purpose of transmitting and distributing electrical energy and for communication purposes.
- F. To approve an amendment to the audit contract with Stout, Stuart, McGowen & King to allow for a time extension to March 24, 2026.
- G. To approve a budget amendment to recognize \$2,348 in insurance proceeds revenue and increase the Police Department Repair and Maintenance of Vehicles budget by \$2,348.
- H. To accept a donation of one Antigravity Drone for the Graham Fire Department from the Children of Fallen Heroes organization.
- I. To approve a budget amendment to recognize \$86,813 received from FEMA and \$413,323 in insurance proceeds, as indicated in the attached budget ordinance, due to damage to utility equipment and lift stations from Tropical Storm Chantal.
- J. To approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$11,350 and to amend the contract with WithersRavenel to complete a cost estimate for the Northeast section of Graham Regional Park.
- K. To approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$19,700 for website redesign with ReVize.
- L. To approve a budget amendment for the Governing Body in the amounts of \$84,000 for Professional Services and \$1,500 for a donation.
- M. To approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$60,000 for the Utilities Fund Non-Departmental to cover expenditures in insurance and bonds, including those for property/liability and workers' compensation increases.
- N. To approve tax refunds in the amount of \$3.67 and tax releases in the amount of \$43.06.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

ITEM 1: ADOPT RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR CITY COUNCIL – REPEAL “ITEMS NOT ON TONIGHT’S AGENDA” POLICY

City Council will consider reviewing and adopting the Rules of Procedure for City Council and repealing the “Items Not on Tonight’s Agenda Policy.

Motion by _____ seconded by _____ to approve the Rules of Procedure for City Council and to keep the Public Comment Section at the end of the agenda.

ITEM 2: DESIGNATE ARTS AROUND THE SQUARE – DOG-FRIENDLY EVENT

City Council considered designating Arts Around the Square as a dog-friendly event.

Motion by _____ seconded by Council Member _____ to _____

ITEM 3: ART IN AMERICA FILM PROJECT

City Council will discuss and direct staff on participation in the Art in America Film Project.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

ITEM 4: HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION – CHILDREN’S CHAPEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

City Council considered approving the Historic Landmark Designation application for Children’s Chapel United Church of Christ, located at 334 East Harden Street.

ITEM 5: REZONING – 808 E. PARKER STREET - 0.79-ACRE LOT – B-2 GENERAL COMMERCIAL TO L-1 LIGHT INDUSTRIAL

City Council has set a public hearing to consider rezoning a 0.79-acre lot at 808 E. Parker Street from B-2 (General Commercial) to L-1 (Light Industrial) for the purpose of utilizing the existing warehouse space for a landscaping company to store and run operations.

ITEM 6: REZONING – 602 WASHINGTON STREET -0.22-ACRES – B-3, (NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS) TO C-B, (CONDITIONAL BUSINESS)

City Council has set a public hearing to consider rezoning 0.22 acres of land at 602 Washington Street from B-3 (Neighborhood Business) to C-B (Conditional Business) to allow a life counseling use within the existing building on site.

NEW BUSINESS:

ITEM 7: BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENTS

City Council considered appointing members to the Historic Resources Commission.

Applicants for Historic Resources Commission – Two Vacancies

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Jim Albright | David Heath |
| Kay Alspach | Ricky Hurtado (2 nd choice) |
| Samuel Cohoon | Timothy Moore |
| Corbin Craig (2 nd choice) | Jensen Roll |
| Sandra Hall | Richard Shevlin |

ITEM 8: NEW PARK CONCEPT

City Council discussed a new park concept for the proposed downtown park off W. Elm Street.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

CITY STAFF COMMENTS

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

CLOSED SESSION

City Council went into closed session to consult with the attorney in accordance with N.C.G.S. Section 143-318.11(a)(3), City of Mebane versus City of Graham, Case #25CV007126-000, and to discuss a personnel issue in accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6).

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

The closed session was held.

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

No action was taken.

ADJOURN

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Hall to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Chin. The motion passed unanimously. (10:13 p.m.)

Renee M. Ward, CMC
City Clerk

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