



**City Council Minutes
Regular Session
August 8, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.**

Rhome City Hall
105 First Street
Rhome, TX 76078

Council Present: Mayor Chris Moore; Mayor Pro Tem Jo Ann Wilson; **Council Members:** Michelle Pittman, Louis Godfrey, Charles Pennington and Ronnie Moore.

Staff Present: Walt Leonard, City Attorney; Preston Gilliam, Public Works Director; James Rose, Police Chief; Robert Pratt, Fire Chief and Ramah Burns, City Secretary

Mayor Moore called the meeting to order and announce a quorum was present:

Mayor Moore led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizen Presentation and Public Input:

None

Announcements from Mayor and Council Members

Public Input

Jerry Taylor – First Responder – This will addressed later.

Deborah BeCraft – Parks – This will addressed later.

1. **Consent Agenda:** The items will be enacted with one motion. Any Council Member may remove any item from the Consent Agenda.

A. Approval of Minutes:

1. July 11, 2013 - Regular Session

- B. 2. **Approval of Check Registers:**
July 9, 2013 through August 5, 2013

Motion was made by Louis Godfrey, seconded by Charles Pennington to approve the consent agenda.

Motion carried unanimously.

1. A. **Department Reports: Staff Reports (No action needed.)**

1. **Police Department:** Jo Ann Wilson asked to discuss this.

Jo Ann Wilson said the dumpster's at Grandy's has had tires behind them for five (5) years.

2. Fire Department - Jo Ann Wilson asked about the fireman that left. Has the pager and shirts been turned in. Chief Pratt they are in the process of getting them. There are (2) two more people on probation.
3. Public Works –
4. Administration –
5. Parks and Recreation
6. First Responder – Jo Ann Wilson said she would like to see the County calls in their report each month.

Discussion and necessary action concerning the following agenda items:

2. New Business

A. Tap Fees

Motion was made by Michelle Pittman, seconded by Ronnie Moore to approve raise tap and sewer fees as follows:

Meter	In City Limits		Outside City Limits	
	Old	New	Old	New
$\frac{3}{4}$	\$ 900	\$1,500	\$1,800	\$2,300
1	1,500	2,000	3,000	3,500
Sewer Tap Fee				
	\$ 750	\$1,500		

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Carports

Jo Ann Wilson recommended that they give this to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Motion was made by Charles Pennington, seconded by Ronnie Moore to send this to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Use of City property – 10 acres by 4 wheelers

No action was taken on using the 10 acres.

D. Ordinance Review – Workshop

Jo Ann Wilson said they need to wait a month or two (2) after the budget workshop and October 1st.

E. Email Service Provider

Motion was made by Louis Godfrey, seconded by Jo Ann Wilson to set up an EarthLink email account.

Motion carried unanimously.

F. Public Works – use of personnel and equipment by City Employees.

Motion was made by Charles Pennington, seconded by Louis Godfrey to approve the fee schedule for use of city personnel and equipment.

Motion carried unanimously.

G. Pioneer Days

Deborah BeCraft said she has a Stage Coach and Gun Fighters which has been paid for. She included sponsor money in the income part. She said sponsors are on board waiting for us to get back with them. They need to rent the bounce house and dunking booth. Karl Klement's on board with them. If they will approve the budget they will caution on what they spend. The Gun Fighters are at the Fort Worth Stockyards. They received a video and you can see what they do. They won't have to rent porta potties with bathrooms in the park.

Charles Pennington said they will not close Virginia Lane or any streets at the Family Park.

Ronnie Moore said someone is offering to build something nice for the residents of Rhome. He has had some commercial buildings build for himself. He is going to pay between \$14,000 and \$20,000 himself. He said there is a big secret coming to town.

Mayor Moore said even though this is Park money we need to be careful and watch how we spend it.

Motion was made by Ronnie Moore, seconded Jo Ann Wilson to move forward with Pioneer Days and run the ads, have the parade on Main Street and Pioneer Days at the Rhome Family Park.

Motion carried unanimously.

H. Parks Bank Account

No action was taken.

I. Roof on Community Center

The City Council elected to wait a couple of months to have the roof at the Community Center repaired in the amount of \$1,800 - but to do it before the rainy season.

J. Red Brick – Senior Building

No action was taken.

K. First Responder position

Mayor Moore said right now what they've got to leave this alone. He doesn't see doing anything at this time. He said they need to watch these numbers and see how we are progressing.

Jo Ann Wilson said she put the First Responder on the agenda because the numbers that she got – Michelle Pittman came up with \$58,000 that she wasn't aware of. If we have a big deficit they need to make some hard decisions on a hiring freeze and First Responder. She said it appeared to her in the month of July they only had 6 medical calls between the hours between 8 to 5.

Ronnie Moore said he came up with eleven (11). He said that figures to \$265 a call. That's what it's costing the city. This doesn't include fire calls.

Louis Godfrey said a life is priceless. He wants to have someone here that can respond in 2 minutes than wait 10 minutes. We can ask those people involved in those calls what they think about it.

Mayor Moore said the object is to have somebody here whether it's for EMS, Fire whatever it is.

Ronnie Moore asked who he answers to during the day. Does he call you every time he leaves the city? We are paying him to be here.

Mayor Moore said no because he is allowed to run a Mutual Aid call. He said when you're paying a man then you want to know where he is. He said he has seen the truck in Boyd twice. He is being paid to be in Rhome. He said if he goes to pick up parts he needs to pick up the phone and call Ramah and tell her he is leaving the city.

Jo Ann Wilson said he could check in with dispatch.

Mayor Moore said he time they call dispatch it would result in a call. He said he and Chief Pratt run fire trucks for repair around 7 am so he will be back in the city by 8 am.

Jerry Taylor said they could hire two (2) part time employees with no benefits would average about \$25,000. That's less than ½ of what we are spending. He said the average pay for an EMT is \$12 to \$14 an hour. That would average about \$15,000.

Charles Pennington said if he is the only one here he doesn't need to leave the city limits because that's what we are paying for an EMT to be within the city limits.

Jo Ann Wilson said she has experienced two (2) situations: Both times the Fire Department arrived first then Wise EMS arrived 3 or 4 minutes later.

Mayor Moore said they made it through the budget crisis. He said he does communicate with him but every time he leaves the city.

Ronnie Moore asked if he was out of line wanting someone to check out when they leave the City of Rhome when they leave because we are paying them.

Louis Godfrey said they spent a lot of time and money on creating this position and they want to throw it out the window. They have solved the financial problem. He asked if anyone else that applied for that position had be hired – would they want to get rid of the position then?

Michelle Pittman said they all agree they are going to watch the money. She said why don't we sit down and plan the budget before we start talking about cutting jobs and making freak out and people will not want to work here anymore. Let's sit down and look at it. She said we have budget coming up – let's discuss it.

Mayor Moore said right now we need to move forward. He said from day one that this is a pilot program. We are going to monitor it.

L. Fire Department Incentives

Jo Ann Wilson said she thinks we should continue with the Incentive Program. She believes this will help Chief Pratt recruit volunteers.

Charles Pennington said he thought it was good and he thought we need to leave it in there. They can look at it on a month to month basis.

Louis Godfrey said he thought we should continue with it. He said the numbers right now support it and it could bring in volunteers.

Mayor Moore said he talked with the three (3) people that receive the Incentives and they had no problem giving it up.

No action was taken.

M. Rescue Revenue

Jo Ann Wilson asked if it would help if Ramah and Dana assisted Chief Pratt on entering data.

Chief Pratt said he is almost caught up. He said he has to negotiate with insurance companies.

No action was taken.

N. Police Cars

Louis Godfrey said he thinks the police officer's should continue taking the Police cars home.

No action taken.

O. \$500 Spending Limit

The city council will monitor the spending.

P. Hiring Freeze

Motion was made by Jo Ann Wilson, seconded by Louis Godfrey to put in place a hiring freeze until further notice.

Motion carried unanimously.

Q. Grant Writer

Charles Pennington said he would get more information.

R. Budget Workshop Date

The Budget Workshop Date was set for August 19, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

3. Old Business

A. Ordinance 2012-10 Membership on Fire Department

No Action was taken.

4. Recess to Executive Session at 9:20 pm convened into Executive Session in Compliance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code (Open Meeting Act) Vernon's Texas Code Annotated, As Follows:

A. Section 551.072 – Potential litigation – City of Aurora

5. Action was taken at 9:30 pm in Open Session on Item a.

Motion was made by Jo Ann Wilson, seconded by Charles Pennington to authorize Mayor Moore, Walt Leonard, and Preston Gilliam to move forward with the City of Aurora.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Future agenda items:

- 1. Speed limits on US 81/287 East Frontage Road from 40 mph to 40 mph and West Frontage Road from 40 mph to 55 mph.**

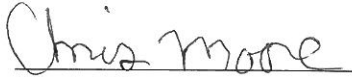
7. Motion was made by Louis Godfrey and seconded by Ronnie Moore to adjourn at 9:30 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

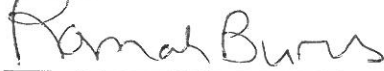
CERTIFICATION:

Passed and approved on this the 12th of September, 2013.



Chris Moore

Mayor



Ramah Burns

City Secretary