



Physical Address: 501 South Main Street

Mailing Address: PO Box 228

Rhome, Texas 76078

Telephone: 817-636-2462

www.cityofrhome.com | citysecretary@cityofrhome.com

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

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE RHOME CITY COUNCIL

Meeting Date: Thursday, April 29, 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 6:31pm. City Secretary Montgomery called roll and announced a quorum of Council Members present.

Council Members Present:

Mayor Jo Ann Wilson

Council Member Michelle Tye

Council Member Josh McCabe

Council Member Sam Eason

Mayor Pro Tem Elaine Priest

Council Member Ashley Majors

City Staff Present:

City Administrator Cynthia Northrop

Municipal Court Clerk Kristi Adams

City Attorney Carvan Adkins

Interim Police Chief Brody Brown

City Secretary Shannon Montgomery

Public Works Director Sean Densmore

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 made Public Presentations to the Council:

- Patricia Mitchell – Old Mill, Rhome, Texas
- Shirley Mize – Russell Street, Rhome, Texas
- Cathy Coffee – Mount Lane, Rhome, Texas

Announcements from Mayor and Council Members

Wilson stated that the Rhome Senior Luncheons are back, every Monday at noon at Martian Margaritas, please bring a dish. The Mayor concluded her announcements with the May Events:

- Saturday, May 1, 2021 – Election Day – Rhome Community Center
- Wednesday, May 12, 2021 – Special Council Meeting to Canvass the May 1, 2021 General Election
- Thursday, May 27, 2021 – Regular Council Meeting

Council Member Eason asked if Agenda Item R could be moved to Regular Session was met with objections from Council Member Majors. After consultation with City Attorney Adkins, Agenda Item R remained an Executive Session discussion.

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 April 8, 2021 (City Secretary)**
- B. Discussion and any necessary action regarding amending Section 1.01.001, "Adoption" of Chapter 1, "General Provisions" of the City of Rhome's Municipal Code of Ordinances (City Administrator)**
- C. Discussion and any necessary action regarding repealing Resolution No. 2011-02R (Mayor/City Administrator)**
- D. Discussion and any necessary action regarding Rhome Fire Rescue's 2021 CPR/AED Initiative (Fire Chief)**

Council Member Eason requested Consent Agenda Item C be removed from the Consent Agenda Item C and Mayor Pro Tem Priest requested Consent Agenda Item A be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Motion made by Council Member Majors, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Priest, to approve Consent Agenda Items B and D 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.

**CITY OF RHOME, TEXAS
ORDINANCE NO. 2021-01**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1.01.001, "ADOPTION" OF ARTICLE 1.01, "CODE OF ORDINANCES" OF CHAPTER 1, "GENERAL PROVISIONS" OF THE CITY OF RHOME'S MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE CITY'S CURRENT CODIFIER; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PUBLICATION CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion made by Council Member Majors, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Priest, to approve Consent Agenda Item A with the change of the adjourn time to 10:16pm.

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.

Council Member Eason questioned why Consent Agenda Item C was on the agenda and stated that it was odd timing. Mayor Wilson stated that the City Attorney stated that it needed to be rescinded.

Motion made by Council Member McCabe, seconded by Council Member Tye, to repeal Resolution No. 2011-02R.

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.

**CITY OF RHOME
RESOLUTION NO. 2021-07**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF RHOME, TEXAS REPEALING RESOLUTION 2011-02R; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Regular Session – Old Business

E. Discussion and any necessary action regarding holding in-person council meetings (Council Member Majors)

Tommie Eason – Mount Lane, Rhome, Texas addressed Council.

Motion made by Council Member Majors to return to in-person meetings with social distancing precautions. Motion died for lack of a second.

Regular Session – New Business

F. Discussion and any necessary action regarding amending Article 3.05, “Dangerous and Substandard Buildings” of Chapter 3, “Building Regulations” of the City of Rhome’s Municipal Code of Ordinances (City Administrator)

City Administrator Northrop stated, understanding Council’s desire to update applicable ordinances to resolve conflicting language, comply with state and/or federal regulations and to provide necessary clarity, in addition to their desire to address make Rhome safe and appealing place for residents and businesses alike, staff has, for some time been working on updating Chapter 3 Dangerous and Substandard Building Ordinance and this update clarifies the process and provides a clear procedure.

Council Member Majors shared that she was very thankful for this update.

Council Member Tye asked how this update will affect City buildings. City Attorney Adkins stated that there has been no determination of City buildings to be substandard and therefore not in violation of the proposed Ordinance.

Motion made by Council Member Majors, seconded by Council Member Tye, to approve the amendment of Article 3.05, “Dangerous and Substandard Buildings” of Chapter 3, “Building Regulations” of the City of Rhome Municipal Code 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.

**CITY OF RHOME, TEXAS
ORDINANCE NO. 2021-06**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 3.05, "DANGEROUS AND SUBSTANDARD BUILDINGS" OF CHAPTER 3, "BUILDING REGULATIONS" OF THE CITY OF RHOME'S MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING STEPS DEFINING SUBSTANDARD BUILDINGS AND CLARIFYING THE PROCESS TO DECLARE A BUILDING SUBSTANDARD; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PUBLICATION CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

G. Discussion and any necessary action regarding amending Chapter 5, "Fire Prevention and Protection", of the City of Rhome's Municipal Code of Ordinances (Fire Chief)

City Administrator Northrop stated that the amendments are updating language and reflecting/clarifying procedures and policies.

Motion made by Council Member McCabe, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Priest, to approve amendments to Chapter 5, "Fire Prevention and Protection" of the City of Rhome's Municipal Code of Ordinances 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.

**CITY OF RHOME, TEXAS
ORDINANCE NO. 2021-07**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5 "FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION" OF THE CITY OF RHOME'S MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES BY UPDATING VERBIAGE, REFLECTING UPDATED FIRE DEPARTMENT BY-LAWS AND CURRENT BEST PRACTICES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PUBLICATION CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

H. Discussion and any necessary action regarding Quarterly Budget Amendments for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (City Administrator)

City Administrator Northrop stated that the budget amendments presented do not affect the bottom line of the budget as there is no net change to the budget.

Motion made by Council Member Eason, seconded by Council Member McCabe, to approve the quarterly budget amendments for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 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.

**CITY OF RHOME
ORDINANCE NO. 2021-08**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF RHOME, TEXAS, AMENDING THE CITY'S DULY ADOPTED FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 BUDGET, AS AMENDED; REALLOCATING DESIGNATED FUNDS WITHIN VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS TO VARIOUS FUNDS WITHIN THOSE DEPARTMENTS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

I. Discussion and any necessary action regarding a Proclamation for Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week (May 2 – 8, 2021) (City Administrator)

Motion made by Council Member Tye, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Priest, to approve a Proclamation for Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week 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.

J. Discussion and any necessary action regarding a Proclamation for National Public Works Week (May 16 – 23, 2021) (City Administrator)

Motion made by Council Member Majors, seconded by Council Mayor Pro Tem Priest, to approve a Proclamation for National Public Works Week 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.

K. Discussion and any necessary action regarding a Social Media Policy (City Administrator/Council Members McCabe/Majors)

City Administrator Northrop stated at both Council Members McCabe and Major's request, Council authorized City Administrator to develop/present a Social Media Policy. Northrop provided Council with three separate policies:

1. 'Rhome Social Media Policy' - Primarily addresses City and City Employees (internal and external)
2. 'Social Media Participation Best Practices' - Primarily addresses best practices for Elected Officials (external)
3. 'Social Media Terms of Use Policy' - Primarily addresses Rules of Engagement for official City Facebook page (external)

and shared that all of the policies represent current and standard local government best practices as they relate to the myriad social media platforms, respecting free speech and promoting productive public engagement.

Council Member McCabe thanked City Administrator Northrop for her work and made a motion to approve the three polices as presented.

Council Member Majors asked if the policies could also include the appointed officials as well as elected officials and reminded everyone to stay positive when posting to Facebook.

Council Member Tye asked if there were any ramifications to someone that does not follow the policies. City Attorney Adkins stated that there is a big difference between employees and elected/appointed officials. City Administrator Northrop stated that these policies are setting the expectations for elected/appointed officials to follow. Council Member Majors asked if social media postings violated the Open Meetings Act. Adkins reminded the Council that the policies are not intended to circumvent the Open Meetings Act, rather set the expectations for all to follow.

Mayor Pro Tem Priest stated the policies are a great opportunity that brings a great value to the City and she's happy to have them in place.

Council Member Eason seconded Council Member McCabe's motion to approve the social media policies.

Council Member McCabe amended his original motion, seconded by Council Member Majors, to have the policies for both elected and appointed officials.

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 a facilities update and authorizing the City Administrator to sign a lease extension for City Hall (City Administrator/Mayor Pro Tem Priest/Council Member McCabe)

Mayor Pro Tem Priest emphasized the need for a plan to decide what is needed and how it is going to be accomplished, including funding for the needed repairs on all of the City's buildings.

City Administrator Northrop stated her understanding of Council's desire was to focus on the buildings needing improvements, i.e. Police, Fire, Public Works, etc.

Differing opinions were stated as to renewing another lease for City Hall. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Council Member Majors, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Priest, to allow the City Administrator to execute a lease for a one-year extension with an option for another one-year lease extension, if needed.

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.

M. Discussion and any necessary action regarding failure of the Mayor to submit a weekly report to the City Council (Council Member Eason)

Discussion as to why the Mayor has yet to submit a weekly report and what Council is requesting to be in the said report; no action taken.

N. Discussion and any necessary action regarding authorizing City Administrator to work with TxDOT to obtain Jake Brake signage along State Highway 287 (Mayor)

City Administrator Northrop stated that the City currently has an ordinance prohibiting jake braking within the city limits (Chapter 12.01.006). According the Mayor, the City of Rhome used to have (no jake brake) signage on both the northbound and southbound lanes of U.S. Highway 287. After contacting TxDOT, they advised they have no records that signs have been erected along U.S. Highway 287, however, that does not preclude future such signage. Essentially, there two requirements:

1. We must have an ordinance prohibiting jake braking – which we do have.
2. The City will be responsible to install and maintain the signage.

Upon the City’s submittal of a copy of the ordinance and a written request to TxDOT containing the specifications, which must be in compliance with TxDOT standards (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devises), they will review and we would enter into an agreement (Municipal Maintenance Agreement). The cost of the signage and installation would be approximately \$500.

Northrop is recommending, if Council agrees, to authorize the City Administrator to work with TxDOT and execute a Municipal Maintenance Agreement.

Motion made by Council Member McCabe, seconded by Council Member Majors, to authorize the City Administrator to work with TxDOT and execute a Municipal Maintenance Agreement.

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.

O. Discussion and any necessary action regarding Fiberoptics (Mayor)

Mayor Wilson stated she has been questioned multiple times about when fiber will be coming to Rhome.

Recognizing the private sector controls this and makes business decisions regarding expansion and fiber options, City Council and staff brainstormed different options.

Discussion only, no action taken.

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:

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

- R. **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**
 - Police Chief
- S. **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**
 - QT

Mayor Wilson convened into Executive Session at 9:03pm.

Mayor Wilson reconvened into Regular Session at 10:53pm.

Reconvene into Regular Session

T. Discussion and any necessary action as a result of Executive Session

Mayor Wilson stated that she would like Council’s confirmation of Eric Debus as the new Police Chief.

Motion made by Council Member McCabe, seconded by Council Member Majors, to approve the confirmation of the Chief of Police, subject to salary negotiations and successful completion of a background check, and authorize the City Administrator to complete the hiring process pursuant to the Executive Session discussion.

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.

Future Agenda Items


Mayor Pro Tem Priest requested a discussion about approaching TxDot to change the speed limit on FM3433 to 45 MPH.

Council Member Eason requested a discussion regarding an official determination that the City is in violation of City Ordinance regarding Dangerous and Substandard Buildings for applicable City-owned buildings.

Adjourn

Mayor Wilson, hearing no objections, adjourned the meeting at 10:58pm.

Minutes approved the 27th day of May 2021.


 Jo Ann Wilson,
 Mayor




 Shannon Montgomery, TRMC
 City Secretary