

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
RIVER OAKS CITY COUNCIL  
JANUARY 6, 2026**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

MAYOR DARREN HOUK  
MAYOR PRO TEM LEIGH ANN TURNER  
COUNCIL MEMBER YOLIE RODRIGUEZ  
COUNCIL MEMBER BRENT FORESTER  
COUNCIL MEMBER JOHN CLARIDGE  
COUNCIL MEMBER STEVE HOLLAND

**STAFF PRESENT:**

CITY MANAGER MARVIN GREGORY  
CITY SECRETARY PAULA LUCK  
CITY ATTORNEY BRADLEY ANDERLEE  
EMERGENCY MGT JAMES MYRICK  
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR TODD HENDERSON  
POLICE CHIEF CHUCK STEWART  
FIRE CHIEF ROBERT WHATLEY  
DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF ERIC PERKINS  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASST STACY WHATLEY

**ABSENT:**

NONE

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

With a quorum present, Mayor Houk called the Regular Meeting of the River Oaks City Council to order at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at River Oaks City Hall, 4900 River Oaks Blvd., River Oaks, Texas 76114.

**2. INVOCATION**

CM Claridge delivered the Invocation.

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO UNITED STATES FLAG AND THE TEXAS FLAG**

CM Claridge led the Pledges of Allegiance to the United States and the Texas Flags.

**4. READING OF PROCLAMATION(S) AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS BY MAYOR.**

-PROCLAMATION: JANUARY 2026 SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH

    Mayor will present it to the school board Monday night.

-PROCLAMATION: UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL

    Mayor presented this to the River Oaks Police Department.

**5. BADGE PRESENTATION BY POLICE CHIEF CHARLES STEWART**

Police Chief Stewart & Deputy Police Chief Eric Perkins presented badges to the City Council, Mayor, and City Manager.

**6. PUBLIC TESTIMONY: CITIZENS TO SPEAK ON ANY TOPIC OR ANY AGENDA ITEM BEFORE AND DURING THE MEETING BY RAISING YOUR HAND TO BE RECOGNIZED; HOWEVER, UNLESS THE ITEM IS SPECIFICALLY NOTED ON THIS AGENDA, THE CITY COUNCIL IS REQUIRED UNDER THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT TO LIMIT ITS RESPONSE WITH A STATEMENT OF SPECIFIC FACTUAL INFORMATION, RECITING THE CITY'S EXISTING POLICY ON THAT ISSUE, OR DIRECTING THE PERSON MAKING THE INQUIRY TO VISIT WITH CITY STAFF ABOUT THAT**

ISSUE, AND NO COUNCIL DELIBERATION IS PERMITTED FOR TOPICS NOT SPECIFICALLY LISTED ON THIS AGENDA.

Police Chief Stewart-there are videos released threatening several schools in the area including Castleberry High School. The SWAT Team were notified and thinks this is coming from Ukraine. After the investigation, this seems to be fake.

Kay Glazier 916 Red Oak-pictures were sent to council by another resident of a creek problem. The creek is behind properties located from Ohio Garden to Black Oak. It is a fire hazard, wild animals are in that area, and it backs up when it rains. CM Gregory-the creek is privately owned, and code enforcement has been sending out letters to the property owners.

**7. CONSENT AGENDA** ALL ITEMS UNDER THIS SECTION ARE RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL FOR THE "CONSENT AGENDA". THESE ITEMS ARE OF A ROUTINE NATURE AND REQUIRE ONLY BRIEF DELIBERATION BY COUNCIL. **COUNCIL RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REMOVE ANY ITEM ON THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR FURTHER DELIBERATION**

- A. APPROVE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 16, 2025 REGULAR CALLED COUNCIL MEETING
- B. APPROVE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 22, 2025 SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
- C. BILLS PAYABLE FOR PERIOD ENDING JANUARY 6, 2026 (FY 2026)
- D. APPROVE EDC 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FY 2025 (JULY 1-SEPT 30, 2025)

**CM Claridge moved, seconded by CM Rodriguez to approve the Consent Agenda Items A-D with the addition to the December 22, 2025 Special Called Meeting Minutes adding a sentence explaining the quorum present that night. All voted "Aye".**

**8. DISCUSSION OR ACTION TAKEN ON ITEMS WITHDRAWN FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR SEPARATE DELIBERATION.**

**NONE**

**STATEMENT OF APPOINTED/ELECTED OFFICIAL & OATH OF OFFICE:**

**9. STATEMENT OF ELECTED/APPOINTED OFFICIALS, "OATH OF OFFICE" AND CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR CITY COUNCIL MEMBER PLACES 1 & 3.**

Mayor Houk presented a Certificate of Election to John Claridge, Place 1 and Leigh Ann Turner, Place 3. CM Gregory gave the Statement of Elected/Appointed Officials and Oath of Office to John Claridge, Place 1 and Leigh Ann Turner, Place 3.

**10. ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE FOR THE 2025-2026 TERM YEAR.**

**CM Claridge moved to elect CM Forester, CM Rodriguez moved to re-elect Mayor Pro Tem Turner.** CM Holland is an advocate of a rotation for Mayor Pro Tem. Mayor Pro Tem Turner is an advocate of rotation but feels the position takes more time and you must be available during

the day when the Mayor is unable to attend things. CM Rodriguez does not want to serve and agrees Mayor Pro Tem Turner has more time to fulfill the position.

Final Motion: **CM Claridge moved, seconded by CM Forester to elect CM Forester as Mayor Pro Tem. CM Claridge, CM Forester, CM Holland voted "Aye". CM Rodriguez voted "Nay". Mayor Pro Tem Turner did not vote. Motion passed.**

**PERSONAL APPEARANCES AND/OR ITEMS REQUIRING COUNCIL APPROVAL/ACTION:**

11. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF REQUEST FROM SANDRA LONGORIA DAMIAN REQUESTING PERMISSION TO EXTEND TEMPORARY PERMIT FOR A PICKUP AND DROPOFF LOCATION FOR U HAUL RENTALS AT 1711 ROBERTS CUT OFF ROAD THAT EXPIRES JANUARY 2, 2026.

Sandra Longoria Damian and Rebecca Castro were present. The renovation deadline has been delayed. But plans are now complete and under final review. Once the review is done, permits will be applied for. The rentals from U-Haul have helped to pay expenses. The U-Haul business may stay since the trucks are hardly there. It has helped the businesses in River Oaks that had to rent them.

**CM Claridge moved, seconded by CM Rodriguez to extend until the end of June or until the business opens but no later. All voted "Aye".**

12. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING THE JOINT ORDINANCE AND BOUNDARY AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF FORT WORTH FOR A BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ALONG SAM CALLOWAY ROAD AND RIVER OAKS BLVD, TRANSFERRING 0.0740 LAND ACRES IN THE CARROLL, NATHAN H SURVEY BEING ABSTRACT 264, TRACT 52 FROM THE CITY OF FORT WORTH TO THE CITY OF RIVER OAKS.

Fort Worth was concerned about Mr. Love's response and asked us to contact him. Mr. Love has not gotten back with us. Mr. Love wants assurance from River Oaks that the property will remain commercial when it is annexed, but we cannot give him that since it must go before the Planning and Zoning and their recommendation goes before the council. Fort Worth wants it surveyed, and the surveyor hasn't contacted Fort Worth. Council agreed to continue with the boundary adjustment.

**ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS REQUIRING COUNCIL APPROVAL/ACTION:**

13. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE #1468-2026 AMENDING THE 2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR GENERAL FUND BUDGET EXPANDING THE BUDGET FOR THE UNPLANNED EXPENDITURE OF EDC FUNDS TRANSFERRED TO THE GENERAL FUND UP TO \$48,000.00 THAT WILL BE EXPENDED IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET RELOCATING AND ERECTING A 50 X 60 FOOT PAVILLION ON THE COMMUNITY CENTER PROPERTY AND ON PAVING A 10,400 SQUARE FOOT PARKING LOT QUALIFIED BY THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 505.152 "PROJECTS RELATED TO RECREATIONAL OR COMMUNITY FACILITIES" OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE.

This was approved and transferred in the 2024-2025 budget. But it will be paid out of the 2025-2026 budget; therefore, a budget amendment must be made. We are not asking for additional

City of River Oaks  
City Council Meeting  
January 6, 2026

money. There is a major electrical line on Blackstone; therefore, Oncor requires a 30' set back so the pavilion had to be moved back.

The wording on the agenda was brought up because it says, "unplanned expenditure". It is not unplanned but that is what it is commonly called.

**Mayor Pro Tem Forester moved, seconded by CM Claridge to approve Ordinance #1468-2026. All voted "Aye".**

14. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE #1469-2026 AMENDING THE HOTEL-MOTEL TAX FUND BUDGET EXPANDING ACCOUNT #21-521-5298 "CHRISTMAS EVENTS" DUE TO ADDITIONAL COSTS OVERAGES FROM THE PLANNED CHRISTMAS EVENT OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURES.

The committee knew there were going to be personnel costs but didn't realize it was going to be that much. There were unknowns this year. The run-off election was one unknown; therefore, the committee did not have full access to the parking lot until 5:00 p.m. There were 12 hourly employees that worked that day and they were calculated at the overtime rate. The exterior expenses that included the garland, bows, tree, etc. were \$2,665.00. The event itself included hot cocoa, parade, etc. was \$2,075.00. If personnel were removed, it would have been under budget. Next year we need to have more conversations about personnel. Maybe offering a day off during the week. A large portion of the money was the live tree which got a lot of compliments. Hotel/Motel tax is very restricted and only comes from Air B&B's.

**CM Claridge moved, seconded by CM Holland to approve Ordinance #1469-2026. All voted "Aye".**

**OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION:**

15. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING UPDATES FROM THE CITY MANAGER ADVISING THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL ON PERSONNEL, CITY'S FISCAL CONDITION, PANDEMIC EXECUTIVE ORDERS, SCHEDULING COUNCIL WORK SESSIONS, FUTURE NEEDS OF THE CITY AND OTHER CITY MANAGER RECOMMENDATIONS.

Personnel-Mayor Pro Tem Forester questioned take home city vehicles. If a Public Works employee is on-call, they take a city vehicle home. They must live in Tarrant County. Department heads, except for Police, pay tax. On-call employees do not pay tax.

CCPD Referendum-there will be a special election in November 2026 to continue with the CCPD after December 31, 2026.

Processing Fees-still working with Tyler Technologies. Spoke with them yesterday and told them we were not pleased with how long it has been taking them. And requested a refund from Tyler of the processing fees we have had to pay.

Town Hall Meeting-Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m. Primary focus will be the Trap-Neuter-Vaccine-Return program.

Meandering Road-have not received the final funds from Fort Worth. Also waiting on a FPAA

form which is a TXDOT form. The bid date is scheduled for March 2026.

New Skid Steer-was delivered New Years Eve. Currently working with financing.

WTP-doing wonderful. Started on River Oaks water around December 12<sup>th</sup>.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

16. WORK SESSION: DISCUSSION ON MUNICIPAL PLANNING AND OPERATIONS AS FOLLOWS:

-CITY WEBSITE DESIGN-council agrees that it doesn't look like what was presented. Looks like our current website. They need to look at the other websites that we like and redo it.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

17. COUNCIL COMMENTS.

CM Turner-we are moving forward. We need to continue finding ways to modernize and run things more efficiently and be detail oriented. Department Heads need to continue working with employees to be more detail oriented. We have a lot to be proud of, and we have had a lot of accomplishments over the years. We need to make a list of the accomplishments and post them.

Mayor Pro Tem Forester-best friends father passed away unexpectedly in River Oaks recently. Thanked the police and fire department. Officer Bell, Officer Martinez, and Officer Beasley were phenomenal with the family. Attended the Armed Forces Bowl Friday. Officer Deary went out of his way to approach me.

CM Claridge-in the last five years, we have had 61 new homes which is impressive. Most of our businesses are occupied.

CM Rodriguez-thanked Mayor Pro Tem Forester and CM Turner on the Christmas Event which was a learning experience. Thanked the Police Officers for all they do. Congrats to CM Claridge and CM Turner. We have a great team. Can not wait until Spring Fest.

Mayor Houk-reminder Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> Town Hall Meeting at the Event Center at 6:00 p.m. Maybe once a quarter schedule Town Hall Meetings.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

18. CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 551, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE: THE COUNCIL RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSIONS(S) FROM TIME TO TIME ON ANY POSTED AGENDA ITEM TO RECEIVE ADVICE FROM ITS ATTORNEY AS PERMITTED BY LAW DURING THIS MEETING. THE COUNCIL MAY CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:

City of River Oaks  
City Council Meeting  
January 6, 2026

- a. Section 551.071 Pending or contemplated litigation or to seek advice from attorney; **1) Cause #342-358828-24-Zakary Sadeghian vs. City of River Oaks Building Standards Commission.**
- b. Section 551.072 Deliberation regarding real property; a governmental body may conduct a closed meeting to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person,
- c. Section 551.074 Personnel matters – To deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment of duties, discipline or dismissal of a Public Officer or Employee or to hear a complaint or charge against an Officer or Employee,
- d. Section 551.076 Deliberation regarding security devices.

**NONE**

**RECONVENE:**

- 19. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ANY ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

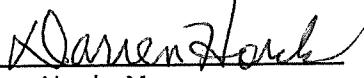
**NONE**

**ADJOURN:**

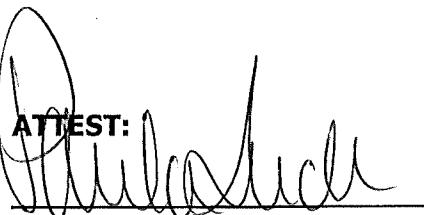
- 20. ADJOURN

**At 7:55 p.m., Mayor Houk adjourned the meeting. All voted "Aye".**

**APPROVED:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Darren Houk, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paula Luck, City Secretary