

# Questionnaire for Candidates for Graham Mayor and Graham City Council

## City council candidates (Voters may select two)

### Mayoral candidates (Voters may select one)

Jennifer Talley	Chip Turner	Questions	Daniel Alvis	Jeanette E. Beaudry	Bobby Chin	Brooke Flood	Edith J. Montoya	Joey Parsons	Melody Wiggins
1. About right.	1. About right.	<b>Tax rate, spending priorities</b> 1. Is Graham's tax rate too high, too low, or about right?	1. About right.	1. [Refused to respond.]	1. It is difficult to assess whether the tax rates are too high or too low.	1. About right.	1. About right.	1. About right.	1. Too low.
2. .4550	2. —	2. At what level (cents per \$100 valuation) should the city's tax rate be set?	2. _____	2. [Refused to respond.]	2. See my comments above to question 1.	2. .48	2. _____	2. .45	2. _____
3. Increased: Public works and police. We currently have 5 patrol positions to serve over 23,000 residents. We have not added a patrol position since 1999 but have experienced significant growth. There were over 22,000 calls for service last year. Decreased: We can find ways to decrease city spending and improve efficiencies. Staff can have an instrumental part in identifying these efficiencies.	3. Increased: police and fire departments need additional employees. Decreased: None.	3. What area(s) of city spending do you feel should be increased or decreased? [50 word limit]	3. Increased: Fire, police, & Infrastructure.	3. [Refused to respond.]	3. Without knowing the current budget, and what long-term investments have been programmed, I cannot say what areas need to be increased or decreased.	3. Increased: Increase spending related to adding needed personnel for departments such as Public Works, Fire, and Police. The City has grown a lot over the past several years but they have not added the needed personnel to keep up with the growth-related demand. Decreased: At this time the City needs to decrease some of the spending related to the new park. The park is great but at this time I feel there are more important areas that need to be addressed before the growth of the park.	3. Increased: Areas of spending that should increase are on the city's infrastructure, public safety, and helping working class residents.	3. Increased: Funding for the police and first responders for personnel, training and equipment. The safety of our citizens should be top priority. Decreased: Any item that doesn't bring value back to the community.	3. Increased: Public Safety.
4.	4.	4. Please outline how high a priority you place on the following categories of city spending by adding money to the city's annual budget: a. to add more police officers to the Graham Police Department? b. to add more firefighters to the Graham Fire Department? c. to add Graham's participation in Burlington's bus service d. to make additions and expansions at Graham Regional Park on Jim Minor Road.	4.	4.	4.	4.	4.	4.	4.
a. High. b. Moderate. c. Low. d. Low.	a. High. b. High. c. Low. d. Moderate.	a. to add more police officers to the Graham Police Department? b. to add more firefighters to the Graham Fire Department? c. to add Graham's participation in Burlington's bus service d. to make additions and expansions at Graham Regional Park on Jim Minor Road.	a. High. b. High. c. Low. d. Moderate.	a. [Refused to respond.] b. [Refused to respond.] c. [Refused to respond.] d. [Refused to respond.]	a. High. b. High. c. Low. d. Undecided.	a. High. b. High. c. Low. d. Low.	a. Moderate. b. Moderate. c. High. d. High.	a. High. b. High. c. Moderate. d. Low.	a. High b. High c. Low. d. High.
5. No need to raise taxes. We are applying for grant funding and can adjust the budget to fund more police officers.	5. My plan would increase spending based on growth in the tax base, not the tax rate.	5. For any categories in #4 (a. to d., above), which, if any that you deemed high priorities, would you be willing to raise property taxes to accomplish?	5. Public safety.	5. [Refused to respond.]	5. Raising property taxes should be the last option after all other options for raising revenue have been exhausted.	5. I would be willing to raise taxes for more personnel.	5. _____	5. No.	5. Public Safety. The tax base is tied to these two departments.
6. Support.	6. Support.	6. In general, do you support or oppose using taxpayer money as an incentive to attract industry to Graham? [25 word limit]	6. Support.	6. [Refused to respond.]	6. This is unfair question that reflects common attitude of those in government to expend taxpayer money without investigating/exploring what would make Graham attractive to industry.	6. Support.	6. Support.	6. Support.	6. Support.
6a. Incentives have become a necessary negotiation in recruiting industry/business but I believe it is only a small part of a total package. We must be able to compete based on workforce, land availability, schools, taxes, economics of scale, etc. I would only support incentives that would provide a significant ROI.	6a. I have very limited support for this type of funding. It must be infrastructure support, not cash payments, or tax deferrals as we have successfully done at the Commerce Park. Further, these limited incentives must have short term return on investment. Our Commerce Park investment has already returned to the taxpayer.	6a. If support, what types of incentive(s) would you advocate? [50 words or less]	6a. The money will come back to the city over time in taxes.	6a. [Refused to respond.]	6a. —	6a. I support incentives such as reduced water rates and in some cases tax incentives in order to draw industry to Graham. Money spent to help boost the economy is well worth it.	6a. Better public safety, child care and implementing new parks for our little ones.	6a. Incentives are what bring new industry to the area, but the businesses must hold up their end of the agreement. If they have not delivered on their end, then any incentives must be paid back.	6a. Every case is different. These monies however, come back to the city numerous times over.
7. Oppose.	7. Oppose.	<b>City policy</b> 7. There has been some debate in recent years about whether food trucks should be allowed more broadly in the city – with the positions generally ranging between allowing greater variety in food offerings and more competition vs. whether they represent unfair competition with “brick-and-mortar” restaurants. Would you support or oppose more accessibility for food trucks? 7a. Why or why not? [25 word limit]	7. No response.	7. [Refused to respond.]	7. A better question is “When would it be appropriate to allow food trucks to complement the existing downtown restaurants?”	7. Support.	7. Support.	7. Oppose.	7. No response.
7a. Food trucks are currently allowed on private property and during events/festivals. This allows the city to ensure that trash, bathroom and hand washing regulations are followed.	7a. Current use of mobile food trucks has been about right – designed as a compromise between brick-and-mortar businesses and variety of food options available by a mobile unit.	7a. Why or why not? [25 word limit]	7a. No response.	7a. [Refused to respond.]	7a. See my comment to question 7 above.	7a. I support food trucks on privately owned business property as a way to help enhance their business but not openly/unrestricted within the downtown.	7a. No response.	7a. City has policies that regulate food trucks; they have a place & can be positive, but we should make sure they don't take business from existing restaurants.	7a. After great deliberation by the city council, the Temporary Outdoor Sales Ordinance was added on August 7, 2018.
8. No.	8. No.	8. Some North Carolina cities have adopted ordinances this year that seek to ban discrimination within their jurisdictions based on sexual orientation (i.e., lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people) in public accommodations and employment. Does Graham need such an ordinance? 8a. Would you vote for or against such an ordinance?	8. No.	8. [Refused to respond.]	8. No. There are laws in place that address equal opportunity and discrimination for all.	8. No.	8. Yes.	8. No. We have state and federal laws that prohibit discrimination.	8. We already have local, state, and federal mandates in place for accommodations and employment.
8a. Against-Discrimination is already illegal under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.	8a. Against.	8a. Would you vote for or against such an ordinance?	8a. For.	8a. [Refused to respond.]	8a. See my comment to question 8 above.	8a. For- If our citizens feel it is needed.	8a. For.	8a. Against.	8a. For, if any discrimination of any kind exists.
9. Oppose. This issue is being litigated in the courts according to Chief Justice Newby and we will have to wait to see how the courts rule.	9. Oppose.	9. Some jurisdictions have begun considering whether their employees should be required to be vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus. Would you support or oppose such a requirement for municipal employees in Graham?	9. Oppose.	9. [Refused to respond.]	9. This is a totally inappropriate question. Asking employees whether they have been vaccinated is reflective of Nazi Germany asking its citizens whether they were a Jew or not.	9. Oppose.	9. Oppose.	9. Oppose.	9. Oppose.
9a. Oppose.	9a. Oppose.	9a. Other areas have begun to consider “incentives” (cash bonuses, time off, etc.) to entice their city employees to get vaccinated. Would you support or oppose such “incentives”?	9a. Oppose.	9a. [Refused to respond.]	9a. —	9a. Oppose.	9a. Oppose.	9a. Oppose. It is a personal choice and we should not use taxpayer money to persuade people into making personal health choices.	9a. Oppose.  (See <b>ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE, PAGE 7</b> )

# GRAHAM ELECTION – FOR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

## City council candidates (Voters may select two)

## Mayoral candidates (Voters may select one)

Jennifer Talley	Chip Turner	Questions	Daniel Alvis	Jeanette E. Beaudry	Bobby Chin	Brooke Flood	Edith J. Montoya	Joey Parsons	Melody Wiggins
9b. I agree to offer the vaccine for free but would ask our legal counsel if paying employees to take a vaccine would open the city up to legal liability in the event of an adverse reaction. 9c. Decline to answer.	9b. No, this is a personal health decision and government needs to stay out of it.  9c. This is a personal health question and not appropriate for public information. 10. Good, not perfect.	9b. Do you have a particular incentives approach you favor? [25 word limit]  9c. Are you, yourself, vaccinated against COVID-19?  10. How do you assess Graham's racial climate/race relations within the city? [50-word limit]	9b. No response.  9c. Yes.  10. No response.	9b. [Refused to respond.]  9c. [Refused to respond.]  10. [Refused to respond.]	9b. —  9c. No response.  10. In the two years I have lived here in Graham, I have not experienced any ill-will or prejudicial treatment from anyone I have met. My guide is Matthew 22:39 – 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.'	9b. I do not feel incentives for the vaccine are necessary. Many employees from the city have already voluntarily gotten the vaccine.  9c. No response.  10. I do not feel that the racial climate/race relations are as bad as some like to make it seem. Graham is a very welcoming and accepting community. There is always room for improvement across all races and cultures, and in all parts of the US not just in Graham.	9b. I believe everybody should have the choice if they want to or not.  9c. No response.  10. Poor.	9b. No.  9c. Prefer not to answer.  10. There is always room for improvement. Although, much of the recent tension has come from sources outside of Graham. Overall, Graham has been and continues to be welcoming and inviting to all people.	9b. No response.  9c. Yes, but this is not an appropriate question. 10. Poor.
10a. We don't necessarily need to change policies, but rather improve our communication with the public on what our policies are. Law enforcement for instance has been CALEA certified since 1998; in many instances, citizen concerns are derived from a lack of understanding of policies rather than a disagreement over policy. 11. Leave it.	10a. Government policies should be color blind. Policies are written documents. You should not be able to read any policy and determine how it affects one race or another  11. —	10a. What, if any, city policies should be changed or adopted to improve the racial climate/race relations in the city? [50 word limit]  11. There has been much discussion about the Confederate monument which is on county-owned property on the north side of the courthouse. While legal authorities generally contend that the city council has no jurisdiction over the statue, what is your own view on what, if anything, should be done with it? 11a. Why? [50 word limit]	10a. No response.  11. No response.  11a. No response.	10a. [Refused to respond.]  11. [Refused to respond.]  11a. [Refused to respond.]	10a. Why is the first response to any issue or problem is for the government to step in and write a policy?  11. —	10a. None that I am aware of at this time.  11. —	10a. By communicating better.  11. No response.	10a. There are city policies in place against discrimination. We need to follow the policies that are in place and be open to updating them if the need arises.  11. Leave it.	10a. Communication is key.  11. No response.
11a. As a council member, I am bound by my oath to follow the law. The city does not own the monument or the land it stands on. It is my understanding that the county owns the property, but under current law, they are not allowed to take it down or move it.	11a. The city has no authority to place something on another's property or remove it from another's property. I am informed that this statue and all War Monuments are protected by Federal Law. But my opinion does not matter on the subject. The county has elected officials to make this determination. 11b. No recommendation.	11a. The city has no authority to place something on another's property or remove it from another's property. I am informed that this statue and all War Monuments are protected by Federal Law. But my opinion does not matter on the subject. The county has elected officials to make this determination. 11b. No recommendation.	11a. No response.  11b. No response.	11a. [Refused to respond.]  11b. [Refused to respond.]	11a. The Confederate monument is a memorial to those from Alamance County who fought in the Civil War. It is a piece of history. If we forget our history, how are we to know if we are going forward or backwards?  11b. —	11a. I am indifferent on whether to leave it or move it. I understand and respect opinions of individuals on both sides of the issue. This is something that needs to be voted on by the citizens of Alamance County and not just a decision by a select few elected officials.  11b. If it is moved it needs to be placed in a historically relevant location. 12. Oppose.	11a. No response.  11b. No response.  12. No response.	11a. It should be left as a piece of history that reminds us not to make the mistakes of the past.  11b. N/A  12. Oppose.	11a. This is the decision of Alamance County. As a current council member I am unable to comment as we have pending lawsuits.  11b.  12. Oppose.
12. Oppose.	12. Oppose.	12. Meanwhile, some have called for re-naming Sesquicentennial Park, across from the courthouse, for Wyatt Outlaw, a black Reconstruction-era figure who was a Republican leader and local lawman who was hung by a white mob. Would you support or oppose re-naming the park for Wyatt Outlaw?	12. Oppose.	12. [Refused to respond.]	12. If the intent is to recognize the contribution of the black community to the history of Graham, instead of re-naming a park for an individual who was hung, would it not be more appropriate to name the park after a person who has made a significant contribution to the betterment of Graham? 12a. See my comments to question 12 above.	12. Oppose.	12. No response.	12. Oppose.	12. Oppose.
12a. The county, city and numerous private donors collected donations to build the existing Sesquicentennial Park to honor the 150-year anniversary of the founding of the county. I believe renaming the park would open the city to legal liability to anyone that donated to the fund that built it for that purpose. 13. I believe the Graham Police have done an amazing job, but they need more patrol officers. They responded to 48 protests in 52 weeks in 2020 during a global pandemic and had to call on mutual aid numerous times. Safety is my #1 priority.	12a. The acts of this mob were unlawful and morally reprehensible. But these acts occurred a long time ago and many acts of that era were very bad. Any tribute to these types of conduct will do nothing to change what happened or offset the harsh memory.  13. There is ongoing litigation regarding these events and I have been advised not to comment on the events.	12a. If oppose, what, if any, other tribute to Wyatt Outlaw do you believe should be considered? [25 word limit]  13. Graham police have been called on throughout 2020 and 2021 to oversee marches, demonstrations, and other protests in Graham. Give your assessment of how well or poorly you believe the police have responded? [50 word limit]	12a. I would be willing and open for some discussoin with anybody.  13. I think the police have done a great job with the way they have responded.	12a. [Refused to respond.]  13. [Refused to respond.]	12a. See my comments to question 12 above.  13. The Graham Police Department should be commended for how they responded to these events.	12a. There are many people that put forth the time, money, and effort for this park to be built. If something is desired to honor Wyatt Outlaw, then the same effort needs to be put forth.  13. Police responded as well as they could have given the limited personnel and resources they have. I know they review every incident to see what improvement, if any, is needed for future events. We have a fine police department that is dedicated to this community and doing the absolute best job.	12a. No response.  13. No response.	12a. The intent of the park was to celebrate the founding of the county. The council has already voted to leave the name the same.  13. The Graham PD has done a great job considering how understaffed they are.	12a. Would love to discuss with any interested groups the possibilities.  13. No response.
14. Too low. Too High. About right.	14. Too low. About right. Too low.	<b>Other policy issues</b> 14. In your opinion, is Graham's rate of growth too slow, too fast, or about right? Commercial: Residential: Industrial:	14. About right. Too high. Too low.	14. [Refused to respond.] [Refused to respond.] [Refused to respond.]	14. I have been a resident of Graham for only two years and have not formed a definitive position on the growth rate in regards to these three areas.	14. Too low. Too high. Too low.	14. Too low. About right. Too low.	14. About right. Too high. About right.	14. About right About right About right

# GRAHAM ELECTION – FOR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

## City council candidates (Voters may select two)

### Mayoral candidates (Voters may select one)

Jennifer Talley	Chip Turner	Questions	Daniel Alvis	Jeanette E. Beaudry	Bobby Chin	Brooke Flood	Edith J. Montoya	Joey Parsons	Melody Wiggins
15. City's Growth Management Plan requires new development should be "harmonious" with existing neighborhoods. Much of the dense development has serious consequences for local neighborhoods such as increased traffic, run-off, school class size, public work needs, safety, etc. Many residents have not been happy with dense development, new zonings, and setbacks.	15. The developments, by definition, are in the proper zones, because they must each go through the planning and approval process. This is why the City has a zoning map, which establishes the density of each area of the City.	15. Some have contended that a number of developments approved in, or proposed for, the city are "too dense," relative to nearby existing neighborhoods. What is your view on how significant a factor density of new proposed subdivisions should be compared to existing ones. [50 word limit]	15. No response.	15. [Refused to respond.]	15. Density is only one factor that has to be considered. Others are the impact on the current infrastructure of Graham in regards to police and fire support, the school system, the capacity of the existing utilities of water, sewer, garbage/landfill, and the road network.	15. If the development connects with an existing development it needs to closely conform with the existing development. If the new development does not directly connect with an existing development then the density does not matter as much to me so long as the density of the development does not hinder public safety.	15. No response.	15. New development should be harmonious with the existing community. Increased density overloads our roads and make the unsafe, puts a strain on our infrastructure and overwhelms our schools.	15. No response.
16. Downtown Master Plan should be changed to reflect what citizens want. Majority of citizens and businesses did not support this plan; over 2,400 signed petition in support of small businesses to have it changed. Citizens want to retain Graham's downtown historic charm; historic buildings must be protected for future generations.	16. All of my votes on projects are a matter of public record. Some of these have been proposed and modified thereafter because of the input of the neighborhood citizens. As a Council member, I have tried diligently to listen to the desires of the public and my votes reflect their input.	16. Are there any particular projects – commercial, residential, or industrial – to which you particularly object, or question the wisdom of the city council having granted approval for over the past 2-5 years? [50 word limit]	16. No response.	16. [Refused to respond.]	16. Not at this time.	16. Over the course of the past couple of years the council has approved too many multi-family dwellings. Where-as these types of residential dwellings do not require some city services they still place more burden on public safety resources and personnel.	16. No response.	16. In the future, we need to be more responsible and consider how the density of new developments affects the community and be transparent about plans and spending for future development.	16. No response.
17. No.	17. Yes.	17. Do you believe Graham residents receive adequate notice about proposed changes (in zoning or other issues) that are scheduled to come before the city council? 17a. If no, what can be done to improve public notification or awareness about proposed upcoming changes? [25 word limit]	17. Yes.	17. [Refused to respond.]	17. Yes.	17. No.	17. No response.	17. No.	17. Yes.
17a. Notify all surrounding property owners by mail as required by state guidelines. Improve communication with media to ensure public is notified especially on controversial issues.	17a. The Notice requirements are a matter of state law and the City follows that law.		17a. N/A	17a. [Refused to respond.]	17a. –	17a. Available technology can be utilized to properly notify more residents and citizens beyond just putting out some signage and posting an announcement in the newspaper.	17a. I'll say in the middle.	17a. Written notices provided, open forum for public to be involved, social media shares, PSA on local broadcast media.	17a. N/A.
18. Yes.	18. Yes.	<b>City council pay, benefits, elections</b> 18. Graham city councilmen now receive \$473.84 per month (about \$5,686 annually), and the mayor \$756.65 per month (roughly \$9,262 annually) as compensation for their service on the city council. Are those amounts adequate and fair? 18a. Would you vote to increase these amounts during your term or keep them the same? 18b. If raise, by how much, or to what level?	18. Yes.	18. [Refused to respond.]	18. Serving as the mayor or as a city councilman is a civic duty. Whether the compensation is adequate and fair is moot. 18a. No response.	18. Yes.	18. Yes.	18. Yes.	18. Yes.
18a. Keep the same.	18a. Keep the same, for now.		18a. Keep the same.	18a. [Refused to respond.]	18a. No response.	8a. Keep the same.	18a. Keep the same.	18a. Keep the same.	18a. Keep the same.
18b. The City of Graham will be conducting a pay study that will address compensation.	18b. The value of money has fallen steadily since the 1980's. Inflation since January of 2021 has been drastic.		18b. N/A.	18b. [Refused to respond.]	18b. No response.	18b. N/A.	18b. N/A.	18b. The City of Graham will conduct salary reviews in 2022.	18b. N/A.
19. I am committed to serving my community and public service. I take an oath to uphold the laws of this country. Public servants should never serve their own interest. For 9 years I have stood up for the citizens of Graham and believe my commitment is evident through my voting history.	19. I have always reported any financial conflict of interest, and have voiced my opinion when I thought another member of our Council had a conflict. Conflicts are determined by the other Council Members...Not the member who has a conflict.	19. What confidence can Graham voters have that you will avoid any financial conflict of interest, or even the appearance of a conflict of interest, if you are serving on the council during the next two or four years? [50 word limit]	19. No response.	19. [Refused to respond.]	19. I am retired and if elected will serve as my civic duty. I will represent to the best of my ability what is in the best interest of the citizens of Graham.	19. I am not a business owner; therefore, outside of my residential property, financial conflict would be limited. The biggest question most have is concerning my husband's employment with the city. To ensure there is no conflict, I would remove myself from voting on matters related directly to the Police Department.	19. I am a positive person and don't like conflicts. If elected, my priorities include representation for minorities, listening and addressing to the concerns of our residents and improving public safety, community involvement and trust. I want Graham to become a better city for our residents and thrive.	19. My only goal is to serve my community and do what is best for the citizens of Graham.	19. I have been vetted by the State of North Carolina as having no conflicts of interests. A thorough application must be completed in order to serve on the Transportation Advisory Commission of which I am a member.
		<b>General comments</b> 20. What is your area of strongest disagreement with action(s) taken by the city council in the past 2-5 years? [50 word limit]	20. No response.	20. [Refused to respond.]	20. I have only lived in Graham for two years so I have no comment about what was done in the past 3-5 years.	20. My strongest disagreement is the way they have gone after and attacked each other. If we are truly here for citizens, we should be able to "agree to disagree" and do so with respect for and towards each other. Personal attacks is not what citizens of Graham need or deserve.	20. No response.	20. In the past it has been apparent that the council had already made their decisions prior to the meeting. Major things have been approved with no public input.	20. No response.
20. The night of the last election, when council members knew they had lost over the controversial downtown master plan, they (Wiggins, Kimrey & McClure) voted the same night to pass it. By the time of the vote, they knew from the election results that citizens did not agree with this.	20. I am satisfied that our council has acted with integrity over my tenure on the board. Even when there has been a disagreement, we have sought to work together and compromise to reach a good outcome for the citizens.		20. No response.	20. [Refused to respond.]	20. [Refused to respond.]	20. [Refused to respond.]	20. [Refused to respond.]	20. [Refused to respond.]	20. [Refused to respond.]
21. Safety – Graham police are woefully understaffed. Staffing Issues – it is harder and harder to find qualified staff to fill positions. Pay study should be conducted to ensure salaries & benefits are competitive. Rapid Growth - we need to make sure that infrastructure is enough to handle additional strain on resources.	21. a. Getting the proper amount of Police and Fire services on the ground for the public's protection; b. Getting the unused publicly owned property back on the tax books for use by the private sector; c. Getting dead end commercial streets such as Bruce Turney Drive connected and in use for commercial development.	21. In your view, what are the three main issues facing Graham during the next five years? [50 word limit]	21. Infrastructure. Industrial growth. Public safety.	21. [Refused to respond.]	21. (1) Expanding the tax base of the city by attracting industries that will provide employment and generate additional revenue for the city. (2) Improving the infrastructure of the city in regards to police, fire, water, sewer, and waste management.	21. First and foremost is adding additional personnel to keep up with the growth of the City and provide serves to the citizens of Graham. Second we need to be able to remain competitive with salaries in order to attract and keep qualified employees. Third is aging infrastructure throughout the city.	21. Infrastructure, public safety and economic development.	21. #1 Staffing and training for the police department. #2 Controlled growth. #3 Overall staffing of all city workers. We must be competitive in the job market to recruit and keep good employees.	21. 1. Infrastructure. 2. Public Safety. 3. Economic Development.

(See **ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE**, PAGE 14)

### EARLY VOTING:

ONE LOCATION: COUNTY OFFICE ANNEX BUILDING,  
201 WEST ELM STREET, GRAHAM.

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28 & 29:  
8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30:  
8:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

### ELECTION DAY VOTING:

AT TRADITIONAL PRECINCTS, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2: 6:30 A.M. TO 7:30 P.M.

# GRAHAM ELECTION – FOR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL, SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE REGARDING DOWNTOWN GRAHAM MASTER PLAN 14

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## City council candidates (Voters may select two)

Jennifer Talley	Chip Turner	Questions	Daniel Alvis	Jeanette E. Beaudry	Bobby Chin	Brooke Flood	Edith J. Montoya	Joey Parsons	Melody Wiggins	
There are several items (removing parking, loading zones, closing streets, widening sidewalks, etc) in the Downtown Master Plan that would absolutely negatively impact local small business and visitorship.		<b>Downtown Master Plan</b> 1. Two years ago, a consultant's group made a significant number of recommendations about proposed changes for downtown Graham. For the most part, the plan has been put aside, but, in many cases, decisions were not reached on the city council's final reaction or position on some of the issues. Please list whether you agree or disagree with each of the following (which were contained in the first draft and/or second draft of recommendations). Reminder: elaboration of no more than 15 words is permitted for any question (and even then <u>only</u> when you feel it imperative to amplify your response). 1a. Eliminate all parking around the Historic Court House, and around the perimeter of Court Square. 1b. Instead of parking, the areas around Court Square would be modified to include: "opportunities for interactive water features such as splash pads that attract children and provide relief from the summer heat; space for open-air community events that could include farmer's markets, art, and music festivals; park space that provides opportunities for sitting, resting, and quiet contemplation while enjoying nature." 1c. Eliminate existing loading zones in the middle of the 100 blocks of North & South Main streets and East and West Elm streets. 1d. Alternatively, a second draft of the plan includes the option that "a one-hour window, both am and pm, at the consensus of Graham's merchants" be established on existing 100-block streets in downtown, rather than allowing deliveries at any time of day. [The sample times provided in the report were 5:00-6:00 a.m. or 7:00-8:00 p.m.] 1e. Eliminate part of a city parking lot on West Elm Street, substituting in its place a small city park. 1f. Institute "back in" diagonal parking along North & South Main streets in the 100 blocks of each. 1g. Widen the sidewalks throughout the downtown area (with the concurrent narrowing of the roadways). 1h. On East and West Elm streets, the recommendation would also entail changing the available parking from angled-in diagonal to parallel. 1i. Put a single-lane roundabout at South Main Street's intersection with McAden Street – ostensibly in order to require residents and visitors to slow down prior to entering the downtown area. 1j. Narrow traffic lanes along several blocks of South Main Street (from the current two in each direction and a turn lane to one in each direction, sometimes with a turn lane)? 1k. Re-route NC 87 traffic off of North and South Main Street through the center of town, to Marshall Street? (In essence, the city and state would "swap" what is the "state-controlled" roadway for one that is a "city-controlled roadway.") 1l. The newest version of the consultant's plan also proposed to build a parking deck along the 100 block of West Harden Street (on property owned by county government) to accommodate 50 or more new parking stalls and to provide an overall net gain in parking in the core of Downtown Graham.						I answered some but before really stating my opinion I'd like to do more research on the topics.		The Graham Downtown Master Plan was passed with numerous amendments on November 5, 2019.
1a. Disagree.	1a. Disagree.		1. a. Disagree.	1a. [Refused to respond.]	1a. Disagree.	1a. Disagree.	1a. Agree.	1a. Disagree.	1a. No response.	
1b. Disagree.	1b. Disagree.		1b. Disagree.	1b. [Refused to respond.]	1b. Disagree.	1b. Disagree.	1b. Agree.	1b. Disagree.	1b. No response.	
1c. Disagree.	1c. Disagree.		1c. Disagree.	1c. [Refused to respond.]	1c. Disagree.	1c. Disagree.	1c. No response.	1c. Disagree.	1c. No response.	
1d. Disagree.	1d. Disagree.		1d. Disagree.	1d. [Refused to respond.]	1d. Disagree.	1d. Disagree.	1d. No response.	1d. Disagree.	1d. No response.	
1e. Disagree.	1e. Disagree.		1e. Disagree.	1e. [Refused to respond.]	1e. Disagree.	1e. Disagree.	1e. Agree.	1e. Disagree.	1e. No response.	
1f. Disagree.	1f. Disagree.		1f. Disagree.	1f. [Refused to respond.]	1f. Disagree.	1f. Disagree.	1f. No response.	1f. Disagree.	1f. No response.	
1g. Disagree.	1g. Disagree.		1g. Disagree.	1g. [Refused to respond.]	1g. Disagree.	1g. Disagree.	1g. No response.	1g. Disagree.	1g. No response.	
1h. Disagree.	1h. Disagree.		1h. Disagree.	1h. [Refused to respond.]	1h. Disagree.	1h. Disagree.	1h. No response.	1h. Disagree.	1h. No response.	
1i. Disagree.	1i. Disagree.		1i. Disagree.	1i. [Refused to respond.]	1i. Disagree.	1i. Agree- only if it does not take away from private property.	1i. No response.	1i. Disagree.	1i. No response.	
1j. Disagree.	1j. Disagree.		1j. Disagree.	1j. [Refused to respond.]	1j. Disagree.	1j. Disagree.	1j. No response.	1j. Disagree.	1j. No response.	
1k. Disagree.	1k. Disagree.		1k. Disagree.	1k. [Refused to respond.]	1k. Disagree.	1k. Agree- Get it away from downtown by not Marshall Street.	1k. No response.	1k. Disagree.	1k. No response.	
1l. Disagree. Parking Decks are extremely expensive and the city should not build on property it does not own. We have higher priorities as well.	1l. Disagree.		1l. Disagree.	1l. [Refused to respond.]	1l. Disagree.	1l. Disagree.	1l. No response.	1l. Disagree.	1l. No response.	
2. Strongly oppose the use of eminent domain. This practice is typically frowned upon by most Americans and obviously is not popular with property owners. The Fifth Amendment to the US Constitution states, "Nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation". I believe in protecting private property rights.	2. I oppose it. Period.	2. Debate arose over whether certain recommendations in the consultant's plan envisioned, or perhaps assumed, the use of "eminent domain" for the city to use in order to acquire certain property now owned by private citizens or businesses. Regardless of whether the plan explicitly envisioned the use of "eminent domain," in general, do you support or oppose the use of "eminent domain" for city projects? [50-word limit]	2. I oppose the use of eminent domain.	2. [Refused to respond.]	2. The use of "eminent domain" has a history of abuse. The Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution stipulates: "nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation."	2. I am opposed to the use of eminent domain for anything that is not absolutely necessary, and where no other options exist. I would never support the use of eminent domain to fulfill a "wish" or desire. Nothing about the recommendations in the Downtown Master Plan is absolutely necessary. It is a desire.	2. No response.	2. Oppose. Private property is a cornerstone of our freedom. While there are laws that allow the use of eminent domain it needs to be in the best interest of everyone. With so much opposition to this plan, it does not seem justified.	2. No response.	
2a. No.	2a. No.	2a. Do you think additional city-owned parking lots, in place of existing privately-owned parking lots, would be a justifiable use of "eminent domain"?	2a. No.	2a. [Refused to respond.]	2a. No.	2 a. No.	2a. No response.	2a. No.	2a. No response.	
2b. No.	2b. No.	2b. Do you think re-opening various "alleyways" behind stores in the central business district would be a justifiable use of "eminent domain" when some of the land needed for the restoration of alleyways is now privately owned?	2b. No.	2b. [Refused to respond.]	2b. No.	2b. No.	2b. No response.	2b. No.	2b. No response.	
2c. Oppose.	2c. Oppose.	2c. Some of the recommendations included in the downtown master plan, such as for the McAden Street roundabout, seem to show drawings that designate portions of what is now private property (on the four corners of the intersection) to provide additional space for a roundabout. Would you support or oppose having Graham (or DOT) use eminent domain to obtain such properties for purposes of putting in a roundabout?	2c. Oppose.	2c. [Refused to respond.]	2c. Oppose.	2c. Oppose.	2c. No response.	2c. Oppose.	2c. No response.	
3. Low. There are over 20,000 cars/day that travel thru downtown. Bike pathways should be encouraged in residential low traffic areas for safety reasons.	3. Low.	3. One key focus on the downtown plan is to improve access for bicyclists, and specifically to provide separate "facilities" – i.e., bike lanes and other "designated spaces" – for them. How high a priority is this for you?	3. Moderate.	3. [Refused to respond.]	3. Low.	3. Low.	3. No response.	3. Low.	3. No response.	
4a. False.	4a. True.	4. Do you find the following statements from the consultant's downtown master plan true or false: 4a. "There is presently more parking availability than demand for parking in downtown."	4a. False.	4a. [Refused to respond.]	4a. False.	4a. False.	4a. No response.	4a. False.	4a. No response.	
4b. False.	4b. False.	4b. "Investment in the public realm [through the recommendations in the consultant's downtown master plan] will stimulate private investment."	4b. False.	4b. [Refused to respond.]	4b. False.	4b. False.	4b. No response.	4b. False.	4b. No response.	
4c. False. The traffic accident data does not support this statement.	4c. True.	4c. "Motorists traveling at excessive speeds makes navigating Court Square dangerous for people of all ages."	4c. False.	4c. [Refused to respond.]	4c. False.	4c. True.	4c. No response.	4c. True.	4c. No response.	
4d. False.	4d. False.	4d. The [recommendations in the consultant's downtown master plan] "will ultimately attract more visitors, commerce, and trips to downtown."	4d. False.	4d. [Refused to respond.]	4d. False.	4d. False.	4d. No response.	4d. False. People come to Graham because of its charm and history and will continue to come as they do now without spending millions to fix something that is not broken.	4d. No response.	