

Grayson City Council
Special Meeting
9/18/2007
6:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor George Steele
Attorney Jeff Scott
Council: Duane Suttles
Pearl Crum
Terry Stamper
Brandon Fraley
Pam Nash
Absent: Patrick Robinson

Mayor Steele called the special meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Devotion was given by Mayor Steele.

Ordinance 12-2007
Utility Rate Increase

2nd Reading of the ordinance was given. Discussion was held about the ordinance. Councilman Stamper stated the rate of \$1.54 until October 2008 was to be added, wanting the ordinance to reflect this price. Attorney Jeff Scott will make the change.

Councilperson Nash noted that she had received a call from the only laundry mat owner in town. The owner inquired about paying a wholesale rate instead of the current rate he is paying. Attorney Jeff Scott stated that in the prior ordinance worded a wholesale customer but did not include any rate for the classification, therefore, he deleted it since it had no meaning. Councilperson Nash was hoping for some way to accommodate the only Laundromat in town.

The CPI was clarified to not exceed 3%, with a re-evaluation in 2 years.

Councilman Suttles inquired about Article V of the ordinance. He wanted to make certain that nothing had added to the ordinance that had not been discussed completely. Attorney Scott explained that Article V was in the existing ordinance, so he did not remove it. He also explained that he is unaware that this article had any application for existing customers. Mr. Scott also stated that Superintendent Gerald Haney informed him that there was no such users at the present time.

Mayor Steele called for a vote to pass Ordinance 12-2007

Ayes: Nash, Crum, Suttles, Stamper & Fraley

Building Inspector

Mayor Steele informed City Council on the update of the possible new Building Inspector. The gentleman has declined to take the position due to not being able to obtain Commercial Building Inspection from the state. Mayor Steele spoke with Joe Parsons. Joe said that he would take on the duties of Commercial and Residential building inspections. He would not want to get involved with all the collection of fees, issuing licenses and other paper work within clerical aspects of the job. He informed the Mayor, Melena Alderson be willing to take care of the clerical work, including nuisances and code enforcement. She is willing to do this on a part-time basis. She is requesting \$10.00 per hour, a vehicle and health insurance after 90 days. requested a vehicle and \$10.00 a hour and health insurance after the 90 day probation. Councilperson Crum stated that was too much.

Motion made by Councilperson Crum to advertise for a Building Inspector for 3 weeks. This will be for Commercial & Residential Inspector, Code Enforcement and Nuisances. Councilman Suttles asked to inform those who inquire on this job to submit a application even if the applicant may not feel they qualify for all aspects of the job. Seconded by Councilman Suttles. Motion carried.

City Clerk will advertise for Building Inspector for 3 weeks in the Daily Independent.

Police Department

Sgt. Jeff May addressed the City Council about major concerns of all members of the Grayson Police Dept. The main issues were: pay raises, retirement plan and insurance coverage. On behalf of his fellow officers Officer May requested for a retirement plan and \$1.00 per hour pay raise.

Local Business owners who attended the meeting in support of the Police Department were Bob Gehnung of Fitness Trainers, Sam Perry of McDonald's, Mike & Sandy Brammell of Radio Shack, Brandon Hamilton of Global Tanning, Chris Huddle of All American Graphics, Curt LeMaster of Main Street Mercantile and Diane May of Diane's Accounting. Several private citizens and parents of the officers were present also.

The business owners addressed the Mayor and Council about the issues Sgt. Jeff May spoke of. The payroll tax and increase of business licenses were suggestions for increased revenues. One businessman stated he would increase the pay of his employees to cover the payroll tax, so the employee would not see a difference in his/her income. Another businessperson asked the Council to take the appropriate measures that would keep the current members of the Grayson Police Department.

Brandon Hamilton asked if the Mayor had the power to give raises to employees.

Mayor Steele explained he did not have the power to give raises, that is the decision of the Council. He further stated all the city employees deserved more money. Mayor Steele stated something must be done to generate more revenue for the city, not only for pay raises, but also infrastructure and recreation. He announced to the crowd that the .50 cent raise employees received on July 1, 2007 was the first raise in 5 years. Also that the Sheriff's Department has one deputy on day shift and one on night shift for the entire county. The State Police has 1 officer to cover 4 counties.

Councilman Stamper conveyed his support of the Police Department, but problem can not be corrected all at once.

Councilperson Nash explained that she had been on Council for 15 years. The prior administrations had brought the City out of debts, with the extra monies the City provided new cruisers and uniforms for the officers.


Councilperson Crum expressed concern for the retired citizens of Grayson. She was assured that the payroll and business tax would not effect these citizens.

Mayor Steele appointed the following members to the Police Request Committee:

1. Councilman Stamper Chairperson
2. Councilman Fraley
3. Councilperson Nash

Councilman Suttles enlighten the crowd about the recent accomplishments of this government body. In the last year the Council had purchased 5 new cars and gave raises. Council would have to look at options on the insurance. He stated the current City Council is trying to move the city forward by increasing revenue. The Council has enforced the business license ordinance, forcing some business to pay back fees owed to the city. Delinquent property taxes have been collected through this administration. Last year was the first time in a long time that property tax rate was increased.

Mayor Steele adjourned the meeting at 9:35 p.m.



Mayor George Steele

ATTEST:



Cindy Stratton, City Clerk

Minutes were accepted on 8th of October, 2007.