

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
RIVER OAKS CITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

CITY MANAGER MARVIN GREGORY
CITY SECRETARY PAULA LUCK
INTERIM PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR JEREMY BELL
DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF ERIC PERKINS
EMERGENCY MGT JAMES MYRICK
EVENT CENTER DIRECTOR SHIRLEY WHEAT

ABSENT:

NONE

1. CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Mayor Houk called the Special Meeting of the River Oaks City Council to order at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at the River Oaks City Hall, 4900 River Oaks Blvd., River Oaks, Texas 76114.

2. INVOCATION

Mayor Pro Tem Claridge delivered the Invocation.

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

Mayor Pro Tem 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.

Joe Ashton (5220 Park Drive)-as a renter at this location, he was alerted by something posted on social media from Council Member Brent Forester. Joe read a letter to the Mayor and Council. Brent works for renters and owners and is disappointed in Brent. And there were the drug allocations. Had six days to remove the post or apologize and neither was done. Brent needs to resign.

Shirley Wheat-had neighbors in the past that are doing drugs. It takes a long time to watch these people. Same situation currently in the house close to the center. The police did catch them accidentally. Got to follow protocol.

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 AUGUST 29, 2023 SPECIAL CALLED COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Pro Tem Claridge moved, seconded by CM Rodriguez to approve the Consent Agenda Item #A. All voted "Aye".

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 DISCUSSION OR ACTION TAKEN ON ITEMS WITHDRAWN FROM CONSENT AGENDA FOR SEPARATE DELIBERATION.

NONE

PUBLIC HEARINGS/ACTION FROM PUBLIC HEARINGS:

8. ACTION FROM AUGUST 29, 2023 PUBLIC HEARING: CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE #1386-2023 AFFIXING AND LEVYING MUNICIPAL AD VALOREM TAXES ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF RIVER OAKS, TEXAS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2023 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024 AT THE RATE OF \$0.677621 PER ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00) AND FOR DIRECTING THE ASSESSMENT THEREOF; PROVIDING FOR A DATE ON WHICH SUCH TAXES BECOME DUE AND DELINQUENT TOGETHER WITH PENALTIES AND INTEREST THEREON; PROVIDING FOR PLACE OF PAYMENT; PROVIDING FOR APPROVAL OF THE TAX ROLLS PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL.

CM Gregory presented the same worksheets as presented in previous meetings. To get the total proposed tax rate, you would add the debt rate of \$0.077777/\$100 to the voter approved maintenance and operations rate of \$0.599844 for a total voter approved tax rate of \$0.677621/\$100, which is what we are proposing to fund the General Fund budget that has been adopted resulting in a budget in the black by \$26,359.00. Last years tax rate was \$0.754168/\$100. If we lower the tax rate to \$0.6428/\$100, we would be \$117,421 in the red. If we lower the tax rate to \$0.655/\$100, we would be \$73,673 in the red. If we lower the tax rate to \$0.66021/\$100, we would be \$50,703 in the red.

CM Turner mentioned that the Event Center costs \$96,000.00 to operate. It needs to pay for at least half of itself.

The budget has been adopted and will have to bring a budget amendment back if council approves a lower rate.

At 7:00 p.m., Mayor Houk called for a short recess.

At 7:08 p.m., Mayor Houk reconvened back into Regular Session.

Mayor Pro Tem Claridge moved, seconded by CM Rodriguez to ratify the property tax increase reflected in the budget. I also move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.660210/\$100 of property value, which is effectively a 2.989% increase in the tax rate and move to adopt Ordinance #1386-2023 setting the 2023 tax rate. All voted "Aye".

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS REQUIRING COUNCIL APPROVAL/ACTION:

9. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #1109-2023 AUTHORIZING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (EDC) EXPENDITURES FROM THE 2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET AS QUALIFIED FOR PROJECTS MORE THAN \$10,000.00; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (FIRST READING).

Listed are the projects over \$10,000.00 which requires two readings.

Mayor Pro Tem Claridge moved, seconded by CM Holland to approve the first reading of Resolution #1109-2023. All voted "Aye".

OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION:

10. 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.

City Secretary-Anna Lee has been promoted to Utility Billing Coordinator. We have hired Stacy Whatley to fill the water clerk position. Kassandra in court has resigned and we have hired Alexandria Chavez to fill that position. The Code Enforcement position is still open.

Fire Department-has one opening.

Public Works-has two openings.

Police Department-two are in the academy, and one is in training. That leaves one open position.

October 3rd, is National Night Out from 6-8 p.m. at the school administration and Alternative Learning Center.

Shirley Wheat-square dancing was last Thursday and if they can get enough people interested, they want to set up classes which would cost \$50 for 12 lessons.

James Myrick-a lot of empty chairs so the council must be doing good things. Mosquitos-had a complaint but did not see any mosquitos. Covid-500 people in Tarrant County are hospitalized. Another vaccine will be available the end of September. There is a new COVID variant, but it hasn't entered Texas yet.

CORRESPONDENCE:

11. COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

CM Rodriguez-glad school is back in session. Thanked everyone for what they do.

CM Turner-think about the positive & move forward. We now have the lowest tax rate in eight years.

CM Holland-challenge all to try and keep a positive experience.

Shirley Wheat-asked if they could put the basketball goal back up and it will be secured better. Some people had taken the goal down.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

12. 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.

NONE

RECONVENE:

13. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ANY ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION


NONE

ADJOURN:

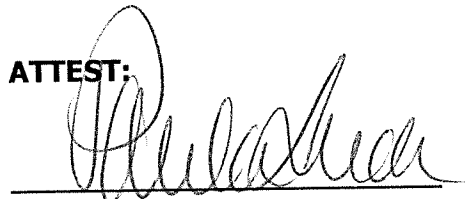
17. ADJOURN

At 7:36 p.m., Mayor Houk adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED:


Darren Houk, Mayor

ATTEST:


Paula Luck, City Secretary