

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
RIVER OAKS CITY COUNCIL  
APRIL 26, 2022**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**STAFF PRESENT:**

CITY MANAGER MARVIN GREGORY  
CITY SECRETARY PAULA LUCK  
CITY ATTORNEY BETSY ELAM  
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR GORDON SMITH  
POLICE CHIEF CHRIS SPIELDENNER  
EMERGENCY MGT JAMES MYRICK  
EVENT CENTER DIRECTOR SHIRLEY WHEAT  
UTILITY BILLING COORDINATOR BLYTHE REAVES  
COURT CLERK KASANDRA GARCIA

**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 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 26, 2022 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.

-PROCLAIM THE WEEK OF MAY 15-21, 2022 AS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK IN RIVER OAKS-Mayor Ashton read the proclamation.

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 APRIL 12, 2022 REGULAR CALLED COUNCIL MEETING
- B. APPROVE BILLS PAYABLE FOR PERIOD ENDING APRIL 26, 2022 (FY 2022)
- C. APPROVE EVENT SIGNAGE TO BE TEMPORARILY LOCATED IN THE CITY RIGHT-OF-WAYS FOR THE SPRINGFEST RIVER OAKS CARE SHOW EVENT TO BE HELD ON APRIL 30, 2022
- D. APPROVE 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER FY 2022 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FINANCIAL REPORT (JAN 1-MARCH 31, 2022)
- E. APPROVE 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER FY 2022 CRIME CONTROL AND PREVENTION DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORT (JAN 1-MARCH 31, 2022)
- F. APPROVE 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER FY 2022 STORM WATER FUND FINANCIAL REPORT (JAN 1-MARCH 31, 2022)
- G. APPROVE 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER FY 2022 INVESTMENT REPORT (JAN 1-MARCH 31, 2022)
- H. APPROVE RESIGNATION OF STAN CUMBERLEDGE AS THE PLACE 2 MEMBER OF ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
- I. APPROVE MAYOR'S RECOMMENDATION TO APPOINT ROBERT BROWN AS THE VICE CHAIRMAN, PLACE 2 AND ALTERNATE MEMBER JEFF KRUSE AS THE PLACE 3 MEMBER OF THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT.

**Mayor Pro Tem Houk moved, seconded by CM Chisholm to approve the Consent Agenda items A-I with corrections on Item #I-place numbers on the Agenda. 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. MEDSTAR UPDATE-2022 EDITION AS PRESENTED BY KEN SIMPSON, CEO OF MEDSTAR.

Ken Simpson, CEO presented a power point presentation and Mayor Ashton presented the Proclamation to Mr. Simpson.

9. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE 2020-2021 FISCAL YEAR AUDIT REPORT AS PRESENTED BY MWH GROUP, CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS.

Valerie Halverson presented the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Audit Report.

**CM Holland moved, seconded by CM Claridge to approve the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Audit Report. All voted "aye"**

10. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF REQUEST FROM DARREN HOUK TO HOLD A POLICE ESCORT CRUISE ON APRIL 29, 2022 AS A CITY SPONSORED EVENT.

Mayor Pro Tem Houk started this event 8 months ago. Request is to allow a Police escort starting at Grump's, thru River Oaks, and end at Grump's Friday night. Saturday, there are a variety of 100 cars pre-registered. There will be musicians, health care professionals, pop-up booths, Grump's will have food truck and CISD at the event. In order to be covered with the insurance as a city event, council needs to approve.

**CM Claridge moved, seconded by CM Rodriguez to approve the Police escort cruise as a city sponsored event. All voted "Aye".**

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

11. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE #1344-2022 AMENDING CHAPTER 13, "UTILITIES", DIVISION 2 "WATER SERVICE POLICY" OF THE RIVER OAKS CODE OF ORDINANCES (2020) AS AMENDED BY INCORPORATING SECTION 13.02.045 "BILL DELAY PROCEDURES".

There is nothing in writing for seniors and disabled residents. The system counts them as late, and it hurts their credit which disqualifies them against leak adjustments.

**Mayor Pro Tem Houk moved, seconded by CM Claridge to approve Ordinance #1344-2022. All voted "Aye".**

12. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #1074-2022 REPEALING RESOLUTION #976-2019 AS PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED ON AUGUST 13, 2019 BY POSSIBLY CHANGING THE CITY'S SUPPORT OF THE MINI ROUNDABOUT PROPOSAL AT YALE AND MEANDERING TO SUPPORTING A 4-WAY STOP OR A 4-WAY SIGNALIZED LIGHT AT THAT INTERSECTION.

Mayor Pro Tem Houk excused himself. To put a signal light at this intersection and to straighten the intersection would cost approximately \$250,000.00. The alignment that is proposed is the best alternative. Traffic studies show a round-a-bout is the safest over a signal light or 4-way stop signs. Having the stop signs may require acquiring more right-of-way.

The Longoria family at 944 Yale were present. Their property will be impacted the most. They prefer stop signs.

Hugh & Betty Galyean at 5424 Meandering were present. Feels the situation will not improve with a round-a-bout. They prefer stop signs. And would like to see more police presence at that intersection.

Brad Inge, owner of one of the corner lots at that intersection, unhappy that council is not accepting the vote for a round-a-bout in 2019. Dan Kessler says it would set them back at least six months to change from a round-a-bout. They are 90% complete in the design phase and has spent about \$1.7 million so far. A round-a-bout is the safest solution at this intersection because it would get people to slow down to 10 mph or less.

Shirley Wheat asked at what point did the city realize that this intersection was dangerous. Mayor Ashton responded by saying it has always been a dangerous intersection.

Tracy Gallman at 4820 Red Oak understood from the last meeting we were moving forward with this project and is confused on how we got here tonight.

Dan Kessler-there is paint on the streets to show the right-of-way, etc. If we line Yale up, Mr. Houk will lose his front parking but will get side parking. If we design a 4-way stop, we may run into issues. If we have to close the second driveway at 944 Yale, we will pay for an additional driveway further to the east.

Mayor Ashton called for a recess at 9:15 p.m.

Mayor Ashton reconvened into regular session at 9:26 p.m.

At this time Mayor Ashton asked for council input.

CM Holland-we rely on the experts. Safety is why he was for the round-a-bout. If the city reverses the decision from 2019, it hurts River Oaks and our partnerships. Citizens are asking why River Oaks is not changing and the neighboring cities are. But when change is presented, council does not want it. It was his understanding that citizens were for this round-a-bout project at the last Town Hall Meeting.

CM Claridge-feels citizens were very clear about no round-a-bouts. Citizens want change to businesses. Feels round-a-bouts cause more accidents and is against it. Rather have a traffic light.

CM Rodriguez-without having the correct data, she cannot support a round-a-bout.

CM Chisholm-because we have had many meetings on this project, citizens had the chance to speak about this. Council voted August 13, 2019 for the round-a-bout and we should accept it. They are 90% complete and it is irresponsible to change this now. Feels a round-a-bout is the safest for this intersection.

Mayor Ashton-it would be safer for vehicles but not children, and not safe for the citizens that live on that intersection. We will get a new road on Meandering, a round-a-bout further down on Meandering and a traffic light at Roberts Cut Off & Meandering.

**Motion was made by CM Holland to deny the request to repeal Resolution # 976-2019 by adopting Resolution # 1074-2022 changing the City's support of the mini-roundabout at Yale and Meandering, seconded by CM Chisholm and by a vote of 2 Ayes (CM Holland & CM Chisholm) and 2 Nays (CM Claridge & CM Rodriguez) (tie**

vote); that in case of a tie vote Mayor shall have the right to cast the deciding vote and the Mayor did cast the tie breaking vote "Nay". Motion failed by a vote of 2 for and 3 against.

The Mayor then called for an alternate motion and CM Rodriguez made the motion to repeal the former Resolution 976-2019 as adopted on August 13, 2019 by adopting Resolution 1074-2022 that overturns the former support of the mini roundabout and supports the installation of a 4-way stop sign at the intersection of Yale and Meandering, motion seconded by CM Claridge and by a vote of 2 Ayes (CM Claridge & CM Rodriguez) and 2 Nays (CM Holland & CM Chisholm) (tie vote) that in case of a tie vote, the mayor shall have the right to cast the deciding vote in which the Mayor did cast the tie breaking deciding vote "Aye". Motion passed by a vote of 3 for and 2 against.

13. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MID-YEAR FY 2020-2021 OPERATIONAL CITY BUDGETS AS PRESENTED BY THE CITY MANAGER AND APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE #1343-2022 AMENDING THE FY 2021-2022 FISCAL YEAR BUDGETS.

Fuels costs caused us to have to increase the fuel budget. The police facility upgrades were a carryover from last year. The Event Center had to move a fence because it was located over the property line. We are going to install an electronic gate in the back, and we are also going to open the hallway in City Hall. We are requesting \$302,254.14 in General Fund, \$150,000.00 in Water Sewer for the water plant consultant, and \$2,000.00 in Storm Water for fuel.

**CM Claridge moved, seconded by CM Rodriguez to approve Ordinance #1343-2022. All voted "Aye".**

14. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #1075-2022 CERTIFYING ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROJECT, "WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PRIORITY 3 PROJECT (CID-04)" UNDER TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND (DWSRF), TWDB PROJECT #62731.

Reytech Services completed Phase 1 Water Distribution System Improvements Priority 3 Project that is Baylor to Yale and to Miller. The city engineer provided all required closing documents including his letter of acceptance.

**Mayor Pro Tem Houk moved; seconded by CM Chisholm to approve Resolution #1075-2022. All voted "Aye".**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS/ACTION FROM PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

15. PUBLIC HEARING: IN ORDER TO RECEIVE PUBLIC INPUT ON THE CDBG-CV COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM-CORONAVIRUS-ROUND 3 THAT WILL PREPARE, PREVENT AND RESPOND TO CORONAVIRUS USING TARRANT COUNTY'S SHARE OF HUD'S CDBG-CARE'S ACT FUNDS (CDBG-CV) INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO A PROJECT INVOLVING PARK IMPROVEMENTS AT MCGEE AND WOOLDRIDGE PARKS.

Citizens in attendance were passed out a ranking sheet. Parks would like to install a walking trail at McGee Park, remove and install new playground equipment at McGee Park, install 40-foot diameter covered pavilion at McGee Park, install walking trail at Woolridge Park, and install parking benches at Woolridge Park. Proposed water main improvements are at Roberts Cut Off from Baylor to Meandering (874 feet of new water main and 12 services), Baylor from Yale to end of the street (790 feet of new water main and 12 water services), and Notre Dame from Cambridge to Harvard (442 feet of water main and 7 water services). The cap for the grant is \$500,000.00.

At 10:01 p.m., Mayor Ashton opened the Public Hearing.

James Myrick (Parks Board) prefers water improvements over park improvements.

At 10:04 p.m., Mayor Ashton closed the Public Hearing.

16. ACTION FROM PUBLIC HEARING: CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #1076-2022 AUTHORIZING THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR TO SUBMIT THE CDBG-CV COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM-CORONAVIRUS-ROUND 3 THAT WILL PREPARE, PREVENT AND RESPOND TO CORONAVIRUS USING TARRANT COUNTY'S SHARE OF THE HUD'S CDBG-CARE'S ACT FUNDS (CDBG-CV) TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION CITIZEN INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR AN ELIGIBLE PUBLIC FACILITIES OR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT.

CM Gregory read the results and the majority would like public infrastructure.

**CM Claridge moved, seconded by CM Rodriguez to approve Resolution #1076-2022 authorizing the submittal of the city's CDBG-CV-Coronavirus Round 3 project proposal not to exceed \$500,000 for the reconstruction of degrading water lines in low moderate-income areas of 70% residential. All voted "Aye".**

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

17. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ON CONTRACTING FOR FIREWORKS DISPLAY AND THIS YEAR'S ALL-AMERICAN FESTIVAL.

EDC approved Pyro Shows of Texas for this years show at a cost of \$7,800.00. The church will donate at least \$1,800.00. EDC budgeted \$6,000.00 for this event. No action needed.

18. 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.

Tower Lease-waiting on location survey.

Election-early voting started yesterday (Monday) at 8:00 a.m.

Springfest River Oaks Car Show-Friday night April 29<sup>th</sup>, Meet and Greet at 7:00 p.m. with a Police escorted cruiser from Grump's at 5300 River Oaks Blvd, around the city and back to Grump's.

The main event is Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Camp Carter located at 6200 Sand Springs Road.

Drop Box-new water drop box installed and moved to the other side of the front door.

**STAFF REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION:**

19. UPDATE ON SUBSTANDARD PROPERTIES AT:

- 632 SCHIEME
- 636 SCHIEME
- 640 SCHIEME
- 1513 SKYLINE
- 1114 HARVARD
- 5016 ALMENA
- 940 CODY COURT (APT 6-13)

No questions were asked.

**QUESTIONS RELATED TO MONTHLY STAFF REPORTS INCLUDING:**

20. **POLICE DEPT. MONTHLY REPORT** INCLUDING PATROL ACTIVITY, RESPONSE CALLS, NUMBER OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION CASES, WARRANTS ISSUED AND ANIMAL CONTROL CALLS INCLUDING CITATIONS ISSUED.

21. **FIRE DEPT. REPORT** INCLUDING NUMBER OF CALLS FOR SERVICE AND FIRE TRAINING EXERCISES.

22. **INSPECTIONS AND CODE COMPLIANCE ACTIVITY REPORTS** INCLUDING NUMBER OF PERMITS ISSUED AND CODE VIOLATIONS WORKED.

23. **MUNICIPAL COURT** INCLUDING COURT ACTIVITY FROM FINES, BONDS, WARRANT FEES, COURT TAXES, COURT FEES, ARREST FEES, COURT SECURITY FEES, COURT TECHNOLOGY FEES, PAYMENT PLANS, STATE COURT COSTS AND AGENCY COLLECTION FEES

24. **PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITY REPORT** INCLUDING ROAD REPAIRS COMPLETED, SIGNS INSTALLED, WATER PRODUCTION, WATER MAIN AND SERVICE LEAKS REPAIRED, NUMBER OF FIRE HYDRANTS AND DEAD-END LINES FLUSHED, NUMBER OF SEWER OVERFLOWS AND STOPPAGES, CUBIC TONS OF SOLID WASTE COMPACTED AND PUBLIC WORKS EQUIPMENT REPAIRS

25. **PARK BOARD ACTIVITY REPORT** INCLUDING BALLFIELD RENTALS, GRANT UPDATES AND QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO MINUTES FROM THE PARK BOARD

26. **EVENT CENTER ACTIVITY REPORT** INCLUDING NUMBER OF COMMUNITY CENTER RENTALS, EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

27. **CITY SECRETARY ACTIVITY REPORT** INCLUDING REVENUE FROM SALES TAX, DOLLAR DONATIONS, EDC SALES TAX, TEXPOOL AND CRIME SALES TAX

28. **EDC ACTIVITY REPORT** INCLUDING FUNDED PROJECT UPDATES AND UPCOMING PROJECTS.

29. **STORM WATER TASK FORCE ACTIVITY REPORT** INCLUDING ACTINS TAKEN UNDER THE MS4 PERMIT, COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTIONAL EVENTS REGARDING STORM WATER PREVENTION POLLUTION

30. **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY REPORT** INCLUDING POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND INFORMATION PERTAINING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

31. COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

CM Claridge-tough night. Car Show (Spring Fest) this Saturday.

CM Holland-disappointed.

Mayor Pro Tem Houk-needs to be more pro-business.

CM Rodriguez-was back and forth on the round-a-bout but nothing was concrete.

CM Chisholm-disappointed.

Mayor Ashton-not an easy meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

32. 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.

**NONE**

**RECONVENE:**

33. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ANY ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

**NONE**




**ADJOURN:**


34. ADJOURN

**At 10:21 p.m., Mayor Ashton adjourned the meeting. All voted "Aye".**

**APPROVED:**

  
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Joe Ashton, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
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Paula Luck, City Secretary