

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
RIVER OAKS CITY COUNCIL  
OCTOBER 19, 2021**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

MAYOR JOE ASHTON-6:18 p.m.  
MAYOR PRO TEM DARREN HOUK  
COUNCIL MEMBER JOHN CLARIDGE  
COUNCIL MEMBER STEVE HOLLAND  
COUNCIL MEMBER DAN CHISHOLM  
COUNCIL MEMBER YOLIE RODRIGUEZ

**STAFF PRESENT:**

CITY MANAGER MARVIN GREGORY  
CITY SECRETARY PAULA LUCK  
POLICE CHIEF CHRIS SPIELDENNER  
EMERGENCY MGT JAMES MYRICK  
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR GORDON SMITH  
FIRE CHIEF RUSSELL SHELLEY

**ABSENT:**

NONE

1. CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Mayor Pro Tem Houk called the Special Meeting of the River Oaks City Council to order at 6:01 p.m. on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at the River Oaks City Hall, 4900 River Oaks Blvd., River Oaks, Texas 76114.

2. INVOCATION

CM Rodriguez delivered the Invocation.

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

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

4. 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**

5. WORK SESSION: STRATEGIC PLANNING PERTAINING TO THE ESSENTIAL AREAS OF MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS, DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION THAT INCLUDE BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO CONSIDERATION OF:

A. PROPOSED BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CITY COMPLEX SPECIFICALLY REGARDING EXPANDING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FACILITY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF A FULL-TIME DEPARTMENT.

**B. APPLYING FOR THE CDBG-CV TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM THAT PROVIDES ADDITIONAL CARES ACT FUNDS TO PREVENT, PREPARE FOR AND RESPOND TO CORONAVIRUS.**

A & B: The city is not required to match the funds if we get approved for the grant. But we must allocate on how the city will pay if the project runs over the amount approved. The cap for the grant is \$250,000.00. The next step is to finalize the draft and proceed with the grant application. We can use \$1 donations to fund some of the items. We can get with the architect and change the plans to meet the \$250,000.00. Council agreed to move forward with the grant and to pay the architect fee out of other funds and to see what we can do with \$250,000.00.

**C. IMPROVEMENTS PROPOSED FOR EXPENDITURES UNDER THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 (ARPA).**

What we have done so far is the premium pay for first responders, duct cleaning, and the broadband internet upgrade. Council agreed at the last meeting to move forward with some repairs at the Water Treatment Plant. We have lined up three companies for the air purification system and council prefers to go out for bids on the system instead of them making presentations to the council. Council wants a follow up discussion on the three options for the Water Treatment Plant. We can put this on the November 9<sup>th</sup> council agenda. We can present a projected water bill on what the water bill would be in 20 years.

**D. PLANNED STREET IMPROVEMENTS TO BE FUNDED THROUGH CERTIFICATE OF OBLIGATION BONDS.**

Our street plan is contingent on the November 2<sup>nd</sup> bond election. Tarrant County sent us a flyer and summary. The plan includes Roberts Cut Off (River Oaks Blvd to Blackstone and Skyline to the northwest city limits on Roberts Cut Off, Roberts Cut Off (from Ohio Garden south to River Oaks Blvd), Merritt Street (from Barbara to River Oaks Blvd), Barbara Road, Yale Street (Roberts Cut Off/Yale to Yale/River Oaks Blvd), and Long Avenue (River Oaks Blvd to Jacksboro Hwy). Future planning is Thurston (from Long Avenue west to Skyline). We may can re-do Thurston with the 2006 bond funds.

**6. ACTION, IF ANY, FROM WORK SESSION.**

**CM Claridge moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Houk to pursue the CDBG grant for the Fire Department facility renovations and the architect will be paid up front. All voted "Aye".**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**7. 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 complaint or charge against an Officer or Employee.
- d. Section 551.076 Deliberation regarding security devices.

**NONE**

**RECONVENE:**

8. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ANY ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

**NONE**


Mayor Ashton-apologized for being late. Court Clerk Ana Juarez passed away last week. She was a positive influence, did an exemplary job, good at diffusing difficult situations with customers, and will be missed by many. Asked everyone to remember Gilbert, her family, and City Staff during this difficult time.

**ADJOURN:**

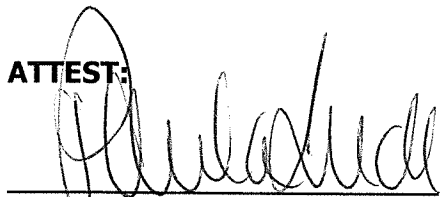
9. ADJOURN

**At 7:13 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