



**City Council Meeting
Minutes
Special Session
July 15, 2010 – 6:30 P.M.**

Rhome City Hall
105 First Street
Rhome, TX 76078

Council Present: Mayor Evelyn L. Obenour; Mayor Pro Tem Chris Moore; City Council: David E. Wilson, Jo Ann Wilson, Charles Pennington and Gerry McBride.

City Staff Present: City Secretary Ramah Burns, Police Chief James Rose, Public Works Director Preston Gilliam.

1. Current Year Budget:

Mayor Obenour said “the bank is closed”. She said she wasn’t pointing any fingers at anyone and they are all adults and they took an oath to take protect and take care of the city. She said it’s too late to say we should have asked more questions before approving the expenditures. Now they are faced with a budget short fall between now the end of the fiscal years. There are over projections on what the Police Department would be bringing in as far as revenues. The expenditures on the park are over budget. The community center wasn’t in the budget. She said they never intended for the Veterans Park to be completed in one (1) year. When she talked with the council in the Annex Building told them it would probably take three (3) years. We have gotten into this situation and it not just the police departments fault. At the budget workshop last year all departments were asked questions. The police chief as asked if the projected revenue was ok and he said yes. The police didn’t go over their budget in expenses. We don’t need the rumor mill to destroy what is good here. We need to stop the rumors.

David Wilson said it not going to matter if you cut expenses it revenues that are down. He said it falls back to the council. They need to monitor the expenditures and revenues. They didn’t anticipate the revenues being so low. The Chief patrols the street but he is under the gun to make sure his budget is within tolerances. If he needs to redeploy his officer’s to be where things are happening he understands. We need to keep him updated on expenses are x and your revenues are x minus. We can do it one of two ways, either revenue can go up or expenses can go down. How do you decrease expenses, you elimiate maybe a car, maybe a person. - whatever you have to do.

Gerry McBride said there is one more thing. The budget is a road map. When the department heads say they need something. The council doesn’t need to just ask is it in your budget but are the revenues there.

Mayor Obenour said the council budgeted for a new truck in the Water Department because he is using his own personal truck. She asked Preston why they needed to buy such a big truck.

Preston Gilliam said that was budgeted but they don't have to buy a large truck. The truck that Buddy drives is 15 years old. He said he told Evelyn that for now get another 1/2 ton truck, put tool boxes on it and get one with 4 wheel drive. That way they can pull the jet trailer with it. It would cost \$18,000 to \$20,000. When revenues go up they can look at a larger service truck. He said that would stop the city from paying him for driving his personal vehicle and put that money towards a monthly payment. She told Preston to start looking into it.

Preston Gilliam said when Reynolds Asphalt is here to resurface the railroad area and in front of the Veteran's Park it would save the set up fee of \$1,200 if they could look at other street problems in the city. He said there are problem areas in Crown Point and By Well Estates. He said they probably will go over budget on Walnut Creek.

David Wilson said they need to visit expenses and revenues at least every 2 months. He said it may turn around next year. He said it is a problem but they haven't gone crazy spending. He said it all comes back to them. He said they haven't done their do diligence on the revenues to make sure it was there.

Mayor Obenour said sales tax and permits are down.

Ramah Burns said the following are a few items we will have.

	2 months	5 months
Blue Cross	\$14,935.44	\$37,338.68
Legal	8,000.00	20,000.00
Wages	25,974.32	64,935.80
Utilities	12,000.00	30,000.00

She said this totals \$61,567.64 but there so many little expenses. Then we have street repairs. We also have \$49,000 due on the park equipment and \$7,200 on the lights. We also need to finish the concrete. Everyone said they think the concrete work was paid in full.

Gary McBride said they have \$62,000.00. He said for the next two (2) months we will need about \$200,000.

Jo Ann Wilson said historically she took what we have spent for nine (9) months and expand that to 12 months and it looks like we are spending about \$100,000 a month.

David Wilson said the bill from Evans Electric was \$6,600. The invoice was for \$7,284.76. He said part was things completed in the Veterans Park getting that mess straighten out. He said he is willing to bet that was close to \$1,000.

Mayor Obenour said this is a Municipality but it is a big business and they have to run it like a business.

Jo Ann Wilson said the city needs to maintain two (2) months of reserve money in case of emergency. We won't get any additional revenue except what the Chief brings in. She said we have \$720,000 to operate with until the end of December.

Mayor Obenour said this is where some of the concern has come in. It's dangerous to start using your savings.

David Wilson said it would be dangerous to use your savings until you turn around and put it back. He said to him if we need \$180,000 to operate with until the end of the year. You use that revenue until the end of the year then when revenues start coming in you put the money back.

Mayor Obenour said we will be making a loan to ourselves.

Gerry McBride said people should be looking around to the surrounding areas, whether it be Dallas, Fort Worth, Flower Mound, Newark or Bridgeport – they would kiss our feet if they were in the situation we have. It goes back to the administration here and past administrations to have this kind of a cushion.

David Wilson said there are a lot of people in a whole lot worse situation. He said when you get to the point where you have to lay off people in order to keep the lights on that's a critical situation

Mayor Obenour said she had a meeting with Heil Trailer's International and they are in the process of bringing all 200 people back.

Chris Moore said they have just started putting all of the trucks in for their yearly maintenance. They will have some equipment repairs. He said when the trucks hit a certain age they have to be pump tested.

David Wilson said one thing they might ask the Fire Department to do is to monitor the vehicle miles and the fuel used. If it's not a necessary run to go to a call – if the truck leaves the building they need to be going to some type of call. That's his way of thinking. The fuel that goes in the vehicle is used for what it was intended to be.

Mayor Obenour said it is harder for a vehicle to sit and idle and you need to drive it to keep them in good condition and ready when you need to use them.

David Wilson said no if you go to a wreck you leave it idle and if you go to the Dairy Queen you let it idle. That's fuel that could be used for something else. He said he has seen them down there.

He said he has seen them in Boyd. He said unless the truck is going to a mutual aid in Boyd that truck shouldn't leave the city limits of Rhome.

Chris Moore said one of the reasons they were in Boyd is for the gas to us Fuelman at the pump and it was cheaper or take a brush truck and go to Munn's.

David Wilson said another thing that comes to mine is if they pull the \$380,000 truck out on the road and someone runs a stop sign then we have a \$380,000 truck that we can't use. They are subjecting these vehicles to a situation that they may not need to be in. If they limit them leaving and going to calls then their doing what they suppose to be.

Chris Peek asked if they are asking them not to take a vehicle to go eat period or not to let them idle.

David Wilson said no, don't take them out period.

Chris Moore said if they are up there working they will take a truck because they have gotten calls from Tater Junction.

Mayor Obenour said the same thing is true on the Police Department and she wants the Police Department to pull in as far as going out in the county. She doesn't want the Police Department patrolling outside the City of Rhome, even your ETJ area unless you have to. If you are called to Newark or Aurora for a dire emergency that's different. She said our fuel bill is horrendous for the Police Department.

David Wilson said that's true.

Chief Rose said they stay in the city limits unless they are dispatched out.

Mayor Obenour said she doesn't want Newark to think they are giving them coverage.

David Wilson said he thinks the Chief understands where they are coming from as far how the vehicles and how personnel need to be deployed.

Charles Pennington said he thinks everyone needs to keep in mind we need to cut back where we can. If you don't need it, don't go get it because there are probably going to be some cuts.

Jo Ann Wilson said she knows they have two (2) new cars. Does he have any cars we need to get rid of and the automatic ticket writers? Are they using those?

Chief Rose said no there are using one (1) on the range. He said if they can get the automatic ticket writer's to work. He said every time he fixes one thing something else goes wrong. He said they put updates on. He will call Charles Porter to see when they will be finished.

Jo Ann Wilson asked if he and Officer Pennington are the only two (2) employees take cars home.

Chief Rose said no, everyone but Jeff and Robin.

Jo Ann Wilson asked they actually take their cars home with them and how far away. She said she doesn't agree with everyone taking cars home and the city paying fuel for them. She said she could see if they live within the city limits.

Chief Rose said if they had a major disaster they could all come in.

Chris Moore said they talked before about Thomas and not going any further.

David Wilson said he can take a look at the miles a day and if it's eight (8) miles a day that's not an issue.

Chief Rose said Stacy is 15 miles each way and Alisa lives outside the city. He said the benefit is they take better care of the cars.

Preston Gilliam said another option on the truck is Herschel and Steve that handle the city Scada System, have a 2001 Dodge, 1 ton cab and chaise, heavy duty with 85,000 miles. It has a flat bed on it with a goose neck. They also have 26' or 28' goose neck trailer for hauling the back hoe that they are going to put on E-bay for sale. They are wanting \$15,000 for both of them. He said that truck would eliminate from getting the 1 ton truck later.

Mayor Obenour said for Preston to have it brought to City Hall so they can look at it.

Gerry McBride asked if they all agreed to give the city a \$200,000 loan from the Savings account and to pay it back after the Property Taxes come in.

Ronnie Moore said he and Rebecca are going over the budget for the Family Park. He said they are afraid they will need to come back to the council.

Charles Pennington said when they started the park they said you can't go over \$100,000. Just make sure you get everything the State wants in there.

Jo Ann Wilson said for Ronnie to put the budget together and bring it to them.

Mayor Obenour said she will be in her office and for him to come see her.

2. Motion was made by Gerry McBride to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Charles Pennington.

Motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFICATION:

Passed and approved on this 12th day of August, 2010

Evelyn L. Obenour
Mayor

ATTEST:

Ramah Burns
City Secretary