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Mayor
Jo Ann Wilson

City Council

Mayor Pro-Tem,
Place 1
Josh McCabe

Place 2
Michelle Tye

Place 3
Elaine Priest

Place 4
Sam Eason

Place 5
Ashley Majors

City
Administrator
Cynthia Northrop

City Attorney
Carvan Adkins

City Secretary
Shaina Odom

Fire Chief
Darrell Fitch

Police Chief
Eric Debus

Public Works
Director
Sean Densmore

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE RHOME CITY COUNCIL

Meeting Date: Thursday, March 24, 2022

Executive Session: 6pm

Regular Session: 7pm

Meeting Location: Rhome Community Center, 261 North School Road, Rhome, TX 76078

Call to Order and Establish a Quorum – 6pm

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Convene into Executive Session – 6pm

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:

- A. Section 551.071 Consultation with Attorney - pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offer or to seek advice from attorney
- B. 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
- C. 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 a public hearing
- D. 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

Reconvene into Regular Session – 7pm

Discussion and any necessary action as a result of Executive Session

Invocation

Police Chief Eric Debus led the Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag

Honor the Texas Flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, One state under God, One and indivisible

Public Works Director, Sean Densmore led the pledges

Public Comments

The Council is not permitted to take action on or discuss any comments made to the Council at this time concerning an item not listed on the agenda. However, a Council Member or Mayor may make a statement of fact regarding the item, make a statement concerning the policy regarding the item and/or may propose that the item be placed on a future agenda or direct the City Administrator to contact the individual to address.

1. *If you are attending the meeting via **Live Streaming**, and you would like to make a Public Comment, you must email the City Secretary at citysecretary@cityofrhome.com prior to **4 pm on the day of meeting** and must identify each subject you plan to present to be recognized.*
2. *If the writer of a Public Comment wants someone to read the letter, it will only be read by the City Secretary and must be emailed prior (email above) to 4 pm on the day of the meeting.*
3. *Public Comments made in person require the speaker to submit the sign-up form to the City Secretary prior to the meeting, and the form must identify each subject the speaker plans to present.*
4. *A statement of no more than 3 minutes may be made. There will be no yielding of time to another person. Comments should be directed to the entire Council, not individual members. Engaging in verbal attacks, or comments intended to insult, abuse, malign, or slander any individuals shall be cause for termination of time privileges and removal from Council Chambers.*
 - Lisa Ann Wilson – 240 W First Street
 - Patricia Mitchell - 289 South Old Mill Road
 - Donna DeGarmo – 104 Kensington Court
 - Kristi King – 207 Cheyenne Trail N

Announcements from Mayor and Council Members

- April 4, 2022 - Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
- April 5, 2022 – Monthly Bulk Trash Pick-Up
- April 7, 2022 – Last Day to Register to vote
- April 12, 2022 – Quarterly Hazardous Waste Pick-Up – *Must call/email and schedule (info on website)*
- April 25, 2022 – First day of Early Voting

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.

- E. Minutes of City Council Regular Session dated March 10, 2022 **(City Secretary)**
- F. Minutes of the Special City Council Meeting dated March 19, 2022 **(City Secretary)**

Mayor Pro-Tem McCabe made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, Council Member Tye seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Regular Agenda – Old Business

G. Discussion and any necessary action regarding Ordinance to lower speed limit on FM 3433 **(City Administrator)**
TxDot conducted a speed study on FM 3433, and approved a 5 mile per hour reduction in speed. Mayor Pro-Tem McCabe made a motion to accept the ordinance to reduce the speed on FM 3433 by 5 miles per hour. Council Member Priest seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Regular Agenda – New Business

H. Discussion and update regarding OpenGov **(City Administrator)**
City of Rhome onboarded STW in 2019, STW was bought out by OpenGov converting to a cloud-based program. OpenGov will no longer be servicing or updating STW. Onboarding the new program will take about 9-12 months. Staff would like to go to consolidated cash and close most of the 17 bank accounts. ARPA funding could cover the expense of the conversion. No action was taken.

- I. Discussion and any action regarding open burning ordinance **(Chief Fitch)**

Chapter 5 update: With trash service being 2 times weekly, bulk trash monthly, and hazardous pickup quarterly, the city does not need to allow burning inside city limits. Smaller lots make the risk of uncontrolled fire higher. Fire Chief Fitch would like to eliminate burning inside of City limits. Mayor Pro-Tem McCabe made a motion to eliminate burning inside city limits, with the exception of commercial development with a permit, Council Member Majors seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

J. Discussion and any necessary action regarding amending ORD 2022-03, Calling General Election (**City Secretary**) Mayor Pro-Tem McCabe made a motion to accept the amendments to ORD 2022-03, Council Member Majors seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

K. Discussion and any necessary action regarding city facilities

Eason: idea, renovate old City Hall and move the Police Department into there temporarily.

Debus: Currently having issues recruiting officers due to the office conditions. Open to anything.

Majors: Unaware of a safety issue at the Police Department.

Debus: Currently Electrical, plumbing and HVAC. Not insulated properly, causing air and heat to run all the time, and pipes are busting in the colder months. Animals in the walls.

Northrop: Concrete

Majors: Not that bad, walls are not falling down.

Densmore: Greatest concern is electrical, two separate buildings held together by a jack. Removed a part of the building to repair a leak. Electrical is behind between the two buildings, against code. Electrician looked at electrical panel, was speechless.

Eason: Animals in walls and electrical are safety issues

Majors: Grant for old city hall

Priest: 1. Old City Hall, engage a grant company. Harder to get grant money to repair current locations, than it would be to get grants to build new. 2. Relocate fire Department, Police Department, and Water Department. 3. Sell old school property and repair current buildings and demo school and kindergarten building. 4. Financial Options. 5. East Waste Water Treatment Plant- What does it need to be buildable. Public Works to prioritize which buildings need help the fastest. May need to get a Certificate of Obligation (CO) to cover the cost of the needed renovations.

Mayor Wilson: Are we out for offers on Grants?

Northrop: No, we have not put out the RFP, talked to GrantWorks because we are already working with them. On the list of things to do.

Mayor Pro-Tem McCabe said to put together a list of things that need to be done to operate safely and bring back recommendations to council.

No action was taken

Future Agenda Items

(Agenda items are due by 5 pm on the Wednesday of the week prior to the council meeting)

Adjourn

Mayor Pro-Tem McCabe made a motion to adjourn, Council Member Majors seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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Patricia Mitchell,

Mayor

ATTEST:  _____

Shaina Odom
City Secretary

