

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
RIVER OAKS CITY COUNCIL  
JULY 11, 2023**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**STAFF PRESENT:**

CITY MANAGER MARVIN GREGORY  
CITY SECRETARY PAULA LUCK  
INTERIM PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR JEREMY BELL  
POLICE CHIEF CHUCK STEWART  
EMERGENCY MGT JAMES MYRICK  
CITY ATTORNEY BRADLEY ANDERLE  
FIRE CHIEF RUSSELL SHELLEY

**ABSENT:**

COUNCIL MEMBER YOLIE RODRIGUEZ

1. CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Mayor Houk called the Regular Meeting of the River Oaks City Council to order at 6:03 p.m. on Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at the River Oaks City Hall, 4900 River Oaks Blvd., River Oaks, Texas 76114.

2. INVOCATION

CM Holland delivered the Invocation.

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

CM Forester 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 JUNE 27, 2023 REGULAR CALLED COUNCIL MEETING

B. APPROVE BILLS PAYABLE FOR PERIOD ENDING JULY 11, 2023 (FY 2023)

C. APPROVE FY 2023 THIRD QUARTER EDC REPORT (APRIL 1-JUNE 30, 2023)

**Mayor Pro Tem Claridge moved, seconded by Member Holland to approve the Consent Agenda Items #A-C. All voted "Aye".**

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 DISCUSSION OR ACTION TAKEN ON ITEMS WITHDRAWN FROM CONSENT AGENDA FOR SEPARATE DELIBERATION.

**NONE**

At this time, Mayor Houk discussed Item #9.

Anthony Perez was present. Has been in contact with the property owner since May 18<sup>th</sup> to get a permanent sign approved. It will take four weeks once approved to get the sign from the sign company. Looking at two months for the temporary sign. Sign ordinances says temporary signs are allowed for 30 days and staff cannot extend. Council would like to look at changing the sign ordinance allowing the City Manager to approve extensions.

Mr. Perez announced the grand opening will be on July 22<sup>nd</sup> from 12 noon to 4:00 p.m.

**CM Holland moved, seconded by CM Forester to extend the temporary sign at That Eye Place for an additional 60 days. All voted "Aye".**

At this time, Mayor Houk discussed Item #10.

Mayor Houk filed an affidavit of abstention from participation with the City Secretary and stepped out of the room and had Mayor Pro Tem Claridge step in for this item. Robert Johnson is Mayor Houk's partner, and they are the new owners of this property. Demolition has started. This house is in bad shape. A plan of action is required for an extension.

**Mayor Pro Tem Claridge moved, seconded by CM Holland to extend the Substandard Building Order for an additional 189 days from tonight. All voted "Aye".**

At this time, Mayor Houk discussed Item #14.

Scott Baumbach, our new representative was present.

**CM Holland moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Claridge to approve Resolution #1107-2023. All voted "Aye".**

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

8. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ON PENDING LITIGATION INVOLVING ENGINEERING AND CLARIFIER ISSUES AT THE WATER PLANT.

At 6:31 p.m., Mayor Houk went into Executive Session under Sections 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, and 551.076.

At 7:17 p.m., Mayor Houk reconvened into Regular Session.

No action was taken.

9. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF REQUEST FROM ANTHONY PEREZ, THAT EYE PLACE REQUESTING AN EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY SIGNAGE.

This item was discussed after Item #7.

10. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ON EXTENDING THE APRIL 25, 2023 SUBSTANDARD BUIDLING ORDER ON THE PROPERTY AT 1909 YALE STREET THAT EXPIRED ON JUNE 24, 2023.

This item was discussed after Item #7.

11. CONSIDER APPROVAL TO UPGRADE THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS CAMERA SYSTEM.

The cameras we are using in the Council Chambers for the live feed and recording system are security cameras. Replacing these cameras with the correct ones, should help with the audio. This will also save the live feed to one video instead of multiple ones and will be able to download the file to you tube easier.

**CM Holland moved, seconded by CM Forester to approve up to \$3,000.00 for cameras to be paid out of the construction bond account. All voted "Aye".**

12. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ON AMENDING DIVISION 4 "SANITATION COLLECTION POLICY" OF ARTICLE 13.02 "UTILITY POLICY" SPECIFICALLY AMENDING SECTION 13.02.113 "POLICIES" (1) "RESIDENTIAL GARBAGE COLLECTION".

According to TML legal, cities are not liable for the cans. We allowed the citizens to pick their cans up by 7:00 a.m. the next morning due to peoples work schedule. Council agreed to give this program six months to see how it goes and can adjust after that if we need to.

No action taken.

13. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ON ZONING TEXT AMENDMENTS INCLUDING PERMITTED USES IN "C-2" COMMERCIAL ZONING AND SECTION 20.17 "PARKING SURFACE".

We have been approached about building a new body shop at 5059 River Oaks Blvd which currently is not allowed in C-2 Commercial. After much discussion, the ordinance needs to specify each type of auto service.

Right now, concrete is the only surface allowed to park on. If there is an existing gravel driveway, the resident can maintain it. Existing gravel is grandfathered in. When there is an owner change, it will have to be changed to concrete.

The parking section will be left alone at this time.

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

14. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #1107-2023 FINDING THAT ONCOR ELECTRIC DELIVERY COMPANY LLC'S APPLICATION TO AMEND ITS DISTRIBUTION COST RECOVERY FACTOR AND UPDATE GENERATION RIDERS TO INCREASE DISTRIBUTION RATES WITHIN THE CITY SHOULD BE DENIED.

This item was discussed after Item #7.

15. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE #1383-2023 AMENDING THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET BY EXPANDING PARK DOLLAR DONATIONS FOR CONSULTING FEES IN ASSESSING THE NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS TO MCGEE PARK.

The Park Board recommended to bring in Dennis Sims to McGee Park to assess improvements and put in a request to the Texas Rangers.

**CM Turner moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Claridge to approve Ordinance #1383-2023 up to \$3,500.00. All voted "Aye".**

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

16. UPDATE FROM EMC JAMES MYRICK ON ACTIONS TAKEN FROM THE MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM ON JUNE 28 TO JUNE 29, 2023.

We have had two positive samples which triggered fogging. There is some confusion since the fogging signs say a different time than what was published. The different time frame gives a wide spectrum of room if problems come up. James Myrick brought up things on what water sits in and causes mosquitos. River Oaks has seven traps set out and we move fast when we have a positive. James Myrick works closely with CM Gregory, Code Enforcement, and city employee Ryann Palacios.

17. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO OFFICIALLY ESTABLISH A PARADE COMMITTEE.

**CM Forester moved, seconded by CM Turner to establish a temporary parade committee that can consist of council members and citizens from today to January 31, 2024. All voted "Aye".**

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.

Personnel-Public Works had a resignation; Police has a new hire starting tomorrow and at the end of the month, two will be sent to the academy.

FY 2024 Budget-already had pre-budget meetings and are in the process of putting in the preliminary expenditures and revenues. Taxes will be out starting July 21<sup>st</sup> and the calculations will be turned into Tarrant County. The new tax homestead increase will not affect cities but affects the school districts.

Fort Worth Fire Department has moved in and will be here for a year.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

19. COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

CM Forester-recommended the council packets be emailed instead of on thumb drives.

CM Holland-had long night last night due to meetings and another long night tonight.

LT-encourages all to look at the budget and look at cuts. Encourages to look at the event center and create a committee. Recommended doing photo ops for positive things like the new Police Officers. Park Board wants to send out monthly updates on the parks.

CM Holland-posting things on the streets is a positive thing.

Mayor Pro Tem Claridge-asked how many streets more streets will be treated. Interim PW Director Bell responded we are done for now. Electronic advertising is a good way to save money.

Mayor Houk-excited about the new board members.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

20. 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 deliberation regarding real property; a government 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.

This item was done under Item #8.

**RECONVENE:**

21. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ANY ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

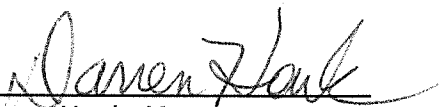
**NONE**

**ADJOURN:**

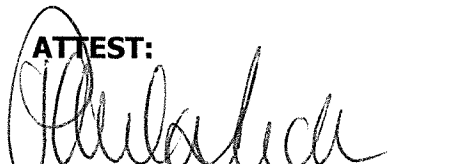
22. ADJOURN

**At 9:07 p.m., Mayor Houk adjourned the meeting.**

**APPROVED:**

  
Darren Houk, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
Paula Luck, City Secretary