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Mayor
Michelle Pittman
Di Credico

City Council

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

Place 1
Josh McCabe

Place 2
Kenny Crenshaw

Place 4
Sam Eason

Place 5
Leeanne
Mackowski

**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 SESSION OF THE RHOME CITY COUNCIL

Meeting Date: Thursday, November 12, 2020

Location: VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE

MEETING START TIME: 6:30 PM

Call to Order and Establish a Quorum

Mayor Pittman Di Credico called the meeting to order at 6:30pm, called roll, and announced a quorum of Council Members present.

Council Members Present:

Mayor Michelle Pittman Di Credico

Mayor Pro Tem Elaine Priest

Council Member Josh McCabe

Council Member Kenny Crenshaw

Council Member Sam Eason

Council Member Leeanne Mackowski

City Staff Present:

City Administrator Cynthia Northrop

City Attorney Carvan Adkins

City Secretary Shannon Montgomery

Municipal Court Clerk Kristi Adams

Public Works Director Sean Densmore

Regular Session – Old Business

A. Update, discussion and any necessary action regarding latest developments for COVID-19 and mitigation efforts and actions within the City

Mayor Pittman Di Credico stated that Governor Abbott continued his suspension of the Open Meetings Act to allow for virtual meetings and that Staff is continuing to abide by the CDC guidelines to keep Staff and residents safe. Pittman Di Credico also stated that Staff has submitted the COVID relief fund reimbursement as authorized at the October 22, 2020 meeting.

B. Update, discussion and any necessary action regarding City of Newark Formal Request for City of Rhome to Relinquish Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) to Provide Water Service

Mayor Pittman Di Credico shared that she had received a request from the City of Newark Mayor requesting their portion of the CCN back. A request for clarification has been sent to Newark, we are awaiting a response.

C. Discussion and any necessary action regarding Final Report of Master Thoroughfare Plan

Brandon Forsythe, Kimley-Horn, presented the final Master Thoroughfare Plan, including costs, a brief history of the meetings, and addressed questions from Council.

Motion made by Council Member Eason, seconded by Council Member McCabe to adopt the Master Thoroughfare Plan, authorize the City Administrator to execute and to work with TxDot.

Mayor Pittman Di Credico asked for a roll-call vote:

Council Member McCabe: Aye
Council Member Crenshaw: Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Priest: Aye
Council Member Eason: Aye
Council Member Mackowski: Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Discussion and any necessary action regarding UTA’s Final Parks Master Plan

City Administrator Northrop stated that she had not received the final report, which was due by September 30, 2020; Northrop spoke with Alan Klein and he stated the report would be ready to present at the December 10, 2020 Council Meeting.

Motion made by Council Member Eason, seconded by Council Member Crenshaw, to authorize the City Administrator to work with UTA to receive final report.

Mayor Pittman Di Credico asked for a roll-call vote:

Council Member McCabe: Aye
Council Member Crenshaw: Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Priest: Aye
Council Member Eason: Aye
Council Member Mackowski: Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

E. Discussion and any necessary action regarding Final Report of Water Source Study

City Engineer Kyle Welden, Kimley-Horn, provided a final report of the Water Source Study to Council and stated the City has five different source options:

- Wells
- Fort Worth
- Upper Trinity
- Current contract with Walnut Creek
- Eagle Mountain Lake/ Tarrant Regional

Welden recommended to move forward with Upper Trinity as it is the most cost-effective option for the long-term.

Motion made by Council Member Eason, seconded by Council Member McCabe, to authorize the City Administrator to enter into negotiations with Upper Trinity.

Mayor Pittman Di Credico asked for a roll-call vote:

Council Member McCabe: Aye
Council Member Crenshaw: Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Priest: Aye
Council Member Eason: Aye
Council Member Mackowski: Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

F. Update, discussion and any necessary action regarding Water Rate Study

Kyle Welden, Kimley-Horn, provided an update to Council and addressed questions.

Motion made by Council Member Eason, seconded by Council Member McCabe, to authorize the City Administrator to continue to work with Kimley-Horn and Public Works Director Densmore on the Water Rate Study.

Mayor Pittman Di Credico asked for a roll-call vote:

- Council Member McCabe: Aye
- Council Member Crenshaw: Aye
- Mayor Pro-Tem Priest: Aye
- Council Member Eason: Aye
- Council Member Mackowski: Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

G. Discussion and any necessary action regarding Municipal Complex Project

City Administrator Northrop stated that the City has received the final deliverables from the project, final cost is upwards of \$192,000. Northrop stated since the bond failed, the City cannot go out for the same bond for three years.

Council Member Eason asked that Northrop request all final documents from Quorum.

H. Discussion and any necessary action regarding Certificates of Appreciation for Committee Members of Capital Improvements Advisory Committee, Parks Master Plan Steering Committee, Master Transportation Steering Committee and Comprehensive Master Plan Steering Committee

Mayor Pittman Di Credico expressed her appreciation of all members of our Ad Hoc Committees and listed everyone's name:

Parks Master Plan Steering Committee

- Tommie Eason
- Debbie Kuhleman
- Cathy Coffee
- Kaitlyn Dilts
- Candance Fitch
- Jonathan de Friess
- Tim McClure
- Fabiola Valdez

Transportation Steering Committee

- Steve Knight
- Mark Schluter
- Mark Lorange

Community Improvements Advisory Committee (CIAC)

- Steve Knight
- Ashley Majors

- Roland Kuhleman
- Thomas Cannon
- Christy Nerren
- Robert Coleman
- Jo Ann Wilson
- Phillip Herr
- Mark Schluter

Comprehensive Master Plan Committee

- Steve Knight
- Ashley Majors
- Tommie Eason
- Debbie Kuhleman
- Fabiola Valdez
- Christine Mahoney
- Cynthia Hurd
- Mark Schluter
- Jonathan de Friess
- Tim McClure

I. Discussion and any necessary action regarding Proclamation of Appreciation for Council Member Mackowski for Service to the City

Motion made by Council Member McCabe, seconded by Council Member Eason, approving a Proclamation of Appreciation for Council Member Mackowski for her service to the City of Rhome.

Mayor Pittman Di Credico asked for a roll-call vote:

Council Member McCabe: Aye
Council Member Crenshaw: Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Priest: Aye
Council Member Eason: Aye
Council Member Mackowski: abstained

Motion carried 4-0-1, with Council Members McCabe, Crenshaw, Priest, and Eason voting for and Council Member Mackowski abstaining.

Mayor Pittman Di Credico turned the meeting over to Mayor Pro Tem Priest.

J. Discussion and any necessary action regarding Proclamation of Appreciation to Mayor Pittman Di Credico for Service to the City

Mayor Pro Tem Priest stated it is an honor serving as the Mayor Pro Tem.

Motion made by Council Member Crenshaw, seconded by Council Member Eason, approving a Proclamation of Appreciation for Mayor Pittman Di Credico for her service to the City of Rhome.

Mayor Pro Tem Priest asked for a roll-call vote:

Council Member McCabe: Aye
Council Member Crenshaw: Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Priest: Aye
Council Member Eason: Aye
Council Member Mackowski: Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Eason made a few comments:

Wow! The things you've done for this city can't be measured. Let me attempt to describe them one at a time.

City Offices - You brought us processes, organization, automation and respect. Gone are the days of chaos, confusion, lost paperwork and "oopsy!". Everything has its place. Everything can be found. Everyone has become accountable. Reliability describes the city offices. Is there room to improve; of course, there is, improvements are always available. Thank you.

Police Department - Gone are the days of intimidation and bullying. Our citizens are moving back to having respect and trust for our officers. Thank you.

Fire Department - This is the incredible transformation. We went from a 100% volunteer crew that couldn't respond to all our calls to an expanded fire district due to superior performance. We have better equipment, better training, more volunteers and a reputation as one of the best, if not the best, department in Wise county. Thank you.

Planning for the future

- *Capital Improvement Plan*
- *Comprehensive Plan*

- *Water System Master Plan*
- *Wastewater System Master Plan*
- *Parks Master Plan*
- *Master Thoroughfare Plan*
- *Planning & Zoning Commission comprehensive review of zoning.*

These plans address existing deficiencies and prepare us for the future. Thank you.

Michelle, you've established a legacy of attention to detail, hard work, completeness, reliability and most of all trust. You've taken this city from a system of waste to a future of opportunities, growth and prosperity. No longer do businesses and developers pass us by; now they seek us out. The City of Rhome has a new reputation of trust. You have made these improvements and more while giving us the lowest tax rate in over 20 years. Thank you.

Personally, you have renewed my faith in public officials. You have demonstrated trust, faith, poise, integrity and love. You clearly love the City of Rhome. Thank you for everything.

I now make a motion to create a Resolution naming Michelle Pittman Di Credico "Mayor Emeritus"

Motion made by Council Member Eason, seconded by Council Member Crenshaw approving a Resolution naming Michelle Pittman Di Credico "Mayor Emeritus".

Mayor Pro Tem Priest asked for a roll-call vote:

Council Member McCabe:	Aye
Council Member Crenshaw:	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Priest:	Aye
Council Member Eason:	Aye
Council Member Mackowski:	Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

K. Discussion and any necessary action regarding Mayor Pittman Di Credico's Farewell Address to the City

Mayor Pittman Di Credico stated the following in her Farewell Address to the City:

So many thoughts and emotions are going through my head today. I appreciate this opportunity to address you publicly for the last time as the Mayor for the City of Rhome. It has been my honor and privilege to serve this community.

First of all, I want to say thank you to those citizens who have supported me for so many years. To those voters who have supported me through three successful mayoral elections in 2015, 2016 and 2018, and to those who supported me through this fourth mayoral election of 2020 which I have labeled as a "successful failure". This phrase "successful failure" comes from the Apollo 13 space mission. NASA and the Apollo 13 crew set out with a specific mission to land on the moon and had goals lined out to accomplish that mission. They worked hard to achieve those goals to ultimately complete their mission. But something life altering happened in the middle of their mission that redefined what their mission was. That mission changed from landing on the moon to the mission to just return safely home to earth and to their families. In the end, most of us know the history of Apollo 13 and that the crew made it safely back. It was then that the mission was called a "successful failure" because although they made it safely back, they did not complete the original mission to go to the moon.

I relate to this account of Jim Lovell and the Apollo 13 crew for this reason. While I have been successful through three elections to be your Mayor, this fourth election was my "successful failure" in that I was not able to secure re-election to continue with my original mission for this City and its citizens. My mission has now changed. My service to the City and its citizens does not end with this change. It only takes a different course than I had originally planned, and

honestly, that is okay. It is not sad, and it is not a defeat. Change is inevitable and change is a natural part of life. At 50 years of age, nothing in my life has gone exactly as I planned. And that is exactly what has made me who I am today. It is what makes us stronger and what helps us gain wisdom and understanding.

As I reflect on the wisdom and understanding that I have gained over my last 9 ½ years of service to this City through Planning & Zoning, City Council and as Mayor, I would like to highlight some of the things I considered the “successful” part of my mission.

When I swore my first Oath of Office as Mayor for the City of Rhome back in May 2015, I never dreamed, that first of all, I would actually be the mayor of a small city. Second, that I would continue as the mayor for five and half years without throwing in the towel. And finally, that I would be the mayor of a small city during an unprecedented pandemic.

But this is where I found myself along with every other city leader. We started this journey in 2020 with little to no information on what to do or how to deal with COVID-19. I cannot express the depth of my gratitude for the assistance that Judge JD Clark, Emergency Management Coordinator Cody Powell, Representative Phil King and all of the mayors and city administrators of Wise County were to me as I tried to maneuver the City of Rhome through the ever changing environment we had since March. It was through Cody Powell specifically that I became so familiar with the term “social distancing”. Thank you for being there for Rhome.

So, what has happened in Rhome in 2020 other than Coronavirus?

The City, its staff and its elected and appointed officials have been extremely busy for the last two years. The City worked in conjunction with the University of Texas at Arlington to completely update the City’s Comprehensive Development Plan which had not been formally updated since 1998. This updated Plan is now being utilized as the roadmap for decisions being made about Rhome’s future.

The City worked with our engineering firm Kimley Horn to complete many other important plans for the City including: Water Master Plan, Wastewater Master Plan, Master Plans for our Eastside WWTP and Westside WWTP. The City also finally adopted Impact Fees which will be implemented in early 2021. Construction on the Eastside WWTP Expansion Project is underway with completion expected in Fall 2021.

The City wrapped up work with Kimley Horn on our Master Thoroughfare Study which was presented to City Council at tonight’s meeting. This study has enabled the City to identify issues within our current roadway system and develop solutions for both short-range and long-range issues.

The City wrapped up work with UTA on our Parks Master Plan which was presented on October 22nd to the City Council. The Plan identified and quantified park improvements that many of our residents have been requesting over the years, and now we have a Plan to make that happen.

While all these planning tools did cost both time and money, they were well worth it and will benefit the City for many years.

Our latest Plan and its findings presented tonight as well is our Water Source Study. Based on the recommendations of Kimley Horn and approval of City Council on October 22nd, the City began discussions with Upper Trinity Regional Water District as a long-term water source for Rhome.

Why is this important?

Most of you know how critical it is that a quality water source supply is secured for many years to come for Rhome. Our residents expect and deserve this assurance from their City. It is also important because of the tremendous growth that has arrived in our little corner of the world with the announcement that Rolling V Development is finally taking off. One headline I read said 10,000 homes and a one-billion-dollar price tag. What I mentioned earlier about never dreaming that I would be the mayor of a small city? Well, I definitely never dreamed that I would be the mayor of a small city during a pandemic with a one-billion-dollar development to deal with as well.

What other successes have happened during my tenure as Mayor?

A property tax rate freeze has been implemented for those aged 65 years and older or those who are disabled. This property tax rate freeze took effect in 2020. The City should be proud of this accomplishment which helps our senior population afford to stay in their homes even with a fixed income.

The property tax rate for the last five year is the lowest it has been in 25 years. I charge this Council with ensuring that the property tax rate continues on the path it is currently on.

The shift of dependance on property tax as a revenue source has shifted with the huge increases that the City has seen in sales tax revenue. I charge this Council with ensuring that this balance is maintained going forward.

City Administration processes have been streamlined by implementing various software programs to help our city staff in efficiently completing their daily duties.

The police department and fire department both have a regular vehicle and apparatus replacement program in place that is being funded and followed each budget year. This vital program ensures that those who put their lives on the line for our community have the equipment that they need to successfully do their jobs.

The police department and fire departments both have training programs that have been implemented to provide ongoing education and training to some of the most experienced, knowledgeable first responders in Wise County. This is also a vital program that ensures those who put their lives on the line for the community have the training that they need to successfully do their jobs.

A City Administrator position has now been successfully in place for over two years. I no longer have to remind the City Council that I'm not going to be doing all this work for free forever. The City Administrator position is now a respected position in the City and in the local community. It mirrors all the other surrounding cities as our City Administrators collectively collaborate on problems and solutions that are common to us all. The City Administrator position frees the Mayor up to not have to handle minute details of daily operations, so the Mayor is now able to be the visionary figurehead that drives the City toward a planned and success driven future. The Mayor is the one who sets the tone in vision, in mission and in action. The Mayor is the oil that helps all the parts of the City work together as a whole and minimize friction. The Mayor's main job is to ensure that the laws and ordinances are upheld and to ensure that the will of the City Council who represents the citizens is ultimately carried out by the City staff.

So, what is on the horizon for me?

I will pass the torch on to the next mayor to carry on with city business knowing that in my tenure I was able to make a difference. As I noted earlier, although my mission has been changed, my mission to serve this community has not changed, only the capacity in which I do that. I will be working in the community as a champion for important issues in our future. You will continue to see me working to make a difference for all of you.

On a personal note, I am opening my own business finally and look forward to being an active part of the business community. Many opportunities have opened up within the last couple of weeks. I will be trading my once busy mayoral schedule for a new busy schedule that holds promising opportunities for me.

Before I close, I would like to thank some people:

I would like to thank the good Lord for giving me the strength and wisdom to stand strong as well as the blessings that He has bestowed upon me throughout my life.

I would like to thank my husband, Patrick who has only ever known me as mayor when we met five years ago. You will no longer be affectionately referred to as the City's First Man. You will just have to settle for being my Arm Candy at social functions.

I would like to thank my family, my kids, my grandkids and my parents who allowed me to give up time with them to serve this community. They never grumbled even when it was late at night, on weekends or on our holidays and vacations. They encouraged me to do what needed to be done without a complaint.

I would like to thank the Council that I have had the honor to serve alongside.

Council Member Josh McCabe – I have high hopes for you. You have served your country and now you serve your community. Continue on the path you have started, and I expect to see great things of you in the future.

Council Member Kenny Crenshaw – You have also served your country for many years and now you serve your community. I will forever remember your no nonsense cut to the chase disposition. You have taught us all the phrase that it matters when you “have skin in the game”.

Mayor Pro Tem Elaine Priest – You serve your community with great wisdom and a heart full of empathy and compassion. You told me once that phrase that has stuck with me. “Public service is a thankless job. You do the best you can with the things you know and the things you learn along the way”. Never lose the dream and the vision that we have set before this City. A vision is a powerful thing.

Council Member Lianne Mackowski – You and I have been given the opportunity to move on to other adventures. Although I am sure we will both keep a watchful eye on the City still as citizens. I look forward to watching your success with your business.

Council Member Sam Eason – Congratulations on your re-election for a third term with such a resounding number of votes, more than any other single candidate in this election. That says volumes about the high regard the public holds you in. You and your wife, Tommie, were present for my first mayoral oath of office and it has been an honor to have the unwavering support of both of you throughout everything.

A few more thank you’s and then I am done.

City Administrator, Cynthia Northrop – Thank you for coming back for your second day of work. You came on right before the chaos of COVID started and you stuck through everything. The City is fortunate to have you at the helm as City Administrator. I look forward to seeing the wonderful opportunities as you lead the City through into 2021.

City Secretary, Shannon Montgomery – Thank you for your hard work and your attention to detail as well as your organizational talents. You have helped to streamline and simplify so many processes for the City. I am forever grateful to all the assistance you have given me over the years.

City Attorney, Carvan Adkins – It’s funny that the lawyer turned out to be the one I got teary eyed about. Carvan, no matter what was happening with the City, I was always able to bring any problem to you with the assurance that you would give me wise counsel, help me to make a sound decision and do what was right for the City. Your character and integrity were obvious in the professional way you advised this City. I hold you in high regard and wish you all the best for the future. Continue to guide this City in the way you guided it during my tenure, and I will rest easy that you will take it from here.

To all the rest of the staff those current and former – I consider all of you like my extended family. I have laughed with laugh you in the good times and I have cried with you during the hard times. We were bonded together by our desire to serve this community and make it a better place. We have succeeded in that thus far. For those current staff, take it from here. I will cheer on your successes every step of the way.

I will now formally pass the torch on to those who follow in my footsteps. May God bless each of us, our City, and our Country. As the crew of Apollo 13 said when they were safely back on earth, this is Mayor Michelle Pittman Di Credico signing off.

Mayor Pittman Di Credico turned the meeting over to City Secretary Montgomery.

Canvassing and Swearing In

L. Discussion and any necessary action regarding the Canvassing of the November 3, 2020 General Election

Motion made by Council Member McCabe, seconded by Council Member Eason, to approve Ordinance No. 2020-20 as presented.

City Secretary Montgomery asked for a roll-call vote:

Council Member McCabe: Aye
Council Member Crenshaw: Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Priest: Aye
Council Member Eason: Aye
Council Member Mackowski: Abstained

Motion carried 4-0-1, with Council Members McCabe, Crenshaw, Priest, and Eason voting for and Council Member Mackowski abstaining.

**CITY OF RHOME, TEXAS
ORDINANCE NO. 2020-20**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RHOME, TEXAS, CANVASSING THE RETURNS, INCLUDING THE RETURNS OF ABSENTEE AND EARLY VOTING BALLOTS CAST IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, AND DECLARING THE RESULTS OF THE GENERAL ELECTION HELD ON NOVEMBER 3, 2020 RELATING TO THE ELECTION OF ONE (1) MAYOR FOR A TWO (2) YEAR TERM, ONE (1) COUNCIL MEMBER TO PLACE NO. 4 FOR A TWO (2) YEAR TERM, ONE (1) COUNCIL MEMBER TO PLACE NO. 5 FOR A TWO (2) YEAR TERM TO THE CITY OF RHOME CITY COUNCIL; PROVIDING FOR THE CONFIRMATION OF VOTE TABULATIONS; IDENTIFYING THE OFFICIALS ELECTED AND TERMS OF OFFICE; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF GENERAL ELECTION; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF THE CANVASS OF THE GENERAL ELECTION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

M. Discussion and any necessary action regarding the Canvassing of the November 3, 2020 Bond Election

Motion made by Council Member McCabe, seconded by Council Member Eason, to approve Resolution No. 2020-10 as presented.

City Secretary Montgomery asked for a roll-call vote:

Council Member McCabe: Aye
Council Member Crenshaw: Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Priest: Aye
Council Member Eason: Aye
Council Member Mackowski: Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

**CITY OF RHOME, TEXAS
RESOLUTION NO. 2020-10**

A RESOLUTION canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the bond election held November 3, 2020.

City Secretary Montgomery handed the meeting back to Mayor Pittman Di Credico.

N. Discussion and any necessary action regarding Certificates of Election, Statements of Office and Oaths of Office

Mayor Pittman Di Credico presented Mayor-Elect Wilson with a signed Certificate of Election and provided over Mayor-Elect Wilson's Statement of Office and Oath of Office.

City Secretary Montgomery provided over Council Member-Elect Eason’s Statement of Office and Oath of Office.

City Secretary Montgomery provided over Council Member-Elect Majors’ Statement of Office and Oath of Office.

Newly elected Mayor and Council Member Majors took their places at the dais; Council Member Eason remained at the dais.

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.

There were no Public Presentations made.

Announcements from Mayor and Council Members

O. Upcoming Events:

- **November 26, 2020 Council Meeting - Cancelled**
- **Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27, 2020 – City Offices Closed**

In addition to the events listed above, Mayor Wilson announced beginning Monday, November 16, 2020, Rhome City Hall will be open 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. Wilson also shared the Rhome Veterans Christmas Tree Lighting will be held on Saturday, November 28, 2020 at the Rhome Veterans Park.

Council Member McCabe shared that the VFW extended their deadline for youth scholarships to end of day November 15, 2020.

Council Member Majors thanked the Council for their service.

Monthly Staff Reports

P. Departments: Administration, Building & Development, Fire Rescue, Municipal Court, Police, and Public Works

Motion made by Council Member Crenshaw, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Priest, to accept the Council reports as presented.

Mayor Wilson asked for a roll-call vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Q. Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting Minutes

No discussion, no action taken.

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.

R. Minutes of City Council Regular Session dated October 22, 2020

Motion made by Council Member Eason, seconded by Council Member Crenshaw, to approve the Minutes of City Council Regular Session Minutes dated October 22, 2020 as presented.

Mayor Wilson asked for a roll-call vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Regular Session – New Business

S. Discussion and any necessary action regarding updating authorized signatures for bank accounts

Motion made by Council Member Crenshaw, seconded by Council Member McCabe to remove Michelle Pittman Di Credico from all Wells Fargo and Pinnacle Bank Accounts and to add Mayo Jo Ann Wilson to all Wells Fargo and all Pinnacle Bank Accounts as listed below:

2017 Tax Note, Series 2017	Interest & Sinking	Police Grant Account
2019 Bond Checking	Meter Deposits	Police Seizure Funds
Fire Dept Checking	Muni Court Security	Rhome Beautification Fund
Fire Dept Savings	Muni Court Tech Fund	Rolling V
General Fund Checking	Muni Court Title 7	W/S I&S Fund
General Fund Savings	Parks & Recreation Checking	Water & Sewer Checking
Hotel Motel Tax	Payroll ZBA Account	

Mayor Wilson asked for a roll-call vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

T. Discussion and any necessary action regarding assigning one council member without bank signatory authority to review monthly bank reconciliations

Motion made by Council Member Eason, seconded by Council Member Crenshaw, to assign Council Member McCabe to review monthly bank reconciliations.

Mayor Wilson asked for a roll-call vote:

Council Member McCabe: Aye
Council Member Crenshaw: Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Priest: Aye
Council Member Eason: Aye

Council Member Majors: Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

U. Discussion and any necessary action regarding virtual meetings for the duration of Governor Abbott’s State of Disaster Declaration due to COVID-19 and the temporary suspension of the Open Meetings Act to allow telephone or videoconference public meetings

Motion made by Council Member Eason, seconded by Council Member Crenshaw, to continue holding virtual meetings as long as Governor Abbott continues the suspension of the Open Meetings Act.

Mayor Wilson asked for a roll-call vote:

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

Motion carried 4-1-0 with Council Members McCabe, Crenshaw, Priest, and Eason voting for and Council Member Majors voting against.

V. Discussion and any necessary action regarding Expectations for the upcoming Transition Period with newly Elected Officials

City Attorney Adkins reminded everyone of TML’s reading material and Section 1.07, “Code of Ethics” of the City’s Code of Ordinances and suggested everyone read the information.

Motion made by Council Member Eason, seconded by Council Member McCabe, that only the Mayor and City Staff are allowed beyond the lobby door.

Mayor Pro Tem Priest asked if the motion could be restructured as the City Administrator is trusted to do her job to watch the traffic and ensure COVID regulations are being met; if there is a problem, she will bring it to Council’s attention.

Amended motion made by Council Member Eason, seconded by Council Member McCabe, allowing only the Mayor and City Staff beyond the lobby; with the exception of Council Members with an appointment, allowing for only one Council Member at a time, if it comes a problem, City Administrator can bring back to Council.

Mayor Wilson asked for a roll-call vote:

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

Motion failed 2-3-0, with Council Members Eason and McCabe voting for and Council Members Crenshaw, Priest, and Mayors voting against.

Mayor Wilson asked for Council expectations.

Council Member McCabe read his expectations:

As an elected official to the Council and Mayor Positions, we must always consider citizen comments, Board and Commission recommendations, staff recommendations, Council goals and priorities and our individual perspectives.

As a Council, we expect to receive recommendations from our Board, Commission and committees that reflect their individual and collective knowledge of the committee, mainly from a citizen perspective. The Council also expects that city staff will present recommendations from a professional perspective. There are times this staff, board, commission and committee professional opinions and recommendations may differ from our own and that is okay. These differences are inherent in policy formulation and of an organization, which welcomes diverse perspectives.

We have staff in place based on their knowledge, qualifications and experience. We need to rely on them to assist in a smooth transition that best benefits all parties. We must all be aware of our roles, whether elected or hired, and believe in the individuals to perform their duties to the best of their abilities for which they were placed in their respective position.

With that being said, there has been a lot of half-truths, ill words, and false information that was spread in the last election season by all sides. Due to all of this, trust has been broken amongst individuals, that being citizens, current council, and new officials. Now is the time that we set our personal opinions and differences aside and work together to rebuild that trust. We need to rebuild trust so that we can work together in the best interest of Rhome, not in the best interest of ourselves or the specific part of town in which we reside in. We as a council represent Rhome as whole, not our own personal agendas and not individual communities within our city limits and ETJ.

It is my expectation that we as a whole move forward in a professional manner that supports the best interests of OUR town. We can have differing opinions on many topics and we always do, it is about how we professionally and courteously work together to express those opinions and find a common median that suits Rhome as a whole. Let us work together, not against. For Rhome and for our residents.

Council Member Eason listed his expectations:

- Keep current hours of operation;
- No staff turnover without Council approval;
- Expects no organizational changes;
- Expects a weekly update on daily operations from the City Administrator

W. Discussion and any necessary action regarding identifying CPA firm to review and analyze City's Budget

Council Member Crenshaw would like to take bids to hire a CPA to create and manage the budget, charge the City Administrator to bring back recommendations. It was stated that Mayor Pittman Di Credico put \$1,000 in the budget for this purpose.

Motion made by Council Member Eason, seconded by Council Member Crenshaw to authorize the City Administrator to find a CPA firm to review and validate the annual budget, prepared by the both the City Administrator and Mayor. Eason would like this item be brought back to the January 14, 2021 Council Meeting.

Mayor Wilson asked for a roll-call vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

X. Discussion and any necessary action regarding New Plan for office space for City Hall, Police Department, meeting facilities for City Council, Municipal Court, Planning & Zoning, Parks & Recreation as well as Community Center facilities upgrades

Motion made by Council Member Majors to table this agenda item; motion died for lack of second.

Mayor Pro Tem Priest would like to set a date for Public Works Director Densmore to bring back a facilities assessment for Council to discuss.

A facilities assessment will be on the January 14, 2021 Council Meeting Agenda.

Council Member Eason asked that Mr. Densmore add asbestos to the list for both the community center and fire department.

Y. Update, discussion and any necessary action regarding upcoming proposed Ordinance amendments

City Administrator Northrop provided Council with a list of proposed Ordinance amendments that will be brought to Council at the December 12, 2020 Council Meeting. Northrop would like to place a quarterly agenda item on the Council meeting specifically for proposed ordinance amendments.

Discussion only; no action taken.

Z. Discussion and any necessary action regarding Ordinance removing the two alternate positions on the Planning & Zoning Commission

Motion made by Council Member Majors to leave Ordinance as is; motion died for lack of second. Discussion ensued regarding the Planning & Zoning Commission alternates and consensus was to keep Ordinance as is.

Discussion only; no action taken.

AA. Discussion and any necessary action regarding filling vacancies on the Planning & Zoning Commission

Motion made by Council Member Crenshaw, seconded by Council Member McCabe to appoint current alternate Kristi King to a seated position, appoint Sarah Has to a seated position and to appoint Michelle Tye as alternate #1.

Mayor Wilson asked for a roll-call vote:

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

Motion carried 3-2-0 with Council Members McCabe, Crenshaw, and Priest voting for and Council Members Eason and Majors voting against.

BB. Discussion and any necessary action regarding online Code of Ordinances services

Motion made by Council Member McCabe, seconded by Council Member Eason, to move forward with Staff's recommendation to move to Municode for its Code of Ordinances services.

Mayor Wilson asked for a roll-call vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

CC. Discussion and any necessary action regarding Solid Waste Collection Contract options for service

Brian Culhane, Waste Connections addressed questions.

Motion made by Council Member McCabe to move forward with Option 3; recycling and twice a week trash service; motion died for lack of second.

Motion made by Council Member McCabe, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Priest to approve Option 2; once weekly, curbside recycling and quarterly bulk and Household Hazardous Waste pickup.

Mayor Wilson asked for a roll-call vote:

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

Motion failed 2-3-0 with Council Members McCabe and Priest for voting and Council Members Crenshaw, Eason, and Majors voting against.

Motion made by Council Member Crenshaw, seconded by Council Member Eason to approve Option 1; no recycling, twice weekly pickup, quarterly bulk and Household Hazardous Waste Pickup with 95-gallon trash carts.

Mayor Wilson asked for a roll-call vote:

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

Motion carried 3-2-0 with Council Members Crenshaw, Eason, and Majors voting for and Council Members McCabe and Priest for against.

DD. Discussion and any necessary action regarding contract for Permitting & Code Compliance Software

Motion made by Council Member Crenshaw, seconded by Council Member McCabe, to approve Staff's recommendation to move forward with IWORQ for Permitting & Code Compliance Software.

Mayor Wilson asked for a roll-call vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

EE. Discussion and any necessary action regarding contract for City Hall Copier/Printer

Motion made by Council Member Eason, seconded by Council Member McCabe to approve Staff's recommendation to enter into a contract with Xerox for City Hall copier/printer services.

Mayor Wilson asked for a roll-call vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

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:

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

- Proposed split of City of Fort Worth Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) within Rolling V Development
- Amendment to Professional Services Agreement for Rolling V Development with PMB Capital
- City of Newark Formal Request for City of Rhome to Relinquish Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) to Provide Water Service

GG. 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

HH. 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

II. 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

Mayor Wilson convened into Executive Session at 10:09pm.

Mayor Wilson reconvened into Regular Session at 10:56pm.

Reconvene into Regular Session

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

Motion made by Council Member Eason, seconded by Council Member McCabe, to authorize City Administrator to negotiate with Newark regarding split of ETJ within the Rolling V Development and the formal request for the City to relinquish Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) to provide water service.

Mayor Wilson asked for a roll-call vote:

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

Motion carried 3-2-0 with Council Members McCabe, Crenshaw, and Eason voting for and Council Members Priest and Majors voting against.

Future Agenda Items

Council Member Eason requested the following future agenda items:

- Authorize the City Administrator to negotiate a developer’s agreement with Holly Parkway Development
- Review and discussion of the Powers of Mayor
- Discussion of City Hall Hours of Operation


Council Member McCabe asked for an ordinance review of agenda creation, Section 1.03.004.

Council Member Majors asked for Council to work together and be civil on social media.

Adjourn

Motion made by Council Member McCabe, seconded by Council Member Eason to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 11:12pm.

Minutes approved the 14th day of January 2021.


Jo Ann Wilson,
Mayor




Shannon Montgomery, TRMC
City Secretary