

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
RIVER OAKS CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 11, 2022**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

MAYOR JOE ASHTON
MAYOR PRO TEM DARREN HOUK
COUNCIL MEMBER STEVE HOLLAND
COUNCIL MEMBER DAN CHISHOLM
COUNCIL MEMBER JOHN CLARIDGE
COUNCIL MEMBER YOLIE RODRIGUEZ

STAFF PRESENT:

CITY MANAGER MARVIN GREGORY
CITY SECRETARY PAULA LUCK
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR GORDON SMITH
POLICE CHIEF CHRIS SPIELDENNER
EMERGENCY MGT JAMES MYRICK
CITY ATTORNEY BEN GIBBS
FIRE CHIEF RUSSELL SHELLEY
EVENT CENTER DIRECTOR SHIRLEY WHEAT
EVENT CENTER DIRECTOR SHIRLEY BLOOMFIELD

ABSENT:

NONE

1. CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Mayor Ashton called the Regular Meeting of the River Oaks City Council to order at 7:01 p.m. on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at the 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.

NONE

5. PUBLIC TESTIMONY: CITIZENS TO SPEAK ON ANY TOPIC OR ANY AGENDA ITEM BEFORE AN 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.

NONE

6. **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 14, 2021 REGULAR CALLED COUNCIL MEETING

B. APPROVE BILLS PAYABLE FOR PERIOD ENDING JANUARY 11, 2022 (FY2022)

CM Claridge moved, seconded by CM Chisholm to approve the Consent Agenda Items #A-B. All voted "Aye".

7. DISCUSSION OR ACTION TAKEN ON ITEMS WITHDRAWN FROM CONSENT AGENDA FOR SEPARATE DELIBERATION.

NONE

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

8. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BOOKKEEPING ENGAGEMENT LETTER AS SUBMITTED BY WILLIAM C. SPORE FOR FISCAL YEAR AUDIT ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021.

Items #8 & #9 were discussed together. Bill Spore and Valerie Halverson were present. Bill Spore is retiring but will help with this audit so we can get transitioned to MWH Group smoothly. Bill Spore will do the bookkeeping part and Valerie Halverson and her team will do the actual audit. MWH Group offices are located in Wichita Falls.

CM Holland moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Houk to approve the engagement letter with William C. Spore and MWH Group for fiscal year ending September 30, 2021. All voted "Aye".

9. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AUDIT ENGAGEMENT LETTER AS SUBMITTED BY MWH GROUP, CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS' CONSULTANTS FOR FISCAL YEAR CITY AUDIT ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021.

Discussed with Item #8.

10. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF REQUEST AS RECOMMENDED FROM PARKS BARD LIAISON, DARREN HOUK, REGARDING IMPROVEMENTS TO LONE STAR JR PARK (COATES PARK).

Items #10 and #18 were discussed together. Phase 1 is presented which is a 20' x 20' concrete pad, a 6' x 6' sidewalk, park benches, and an ADA approach. Two benches have been donated from the Lions Club and the River Oaks Historical Society. Phase I should take about 6 weeks to complete. Requesting tonight for Phase I is \$5,700.00.

CM Claridge moved, seconded by CM Chisholm to approve Phase I and Ordinance #1335-2022 in the amount of \$6,000.00. All voted "Aye",

11. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PARKS BOARD RECOMMENDATION TO ALLOW ERIKA CAYWOOD AND VOLUNTEERS TO AGAIN THIS YEAR USE HERITAGE PARK FOR A COMMUNITY GARDEN.

Erika Caywood was not present. This Item was moved to later on the agenda to allow for representation.

12. APPEARANCE OF PARK BOARD ALTERNATIVE MEMBER JILL WALKER DISCUSSING THE GRANT RECEIVED FROM THRIVENT IN ORDER TO BEAUTIFY THE RIVER OAKS SKATE PARK.

Jill Walker was present. The Skate Park is not that attractive. Wants to start with a mural project. A grant was applied for and was awarded \$275.00. Working with the CISD art department to paint the murals on sign material. Some of the paint and the sign material was donated.

Mayor Pro Tem Houk moved, seconded by CM Claridge to approve the mural project at the Skate Park. All voted "Aye".

13. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ON EXPENDING FUNDS FROM THE COMBINATION TAX AND LIMITED SURPLUS REVENUE CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2021 FOR PROPOSED BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CITY COMPLEX SPECIFICALLY REGARDING EXPENDING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FACILITY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF A FULL TIME FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The grant thru the CDBG was denied. The bond included City Hall building improvements, but the Council rather use the bond toward streets. The Fire Department has one restroom, and the firemen must wait an hour to wash off after a call. Right now, there are 5 men out for COVID. The sewer is undersized which affects the Police Department and needs to be fixed. Council already approved \$100,000.00 but needed is an additional \$250,000.00 since the grant was denied to complete this project. Requesting is to add a second bathroom, fix the sewer and to relocate some doors to meet code.

CM Claridge moved, seconded by CM Chisholm to approve expending funds from the bond to fund this project. All voted "Aye".

14. CONSIDER APPROVAL TO UPGRADE THE EXISTING SL 1100 PHONE SYSTEM FOR THE CITY COMPLEX WITH A NEW NEC SL 211 SYSTEM AS QUOTED TO BE INSTALLED BY LONE STAR TECHNOLOGIES INCLUDING PARTS, LABOR & 5-YEAR WARRANTY.

Our current phone system goes out a lot especially when it rains. The copper lines need to be replaced and the phone system needs to be replaced also. Will bring back later when AT&T can get us a cost of replacing the copper lines.

15. CONSIDER RATIFICATION OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT AND APPROVAL OF INTERLOCAL FUNDING AGREEMENT BETWEEN TARRANT COUNTY AND CITY OF RIVER OAKS TO RECONSTRUCT AND ASPHALT OVERLAY OF MERRITT STREET FROM RIVER OAKS BLVD. SOUTH TO BARBARA ROAD.

This is from the 2006 bond and is fixing Merritt Street from Barbara Road to River Oaks Blvd.

Mayor Pro Tem Houk moved, seconded by CM Chisholm to approve the Interlocal Agreement. All voted "Aye".

16. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ON ADOPTING STANDARDS AND REVIEW PROCESS FOR SHORT-TERM RENTALS.

This item will be discussed in Executive Session.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS REQUIRING COUNCIL APPROVAL/ACTION:

17. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE #1334-2022 AMENDING THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET BY EXPANDING THE GENERAL FUND IN ORDER TO PAY THE DELIVERY PRICE OF A CRANE CARRIER REAR LOAD GARBAGE TRUCK THAT IS BEING PURCHASED UNDER THE TX-VEMP EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT PROGRAM.

The expenditure was not included in the budget. We did include it on the revenue side.

CM Claridge moved, seconded by CM Chisholm to approve Ordinance #1334-2022. All voted "Aye".

18. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE #1335-2022 AMENDING THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET BY EXPENDING PARK DOLLAR DONATIONS FOR PHASE I IMPROVEMENTS TO LONE STAR JR PARK (COATES PARK).

Discussed with Item #10.

19. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #1069-2022 CALLING FOR A GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 7, 2022; APPROVING A JOINT ELECTION WITH TARRANT COUNTY; AND ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR THAT ELECTION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

CM Claridge moved, seconded by CM Chisholm to approve Resolution #1069-2022. All voted "Aye".

OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION:

20. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ON ENGINEERING AND CLARIFIER ISSUES AT THE WATER PLANT.

This item will be discussed in Executive Session.

Item #11-Erika wants to continue the program at Heritage Park and wants to expand it to the Event Center. But the Event Center is not on the agenda tonight.

Mayor Pro Tem Houk moved, seconded by CM Claridge to allow the Community Garden to continue at Heritage Park. All voted "Aye".

21. 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-nothing has changed.

Tower Lease-it is officially the city's.

Public Hearings in January-January 17th, Planning & Zoning and January 25th, City Council but can not go into detail at this time.

Council Room Sound System-will bring back January 25th.

Coronavirus cases on the Rise.

COVID Policy-CDC recommends 5 days quarantine and 5 days wearing a mask at work for an employee with no symptoms.

CORRESPONDENCE:

22. COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

CM Claridge-asked about Ohio Garden duplexes and the old Bank of Texas building. CM Gregory-the duplex was torn down and rezoned. The bank building renovations have slowed down.

CM Holland-asked about the convenient store, Grumps and the Black Oak Project. CM Gregory-convenient store has not turned in plans but is getting ready for the pad, Grumps opening is set for February, and the Black Oak project is moving forward.

CM Rodriguez-apologized for not being in attendance the last two meetings. Continues to get emails from citizens about the streets.

CM Chisholm-security training that was emailed out must be done. There is an elected official's dinner in February but that is a council meeting night.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

23. 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:

- a. Section 551.071 Pending or contemplated litigation or to seek advice from attorney.
- b. Section 551.072 Discussion regarding possible sale, lease or acquisition of real estate.
- 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 compliant or charge against an Officer or Employee.
- d. Section 551.076 Deliberation regarding security devices.

At 8:20 p.m., Mayor Ashton went into Executive Session for Item #16 & #20 under Sections 551.071, 551.072, 551.074 & 551.076.

At 8:54 p.m., Mayor Ashton reconvened into Regular Session.

RECONVENE:

24. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ANY ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

NONE

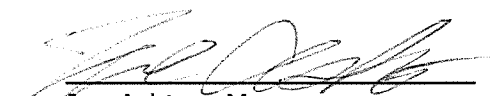
CM Claridge announced that Renee Smith-Faulkner was unanimously voted as the CISD Superintendent.

ADJOURN:

25. ADJOURN


At 8:55 p.m., Mayor Ashton adjourned the meeting. All voted "Aye".

APPROVED:



Joe Ashton, Mayor

ATTEST:



Paula Luck, City Secretary