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Mayor
Jo Ann Wilson

City Council

**Mayor Pro-Tem,
Place 3**
Elaine Priest

Place 1
Josh McCabe

Place 2
Michelle Tye

Place 4
Sam Eason

Place 5
Ashley Majors

**City
Administrator**
Cynthia Northrop

City Attorney
Carvan Adkins

City Secretary
Shannon
Montgomery

Fire Chief
Darrell Fitch

Police Chief
Sam Love

**Public Works
Director**
Sean Densmore

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE RHOME CITY COUNCIL

Meeting Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021

Location: **VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE**

MEETING START TIME: **6:30 PM**

Call to Order and Establish a Quorum

Mayor Wilson stated at 6:30pm that there is not a quorum of Council Members present at this time.

The City will conduct a Public Hearing for 2021/2022 Texas Community Development Block Grant Program.

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:10pm and announced a quorum of Council Members present.

Council Members Present:

Mayor Jo Ann Wilson

Council Member Michelle Tye

Mayor Pro Tem Elaine Priest

Council Member Sam Eason

Council Member Josh McCabe

Council Member Ashley Majors

City Staff Present:

City Administrator Cynthia Northrop

Fire Chief Darrell Fitch

City Attorney James Donovan

Police Chief Sam Love

City Secretary Shannon Montgomery

Public Works Director Sean Densmore

Announcements from Mayor and Council Members

Mayor Wilson stated that the filing period for a place on the ballot continues through 5:00pm, Friday, February 12, 2021.

Council Member Majors stated that Council needs to work together to move forward as growth is upon the City.

Public Presentations and Input

The Council is not permitted to take action on or discuss any presentations made to the Council at this time concerning an item not listed on the agenda. The Council will hear comments during this designated time. Request form, or email, must be submitted to the City Secretary, via email to citysecretary@cityofrhome.com, prior to 4:00pm to be recognized.

The following individuals made public presentations:

- Jonna Amos – 1110 Mount Lane, Rhome, Texas
- Deborah BeCraft – 360 West Second Street, Rhome, Texas
- Patricia Mitchell – 389 South Old Mill Road, Rhome, Texas
- Shirley Mize – 170 Russel Street, Rhome, Texas
- Cathy Coffee – 1102 Mount Lane, Rhome, Texas

Regular Session – Old Business

B. Discussion regarding updating ordinances for code compliance (nuisance) and substandard buildings (Council Member Majors)

Council Member Majors discussed various code violations that she has seen around the City, in particular, Section 3.05 Dangerous or Substandard Buildings” and wanted to know what the City could do about these violations.

Council Member Eason questioned whether Council should be discussing this item as the Council also serves as the Zoning Board of Adjustment and if the City should be calling residents out while the City has a boarded up old school building.

Mayor Pro Tem Priest spoke on the process of moving a mobile home from land that was sold at auction.

City Administrator ended the discussion with the process of code compliance – the City tries to get compliance, not trying to give tickets. Currently, the code officer works ten hours a week on code items, Council may need to decide if the City needs more, which will be discussed during the budget process. If someone has a complaint, please report that and the code enforcement office will research.

Discussion only, no action taken.

C. Discussion and any necessary action regarding PD future planning and community policing expectations (Council Member Eason)

Council Member Majors asked Council Member Eason to read Chief Love’s Police Department Community Policing Plan Summary:

Community policing is a collaboration between the police and the community that identifies and solves community problems. With the police no longer the sole guardians of law and order, all members of the community become active allies in the effort to enhance the safety and quality of neighborhoods.

Community policing recognizes the fact that most community problems can best be handled by allowing the individual officer the flexibility to "resolve" problems rather than just "clear the call".

Citizens are accountable for participating in community policing. Community policing can never be successful without participation by the community. It is the policy of the Rhome Police Department to embrace the tenants of community policing and engage the community in a positive and trusting manner.

All employees will extend reasonable assistance to the public. Reasonable assistance means the level of assistance that call load and current demand levels would permit. Employees must not neglect community services in the belief that the police function is restricted to crime control.

The purpose of this plan is to guide personnel and to affirm the department’s commitment to seek out opportunities to interact with the public and to build trusting relationships with the community.

Police Department employees shall provide reasonable assistance to all residents in need of service.

All personnel are expected to seek out opportunities to promote trust and positive dialog with the public.

All officers are expected to spend a large amount of their shift in the neighborhoods and contact anyone they see out in their yards or walking.

The Chief, Sergeant, and any other supervisory personnel shall monitor this activity including participating and riding with officers from time to time.

The Chief and/or Sergeant will review data from these processes monthly to track successes or deficiencies.

No action taken, discussion only.

D. Discussion and any necessary action regarding amending Chapter 11, "Taxation" of the City's Code of Ordinances to include disabled veterans to the list of Ad Valorem Tax Freeze (Council Member Eason)

After a brief discussion regarding what the City can do and what the Tax Code does for disabled veterans, Council Member Eason, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Priest, made a motion to approve the proposed ordinance written by City Attorney Donovan.

Mayor Wilson asked for a roll-call vote:

Council Member McCabe: Aye
Council Member Tye: Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Priest: Aye
Council Member Eason: Aye
Council Member Majors: Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

**CITY OF RHOME, TEXAS
ORDINANCE NO. 2021-02**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 11.02 "PROPERTY TAX" OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF RHOME, TEXAS TO ADD A RESIDENTIAL HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION FOR PROPERTY OWNERS WHO ARE A DISABLED VETERAN OR THE SURVIVING SPOUSE OF A DECEASED VETERAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TEXAS TAX CODE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PUBLICATION CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Regular Session – New Business

E. Discussion and any necessary action regarding financial options for budget planning (Council)

City Administrator Northrop introduced the City's Financial Advisor John Martin and Bond Counsel Bob Dransfield.

Both Mr. Martin and Mr. Dransfield addressed questions from Council in regards to the City's current financial options pertaining to the City's facilities and budget planning priorities.

Consensus of the Council was that there is no time to call a bond election for May 2021 and that Council needs to work on a plan for the city's facilities and priorities.

Council directed City Administrator Northrop to move forward with getting information in regards to inspections on all buildings and seeing what needs to bring each up to code. Northrop to bring back to Council once findings are complete.

Discussion only, no action taken.

F. Discussion and any necessary action regarding a professional services agreement with Kimley-Horn for the West Wastewater Treatment Plant renewal permit and authorizing the City Administrator to execute all necessary documents (City Administrator)

City Administrator Northrop provided a brief summary of the project, along with what tasks will be performed by Kimley-Horn for the renewal permit project.

Council discussed the pros and cons of using the City's Engineer for this project or going out to bid for this project.

Motion made by Council Member Eason, seconded by Council Member McCabe, to approve the professional services agreement with Kimley-Horn for the West Wastewater Treatment Plant renewal permit and to authorize the City Administrator to execute all necessary documents.

Mayor Wilson asked for a roll-call vote:

Council Member McCabe: Aye
Council Member Tye: Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Priest: Aye
Council Member Eason: Aye
Council Member Majors: Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

G. Discussion and any necessary action regarding resignation of Planning & Zoning Commission Alternate (City Secretary)

Motion made by Council Member McCabe, seconded by Council Member Eason, to accept the resignation of Planning & Zoning Commission Alternate Michelle Tye.

Mayor Wilson asked for a roll-call vote:

Council Member McCabe: Aye
Council Member Tye: Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Priest: Aye
Council Member Eason: Aye
Council Member Majors: Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

H. Discussion and any necessary action regarding complaints of dirt bikes/noise in ByWell Estates (Mayor Wilson)

Council discussed the complaints and concluded that the dirt bikes were being rode on private property and Council could not intervene.

No action taken, discussion only.

Future Agenda Items

Council Member Majors requested an agenda item regarding in-person meetings and weekly reports from Public Works Director Densmore.

Mayor Wilson requested an agenda item to clarify the current ordinance relative to political signs.

Council Member McCabe requested an item regarding appointment of Planning & Zoning Commission Alternates and extending the current lease at City Hall.

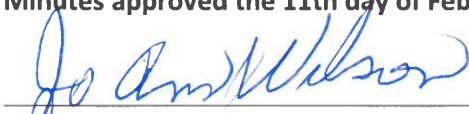
Council Member Eason requested an item including the Mayor Pro Tem on all City negotiations.

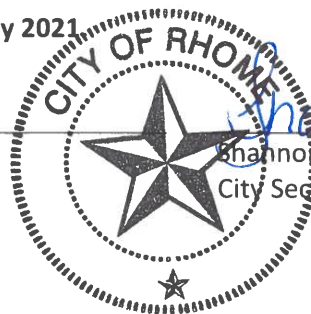
Mayor Pro Tem Priest requested a facilities inspection report on what is needed to bring all city buildings to code.


Adjourn

Motion made by Council Member McCabe, seconded by Council Member Majors to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:12pm.

Minutes approved the 11th day of February 2021


Jo Ann Wilson,
Mayor




Shannon Montgomery, TRMC
City Secretary