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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, February 25, 2021

Location: **VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE**

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

Call to Order and Establish a Quorum

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm 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

Police Chief Sam Love

City Attorney Carvan Adkins

Public Works Director Sean Densmore

City Secretary Shannon Montgomery

Officer Geoffrey Pradia

Fire Chief Darrell Fitch

Officer Timothy "Jett" Click

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.

Tommie Eason, 1107 Mount Lane, Rhome Texas addressed the Council.

Announcements from Mayor and Council Members

Mayor Wilson and Council Members Majors and Eason thanked all of those that helped out with the February 2021 Storm – including First Responders, Residents, and City Staff.

Mayor Wilson listed the March 2021 Events:

- March 6, 2021 – City Council Visioning/Budget Workshop
- March 11, 2021 – Regular City Council Meeting
- March 25, 2021 – Regular City Council Meeting

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. Minutes of City Council Regular Session dated February 11, 2021 (City Secretary)

Motion made by Council Member Majors, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Priest to approve the Consent Agenda Items as presented.

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.

Regular Session – Old Business

B. Update, discussion and any necessary action regarding the City's third-party building inspector's facilities assessment (Estimated 15 minutes - City Administrator)

City Administrator Northrop briefly updated Council on the status of the City's third-party inspector's facilities assessment and addressed questions. Northrop has been in contact with a contractor recommended by the City's third-party inspector and is awaiting a for estimates. The estimates will be discussed in the upcoming Council Visioning and Budget Workshop.

No action taken; discussion only.

Regular Session – New Business

C. Discussion any necessary action regarding designating a professional engineering firm for the 2021-2022 TxDBG Community Development Fund application and project implementation, administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture (Estimated 10 minutes - City Administrator)

City Administrator Northrop stated that the City received three proposals: Kimley-Horn, SPI – Schaumburg & Polk, Inc., and Shield Engineering Group. Northrop continued by stating the average scoring for each:

- Kimley-Horn – 99.6
- SPI _ Schaumburg & Polk, Inc – 97
- Shield Engineering Group – 94.4

Northrop clarified that the selected Engineering Group will work on contingency, if the City does not get the grant, the Engineering Group will not be paid.

Motion made by Council Member Eason, seconded by Council Member McCabe, to designate Kimley-Horn as the engineering form for the 2021-2022 TxDBG Community Development Fund application and project implementation.

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.

D. Update and discussion regarding Water and Wastewater Rate Study (Estimated 45 minutes - City Administrator)

City Administrator Northrop stated that the City Council authorized staff to engage Kimley-Horn for a water source and water and wastewater rate study. Kimley-Horn completed the water source study report and is now presenting a rate

study update. Kimley-Horn hired NewGen Strategies & Solutions to complete the water and wastewater rate study. The results of this study and recommended rates are being presented for Council review and direction.

Chris Ekrut, Chief Financial Officer of NewGen Strategies & Solutions, stated that the following presentation is an update and education for Council, no one is looking for action this evening. Ekrut presented Council with multiple assumptions, capital and dept scenarios, along with rate comparisons showing Council how both current and future water and wastewater rates and future rates affect the City. Ekrut addressed questions from Council.

Discussion only, no action taken.

(City Secretary Note: Presentation will be included in final set of minutes.)

E. Discussion of SnowPowerMegeddon and any necessary action regarding potentially approving a Local Disaster Declaration (Estimated 20 min – City Administrator, FD, PW, PD)

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Priest, seconded by Council Member Majors, to approve a Local Disaster Declaration as presented.

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.

F. Discussion and any necessary action regarding a Proclamation of Appreciation to Fire, Public Works, Police, City Hall Staff and County First Responders for their service to the City of Rhome during SnowPowerMegeddon 2021 (Estimated 5 minutes - Council Member McCabe)

Council Member McCabe stated:

Last week we had a natural disaster, which we normally don't see here in Texas. Due to the nature of the weather, our city staff and volunteers were put to the test. Many of who had to leave their families in a time of need to provide for the community, and many people they don't even know. I of all people know what it takes to leave your family behind when they need you most when duty calls.

Our Fire Dept slept at the firehouse overnight to ensure full staffing in the case of emergency calls, which they most definitely had. We've all seen the photo of Chief Fitch's frozen helmet. They braved the cold to continue their duties, assisting in county calls, major leaks, structure fires, etc.

Our Police Dept attended many calls due to accidents as well as welfare checks on those without power and water. Our Public Works who worked around the clock due to frozen pipes, water leaks, and shut down water plants beyond human control.

Our City Staff who worked tirelessly from home to continue to disseminate information to our citizens and partnering city neighbors.

It was truly a team effort and our team pulled together in this time of need. We were able to mitigate some problems and Rhome faired unbelievably well compared to the larger DFW area and Metroplex.

Chief Fitch and Cynthia were even able to partner with Wise County Emergency Services to provide a warming station at the Fire Dept for their ambulance.

I'm proud to work with these individuals and am honored to have them as the go to people of this city for emergency situations as well as every day needs.

Cynthia, Chief Fitch, Chief Love, Sean please accept my heartfelt thanks and gratitude for all you and your departments did and please extend my personal thanks to each of your workers and volunteers. Bravo Zulu to you all!

Council Member Majors said "Thank You" and that it was nice to see Wise County delivering water to the fire station.

City Administrator Northrop expressed her appreciation to the staff for taking a leadership role in this whole event, and our Public Works Director, Sean Densmore, Fire Chief and Police Chief. They definitely went above and beyond the Call of Duty, and partnering in an instance like this, and with an event like this, of this magnitude. Nothing happens by itself; it takes a team coordinating together to make these things happen and I'm so proud of everybody and everybody has great relationships with the county most notably.

"I will point out our Chief Fitch, who well-coordinated with the county and in public, you know, they, got water. I know you all know because I included it in my weekly report, but Chief Fitch came up with a bottled water distribution plan as contingency planning. There's a lot of contingency planning that happens behind the scenes that wasn't necessarily rolled out.

Because we were able to kind of avoid the worst-case scenario, particularly in Rhome, but contingency plans were developed, none the less and so, in that planning, Chief Fitch actually already got some water donated that we do have, and then, of course, FEMA came with a few more pallets of water we received from the county and the county distributed that.

So, I really want to give kudos to Chief Fitch, who developed a water distribution plan. Also, Rhome residents came through and I really want to commend all of our residents because so many came through and conserved water. And that was our goal - reduce our water consumption so we did not run out of water and did not lose pressure which would have necessitated a boil water notice.

We did not have to do a boil water notice as so many messages going back and forth on Facebook of people, wanting to do their part and I cannot thank them enough for, conserving their water, because that is what really tipped the scale was, our own residents. So, kudos to our Rhome residents.

We will be talking more about rolling out that water distribution plan for our ByWell residents that as the mayor noted, are still on a boil water noticed because they get their water through Aqua Texas.

Thank you for that.

Council Member Eason thanked Council Member McCabe for thinking of creating a Proclamation and formally recognizing and thanking everyone.

Motion made by Council Member McCabe, seconded by Council Member Eason, to approve a Proclamation of Appreciation to Fire, Public Works, Police, City Hall Staff and County First Responders for their service to the City of Rhome during SnowPowerMegeddon 2021.

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.

Mayor Wilson stated the Council did not go into Executive Session.

Executive Session

Pursuant to the following designated section of the Texas Government Code, Annotated, Chapter 551 (Texas Open Meetings Act), the Council may convene into executive session to discuss the following:

- G. Section 551.071 Consultation with Attorney - pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offer or to seek advice from attorney
- H. Section 551.072 Deliberation regarding Real Property - purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property if deliberation in an open meeting would have detrimental effect on position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person
- I. Section 551.074 Personnel – discuss appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee, or hear complaint or charge against officer or employee in executive session unless officer or employee requests public
- J. Section 551.087 – Deliberations regarding Economic Development Negotiations – to discuss or deliberate regarding commercial or financial information that the City has received from a business prospect that the City seeks to locate, stay or expand in or near the City and with which the City is conducting economic development negotiations

Future Agenda Items

Council Member McCabe requested an agenda item regarding a social media policy from City Administrator Northrop for review and discussion.

Council Member Eason requested an update on moving forward with alternate water sourcing.

Mayor Wilson asked for an agenda item regarding disaster planning.

Adjourn

Motion made by Council Member McCabe, seconded by Council Member Majors to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:14pm.

Minutes approved the 11th day of March 2021.


Jo Ann Wilson,
Mayor




Shannon Montgomery, TRMC
City Secretary