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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

Interim Police  
Chief  
Brody Brown

Public Works  
Director  
Sean Densmore

## NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE RHOME CITY COUNCIL

Meeting Date: Thursday, March 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. City Secretary Montgomery called roll and announced a quorum of Council Members present.

### Council Members Present:

Mayor Jo Ann Wilson

Council Member Josh McCabe

Mayor Pro Tem Elaine Priest

Council Member Michelle Tye

Council Member Sam Eason

Council Member Ashley Majors

### City Staff Present:

City Administrator Cynthia Northrop

City Secretary Shannon Montgomery

Interim Police Chief Brody Brown

Municipal Court Clerk Kristi Adams

### 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](mailto:citysecretary@cityofrhome.com), prior to 4:00pm to be recognized.*

The following made Public Presentations to the Council:

- Terry Priest – Cheyenne Trail North, Rhome, Texas
- Cathy Coffee – Mount Lane, Rhome, Texas
- Deborah BeCraft – West Second, Rhome, Texas
- Michelle Pittman Di Credico – Cheyenne Trail North, Rhome, Texas
- Tommie Eason – Mount Lane, Rhome, Texas

### Announcements from Mayor and Council Members

Mayor Wilson stated Spring has started and it is time for Rhome to start fresh and listed the events for April:

- April 2, 2021 – City Hall Closed for Good Friday
- April 5, 2021 – Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
- April 6, 2021 – Quarterly Bulk Trash Pick-Up
- April 8, 2021 – Regular City Council Meeting
- April 19 thru April 27, 2021 (M-F) – Early Voting at Rhome Community Center
- April 22, 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 March 11, 2021 (City Secretary)**

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

City Secretary Montgomery 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.

## **Presentation**

### **B. Update and presentation by Northwest ISD Superintendent Dr. Ryder Warren on the Bond Election**

Northwest ISD Superintendent Dr. Ryder Warren introduced area principals – Yolanda Wallace, Kim Black and Anthony Fontana and provided a brief overview of the District’s proposed propositions for their May 1, 2021 Bond Election. Warren addressed questions from Council.

Mayor Wilson thanked Dr. Warren for his time.

## **Regular Session – Old Business**

### **C. Discussion and any necessary action regarding the continuation of virtual meetings (Council Member Majors)**

Council Member Majors expressed that she would like to go back to in-person meetings.

No action taken, discussion only.

### **D. Discussion and any necessary action regarding the water/wastewater rate study (Council Member Eason)**

Council Member Eason asked that the City get the message out to explain the situation and also asked about raising the wastewater rates now.

City Administrator Northrop stated that Staff is working on a Fact Sheet and it will be posted online soon. Northrop also stated that she had edited the budget/visioning workshop recording and has posted the segment relating to the rate study online.

Chris Erkut, NewGen Strategies & Solutions, again provided a summary of the previously presented Water & Wastewater Rate Study from the February 25, 2021 Council meeting to show the need of rate action. Erkut listed the needed steps to move forward:

- Determine desired rate action
- Prepare amended ordinance inclusive of rates and effective date
- Vote on approved amended ordinance and provide public notice

Erkut reminded Council that Staff recommends Scenario 4 – increasing wastewater rates \$30.54 to meet key business needs. Erkut addressed questions from Council.

Council consensus was to advertise the recommendation and educate the citizens before taking a vote.

### **Regular Session – New Business**

#### **E. Discussion and any necessary action regarding FY2021-2022 Budget Schedule (City Administrator)**

City Administrator Northrop provided the tentative FY2021-2022 Budget Schedule to Council and addressed questions.

Discussion only, no action taken.

#### **F. Discussion and any necessary action regarding the execution of Texas Statute Local Government Code 22.042 (a) (Council Member Eason)**

Council Member Eason read Texas Statute Local Government Code 22.042 (a):

Texas Statute Local Government Code 22.042 - Powers and Duties of Mayor

(a) The mayor is the chief executive officer of the municipality. The mayor shall at all times actively ensure that the laws and ordinances of the municipality are properly carried out. The mayor shall perform the duties and exercise the powers prescribed by the governing body of the municipality.

Eason stated that he would like the Mayor to encourage Council decisions and not to undermine Council.

Discussion only, no action taken.

#### **G. Discussion and any necessary action regarding the execution of Texas Statute Local Government Code 22.042 (c) (Council Member Eason)**

Council Member Eason read Texas Statute Local Government Code 22.042 (c):

Texas Statute Local Government Code 22.042 - Powers and Duties of Mayor

(c) The mayor shall give to the governing body any information, and shall recommend to the governing body any measure, that relates to improving the finances, police, health, security, cleanliness, comfort, ornament, or good government of the municipality.

Eason requested a monthly, if not weekly report from the Mayor on her city activities as the executive of the City. Mayor Wilson stated she will add her report to the City Administrator's weekly report to not burden all with multiple reports.

Discussion only, no action taken.

#### **H. Discussion and any necessary action regarding a show of support for the City Administrator (Council Member Eason)**

Council Member Eason stated that he has seen a lot of negativity on social media about the City Administrator. Eason wanted to take this time to say that the City Administrator does an amazing job. Northrop's challenge of keeping the Mayor and Council up to speed and to publicly support our Staff – she did not sign up for the negativity.

Mayor Pro Tem Priest stated that the City needs to move past the past and move forward, and stated there is a need for separation of professional staff and elected officials.

Discussion only, no action taken.

Council Member Majors requested to move to Agenda Item J.

#### **J. Discussion and any necessary action regarding social media (Council Member Majors)**

Council Member Majors asked that all City Council, Boards and Residents think and pause before posting something on social media; the negativity on social media needs to stop.

Council Member McCabe stated that he had requested an item a few meetings back in regards to a social media policy and knows that City Administrator Northrop is working on it.

Mayor Pro Tem Priest stated she appreciated Council Member Majors' words and that the negativity is a distraction and Council is too busy working on City business to read the negativity.

Discussion only, no action taken.

**I. Discussion and any necessary action regarding events (Council Member Majors)**

Council Member Majors would like to bring back community involvement and see all outdoor events be brought back. Majors would like to give the power to the City Administrator to provide planning for city events.

Mayor Pro Tem Priest stated events are fun and enjoyable and would like to see a different approach to city events – she would like them to be budgeted.

City Administrator Northrop agreed that events needed to be budgeted, recommended the City start slow and be an effort of staff. Northrop stated events can be discussed during budget planning, events have to have a purpose, a goal and a clear expectation.

Discussion only, no action taken.

**K. Discussion and any necessary action regarding dumpsters (Council Member Majors)**

Council Member Majors stated that she, listening to the residents, reached out to Waste Connections regarding having a dumpster behind the Public Works gate and the possibility of a roll off dumpster to help with the trash. Majors stated that she also requested pricing from Waste Connections.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Priest, seconded by Council Member Eason, to authorize the City Administrator to work with Waste Connections regarding monthly curbside bulk pickup and to get costs.

City Secretary Montgomery 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.

**L. Discussion and any necessary action regarding Open Records Requests (Council Member Tye)**

Council Member Tye asked that this agenda item be placed on the agenda to see if there is anything that can be done about the large number of open records requests received.

City Secretary Montgomery responded with the options the City has and explained the many ways citizens can work around those options. When asked, City Secretary Montgomery stated that the number of records requests received during the year depend on elections, "hot" topics Council are discussing and that at this time, there is not a need to hire someone to help with open records requests.

Discussion only, no action taken.

Council did not convene 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:

- M.** Section 551.071 Consultation with Attorney - pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offer or to seek advice from attorney
- N.** 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
- O.** 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
- P.** 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**

There were no future agenda items requested.

**Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn made by Council Member McCabe, seconded by Council Member Tye. Mayor Wilson adjourned the meeting at 9:12pm.

**Minutes approved the 8th day of April 2021.**

  
Jo Ann Wilson,  
Mayor



  
Shannon Montgomery, TRMC  
City Secretary