



**City Council Minutes
Regular Session
September 11, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.**

Rhome City Hall
105 First Street
Rhome, TX 76078

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

Staff Present: Walt Leonard, City Attorney; Ramah Burns, City Secretary; Sam Dorsett, Public Works Director; Brandon Davis, Police Chief

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

Mayor Godfrey led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizen Presentation and Public Input:

None

Announcements from Mayor and Council Members

Jo Ann Wilson said everybody knows today is 911. Everybody thank a 1st Responders. They went through a lot. She said that being said the Fall Festival is September 26th and September 27th. They can use all of the help they can get and they need generators.

Ronnie Moore said we lost a good member and citizen of Rhome this week Jamie Richardson. She helped out a lot with the festivals. She was a good lady.

1. New Business

A. TeleSpan Wireless Internet for placement on Water Tower

Mayor Godfrey said they are starting a new business and would like access on the water tower. There is a possibility of free internet service for the city. He said right now we lease spaces on the tower for \$350 a month.

Charles Pennington said he would like to work a deal with internet. He would like for it to include free public access.

Jo Ann Wilson said why don't they let them set up and see if there are a lot of complaints before we make a deal.

Mayor Godfrey said he would get back with him and let him know.

B. Maintain Easements

Motion was made by Charles Pennington, seconded by Jo Ann Wilson to maintain the Easements until January 1, 2015.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Professional web page and brochure to promote Rhome

Jo Ann Wilson said we need a brochure but you have to hand it to individuals.

Mayor Godfrey said a web master cost could range from \$6,000 to \$30,000. They look at it every day and make changes

Jo Ann Wilson said they can put this on the back burner. Maybe they can look at a brochure and bring it back to council when we have something.

Mayor Godfrey said they can add more pages to what we have already.

D. NISD Resource Officer

Charles Pennington said the contract came up for renewal and they have been working on it a month. We sent them the numbers. NISD has 177 days on their calendar. He said Ramah Burns and her staff broke down 9 months and sent it to them. He said they had a meeting with them 2 weeks ago which didn't turn out very well – the Police Chief and he met and it wasn't a very productive meeting. He said the Mayor and he had another meeting on Monday which went a little bit better but eventually when he saw the numbers it didn't go very well. He said they have about a \$10,000 gap between what we are asking for Officer Douglas. The city has been going in the hole the last few years on the SRO. Every time we send something to NISD they keep asking for more receipts and more paperwork. It cost the city \$55,137 for Officer Douglas a school year. NISD came into today with a figure of \$45,807. They took our 9 month figures and reduced them to 177 days. He said we aren't getting where with the Mayor, Police Chief and I. He thinks we need to give them a dead line. He said the tax payers should not go in the hole over the school resource officer. We need to give them a deadline and stop playing a cat and mouse game. He knows Ramah and Dana spent over a half day working on this the other day. We got the figures to them and that wasn't good enough. He said noon on Friday if they can't agree to

Walt Leonard asked how they distinguish between 177 days and 9 months. He said 177 days ignoring the issue of holidays is 35 ½ weeks which is close to 9 months as makes no difference. He said that is a false number.

Charles Pennington said Ramah and Dana figured the 9 months and sent that to them. They NISD sent it back with 177 days. They are telling us what they are going to pay for the officer. He said on Tuesday night a child got on the wrong bus.

He was supposed to go to Pettit School but he went home. He said he talked with The lady in charge of their security for the students at NISD. He asked her if she was aware of that and she said no, "that's not a big enough issue to make it to Central", is what she told him. He said Officer Douglas is watching over three (3) different schools one not in our city limits.

Walt Leonard asked if they addressed the fact that quite a few of the kids are not Rhome citizens.

Police Chief Brandon Davis said they don't have a problem paying Denton County \$800,033 a for three (3) officers. They don't even question it. There is no question for a School Resource Officer or the value of one. The citizens of Rhome pay school taxes and school taxes are through the roof. He said the kids don't get to carry book home they have copies out of book.

Mayor Godfrey said NISD budget last year their expenditures were more than revenue.

Jo Ann Wilson said the way it stands right now 5:00 pm tomorrow Officer Douglas goes home and doesn't go back on Monday morning.

Walt Leonard said in one of their letters they negotiated with his predecessor in February. He asked Chief Davis if he could find any paperwork. He asked if we added anything in for Court. Officer Douglas is a regular in our Municipal Court.

Chief Davis said no and there hasn't been a contract signed since 2008. He hasn't found anything that looks like a contract.

Mayor Godfrey said we tried to explain to them that kids are coming from New Fairview, Aurora, Newark, County, parts of Fort Worth and Haslet that this officer is looking after.

Jo Ann Wilson suggested we go back using the 5pm drop dead time and the council met and they over looked the court costs. The bottom line is what we come up with.

Mayor Godfrey said the starting figure with Trophy Club is \$54,000.

Walt Leonard said we should also request any documents they have on the Negotiations

Motion was made by Charles Pennington, seconded by David Wilson to add court costs to \$55,137.75 send that back to them and if we cannot come by 5:00 p.m. on Friday then we pull Officer Douglas until an agreement.

Motion carried unanimously.

E. Payoff NISD for ground storage and water lines

Ramah Burns said Katrina Blankenship with NISD figured the balance for the pay off of \$42,271.71. She was verifying the figures. Last year we would have received \$50,000 in revenue. She said Pete Chaney, CPA suggested last year to pay the balance off but the balance was approximately \$90,000.

Mayor Godfrey said it would be beneficial to take it out of savings and pay it off. Then the Water Department will be collecting 100% of NISD water bill and on late fees.

Motion was made by Jo Ann Wilson, seconded by Charles Pennington to pay NISD off the current outstanding loan for ground storage and water line and to pay it off with General Fund Savings which will be reimbursed at a later day.

Motion carried unanimously.

F. Engineer

David Wilson said Eddie Cheatham's son Derrick Cheatham – Eddie Cheatham's Engineering firm was bought out by Neil Schaffer out of Mississippi and Alabama just before he died. His son Derrick went with Neil Schaffer staff. He said he told Charles he would try and locate him to see if they would be interested in making the city a proposal.

Jo Ann Wilson asked if they were going to go with a major company or a small company – What is it we want the engineer to do.

Mayor Godfrey said he thought we should have an engineer on retainer that we can use as we need them – on a as needed basis.

Charles Pennington said let's look at a couple of them and see if it would be cheaper to do a retainer.

Walt Leonard said you can have a city engineer on a retainer or to do certain things.

Jo Ann Wilson asked what about Freese Nichols in Decatur. She said she knows nothing about them.

Mayor Godfrey said why don't we contact a few of them.

G. Building Official

Walt Leonard said Robert Lynn does inspections for the City of Boyd.

Motion was made by Jo Ann Wilson, seconded by Charles Pennington authorize Mayor Godfrey to enter into as needed basis with the best Inspector he can come up with.

Motion carried unanimously.

H. Fence the property purchased from J. E. Norman at Well #5.

Motion by Charles Pennington, seconded by David Wilson to let Sam Dorsett, Public Works Director proceed forward by getting Well #5 fenced off and the existing property if the money is there.

Motion carried unanimously.

I. Clean up Rhome

Jo Ann Wilson said this would be good before the Fall Festival.

Mayor Godfrey said probably Saturday and Sunday. It will be on September 20th and 21st from 9 – 5 on Saturday and 12 – 6 on Sunday and order 3 – 30 yard dumpsters. He said and Charles said they would go around and pick up for residents who need help. They are going to order 4 - 4x4 signs.

J. Restructure of Fire Department

Mayor Godfrey said this is bringing the Fire Department in like any other department with limitations. We can't bring them in as a Department without going full time paid department. This will give us control on some things that this governing body should have over. If we had to appoint a Chief right now they couldn't. It's a department but it's not. We looking to bring it in a bit more so this council can do more and make it a more productive department with a little more control a say.

David Wilson asked if there were any type of legal ramifications that Walt may need to pursue.

Walt Leonard said we have almost a unique situation. We have a fire department which consists of everything that's tangible, equipment, everything but they have no firefighters. The VFD provides the fire fighters but they have no equipment. For this to work the city and the VFD has to get along together. Recently the fire department had some personnel shortages and people stepped up and it's doing a lot better. He said they probably need to figure out some way to reflect the city supports the FD period. Most of the VFS funding is provided by the city. He sent a memo out a few weeks ago with various ideas. He said we would have to work out the By-Laws with the city will have input on a Chief. We could have a fully paid

FD but taxes would double or contract with somebody else.

Jo Ann Wilson said it seems like its working pretty good right now.

Mayor Godfrey said the only options we have, if restricting is to, amend the By-Law if they need to appoint a Fire Chief they would have more power to do.

Walt Leonard they will need to sit down. They re-did Chapter 5 a few weeks ago – a lot of it was out of date. He would suggest they sit up a Workshop with the Council and Fire Department – VFD to figure out rules they will all agree and operate under. Look at the By-Laws and Chapter 5.

Jo Ann Wilson said they did a Workshop on Chapter 5 and they did have fire people involved – except for Michelle Pittman there is no one else there. She asked if Mayor Godfrey if they still had a Membership Committee.

Mayor Godfrey said all applications come through City Hall, back ground checks are done – we handle the fast tracking there. If the back ground check is clean the application goes to the Fire Department if it doesn't they don't get the application he Committee and the red tape. The FD has a Membership Committee where they find recruits. The applications are then forwarded to city hall for a background check. He said once the application is process and they have a clean back ground that should be it. They should be allowed on. If their background comes back negative they aren't going to get on.

Chief Miller said he thinks they should have to talk with them.

Mayor Godfrey said yes they need to talk with them. If they have gone – now they have to go through the FD – Once they have passed everything we need people. Chief Miller can have a conversation with them and let them know what's expected of them. This is what you are going to be going through, do you still have the time and wish to be on this FD – if not then this is your chance to make exit left. Once we move forward from here you are required to spend this amount of time, this much training and if this city pays for your education – you will owe us. This isn't circumventing the Chief.

Chief Miller said the By-Laws state the membership votes the new members in.

Walt Leonard said perhaps they could have some sort of probationary or provisional membership. They can go on for a while and a certain point there is a review. Then they vote yes or no.

Chief Miller said they have a 90 probationary period. He said the least we can do for the new recruits is pay for their training of \$350. He said they needed help and they got it.

Charles Pennington said he was on board with that.

Jo Ann Wilson asked if Rescue Revenue was going back to the FD. She said it

never got to city hall. She said they need to do housekeeping.

Mayor Godfrey said there is so much to it. The ladies in the office would have to stop just to learn it and they are so busy with court now. What is happening in the FD is fantastic. They have more members than they've had in a long time.

They are going to look at the by-laws and Chapter 5 then choose a date for a Workshop.

K. Developers Agreement

Jo Ann Wilson said she didn't see any provision for Parks.

Walt Leonard said the law is changing very rapidly and there are a couple of things they need to keep in mind. The Developers Agreement you put in the external cost of the development like the need for parks generated by a sub-division or the cost of roads, utilities. On the other hand you have to be very careful about that. A lot of people were piling on neat ideas things that they can get from the developers. If you're going to do it you have to show the cost you are proposing are related to whatever the cost this development is creating.

Jo Ann Wilson asked if this was like impact fees.

Walt Leonard said it is very much like impact fees. Impact fees are a part of the mix. Under State Law impact fees are protected like for parks and streets. Those can go in under impact fees. If you have an impact fee system you are much safer from law suits although that's not absolutely certain. He said they talked about impact fees several times. It has really never gotten off the ground because it is a series effort. It's not cheap and requires 6 months or so to get it done. He said we need to have a Developer's Agreement and probably have Impact Fees attached into that. It's not a simple thing but we need to do it. It's clear we're getting very close to the point where the fact that SH 114 and US 287 run together.

David Wilson asked if the Sub-Division address that.

Walt Leonard said it says what we have to have – streets have to be concrete and so many feet wide. The Developer's Agreement goes hand in hand may also reflect like external costs usually handled by your impact fees. He said they have talked about it many time but have never gotten to do it.

David Wilson said maybe when we decide on a City Engineer that could be the top project right off the bat.

Walt Leonard said that would be an excellent thing to ask them.

Jo Ann Wilson said as she remembers before they have to have a board, a realtor and other things. You had to prove it cost so much per gallon of water, so much sewer. Then you have to redo it every two (2) years.

Walt Leonard said once you do it then you're safe to charge these things. It's an ongoing cost and not insignificant cost.

David Wilson said we may need to postpone any action on this until we get an Engineer in place and guide us in the right direction.

Motion was made by Charles Pennington, seconded by Jo Ann Wilson to Table this until an Engineer is on board and have them look at it and make recommendations.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Old Business:

A. Carports

Jimmy Johnson said he needs a definition of what want the carport to be built like. What kind of material. He said they have had this discussion before and they decided to put metal poles up, trim them out with hardy board. But now the city Building Inspector said that's not good enough.

Walt Leonard said to bring in plans. The Council will decide if it fits your house. Each case will come to the council. There is no way to say if you do X that will be approved.

Jo Ann Wilson said what she would like to see is a worksheet or guide – the first thing is bring your plans then it goes to the P & Z Commission. She said Ramah Burns will stamp it in and put a check list with it – then it will go to P & Z and if they say it looks good – when does it go to the Building Inspector.

Ronnie Moore said it goes to the Building Official after they approve it.

Charles Pennington said Jimmy Johnson and Nathan Robertson have been messing with this for a year now.

Jo Ann Wilson said she doesn't think they want them to pay an engineer to draw up plans. She wants to keep the property value up.

Walt Leonard said the Council and the P & Z will ultimately be the ones that decides.

Mayor Godfrey said they will work on the check list starting tomorrow. He said his job will be to enforce the ordinance. He can't change it because this Council makes the decision on how they want to do it. If you ask me any questions I'll tell you this is the way they want it.

B. Finalize working for contributor's plaque in Veteran's Park

Ronnie Moore said he has a question. On the Veteran's Park on designer – who designed that park?

Mayor Godfrey said Dan Kelly, Jr. and himself.

Ronnie Moore said you designed it.

Mayor Godfrey said he and Dan Kelly, Jr. sat down together and designed it.

Ronnie Moore said he didn't think so.

Jo Ann Wilson said what she would like to see ----

Ronnie Moore said he believes he and Danny Kelly designed that Park. He said he believes Charles Pennington helped. He likes to give credit where credit is due. He said then take my name off this.

Jo Ann Wilson said she would like to see the Veteran's Park Plaque ---

Ronnie Moore said Louis Godfrey didn't design the Park.

Jo Ann Wilson said just say whatever the names are that gave the \$1,000 which she thinks is four (4) and leave everything else off but maybe make a generic statement at the bottom – We wish to thank everyone for their assistance or whatever

Ronnie Moore said he wants his name taken off this plaque – the reason why is because Louis Godfrey didn't design this park.

Jo Ann Wilson said that is her recommendation. She would like to see the plaque in Granite. For lack of a better term Granite like you would see with a tomb stone where they can engrave in it and later on if Louis decides to give us a \$1,000 or Ronnie they can put their names on it. This way we're going to do what we said we're going to do. She said she didn't know about Dan Kelly Construction gave thousands of dollars of free construction – he did not write a check to the Veteran's Park. She said he never gave us an invoice. She said Greta Barradas gave the land which was probably worth \$1,000. She said these six (6) people would be proper.

Charles Pennington said his concern is depending on the size of the Granite will it hold to the bricks. Will the bricks support it?

Jo Ann Wilson said she would like to list the four (4) contributor's listed that donated \$1,000. We can then put - We would like to thank everyone else that did something. She would like it in granite. She said she will make some telephone calls. She asked the rest of the council what they thought.

David Wilson said it sounded good to him.

Ronnie Moore said that sounded good to him just make sure my name is nowhere close to that plaque. He said he worked a year in that park by himself.

C. Fall Festival update

Deborah BeCraft said they have 55 – 60 vendors. They looking for a source to get generators. They have music starting on Friday at 4pm and two more that evening. They will have something going on all day Saturday. They will have a pie eating contest. They are quite a bit under budget.

Mayor Godfrey asked if the parking was under control.

Deborah BeCraft said it was and they had volunteers to help.

D. Finalize Purchase orders

Ramah Burns said QuickBooks issues a Purchase Order. We just need a limit – \$250 - \$500.

Jo Ann Wilson said she thought they said \$250.00. She asked if they could we do it for 3 months to see how it works or 6 months.

Charles Pennington said let's not set a time. Let's start it and see how it works.

Mayor Godfrey said maybe until the first of the year and review it.

Jo Ann Wilson said Chief Davis is wondering down the road – we give Chief Davis \$ amount for his budget for this year. Can he have – you all don't kill me – can Chief Davis have a credit card with that limit on it.

Charles Pennington said Lord no, no, no, no!

Jo Ann Wilson asked Sam Dorsett when you were elsewhere did you have purchase orders or credit cards.

Sam Dorsett said they had purchase orders but it was only if you went to Buy Board to get something or if the purchase was over \$5,000. He said especially for the water department because he can buy one (1) part. In the City of Boyd they didn't have purchase orders. In the City of Grapevine they had purchase orders. They only had to get one if they weren't getting things from their warehouse.

Michelle Pittman said she wouldn't recommend it. It is a night mare to keep up with.

Jo Ann Wilson maybe he could have a level each month on a credit card not his whole budget.

Ronnie Moore said if we ever have a real emergency and Ramah Burns is not in town – who is going to help us – who’s going to help your department?

Chief Davis said I guess I can buy it myself and get reimbursed.

Ramah Burns said Louis Godfrey and Charles Pennington are signatures on the Account.

- 3. 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. August 2, 2014 - Special Session**
- 2. August 14, 2014 – Regular Session**
- 3. August 25, 2014 – Special Session**

B. Approval of Check Registers:

August 11, 2014 through September 8, 2014

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

- 1. Police Department**
- 2. Fire Department**
- 3. Public Works**
- 4. Administration**

Jo Ann Wilson said she didn’t see the incident report for the Fire Department.

Charles Pennington asked that Fire Department be removed.

Chief Miller said they have 16 members before they had six (6) members. They appointed Jason Neagle to Captain and Christian Collins to Lieutenant. That will be effective until December. The new members are Jason Neagle came back after two (2) years. The new members are Robert Gillock, Charles Pennington, Ross Pennington, Tim Robison, Chase Brown, Ty West and Darrell Fitch. Out of those new members – two (2) are experienced paramedics.

They went from two (2) or three (3) people running calls to five (5) to eight (8) showing up. They still are having training every Monday.

He said it is going to take a little time.

Charles Pennington said everything is coming together real good.

Motion was made by David Wilson, seconded by Charles Pennington to accept the consent agenda.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Future agenda items:

David Wilson said he has been approached by the Library Board. They want to make a presentation to the City Council for sometime of funding so they can qualify for grants. He showed a contract that the City of Chico has. He said that's not what they want. He said Chico is not a city owned Library. It's a private owned Library similar to ours.

David Wilson said he has one question he needs to direct to Walt Leonard. I asked to have Personnel on the agenda and you said take it off.

Walt Leonard said there is a rule that we have to be more specific. If it's personnel salary levels, rules and procedures.

David Wilson said he has that has been on the agenda several times.

Walt Leonard said they have asked if it was a general thing and you said yes. So that was okay. But if you want something more specific – we need to be more specific. He said just give me a ring and we can figure out something that it fits under.

David Wilson said he was a little put out that it got taken off without his knowledge till after the fact. He said he didn't know it wasn't on there until it was too late to do anything. It's been on there several other times.

Walt Leonard said Personnel by its self the Attorney General said it could be an issue. As long as it doesn't focus on any one person – a general situation you could problems do it. If it's anyone in particular then we need to say what it is.

Ronnie Moore asked who contacted you to take it off.

Ramah Burns said Walt Leonard called and Mayor Godfrey about Personnel.

David Wilson said the question he had was this has never come up before and it has been on there. It was just a general discussion of personnel. It was on the agenda as Personnel.

Walt Leonard said he asked what it was about and it was a general discuss would fit under the general rules – but if it was something more focused then there would need to be more. Just give me a ring.

David Wilson said he didn't know if it was his place to call you. If there is a problem with the agenda it's your place to call me because I'm the one that wanted it on there - that's more of an issue. Because he didn't know anything about it until it was too late to put it back on there or make a big deal about it. I have a right if I put it on there then I have a reason behind it and it's not just in general and if it's going to be taken off I would like to know why.

Walt Leonard said for him to give him a ring or he wants him to he will give David Wilson a ring.

David Wilson said if you see something I'm doing wrong or if it needs further information he thinks Walt should let him know.

7. Motion was made by David Wilson adjourn at 9:22 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

CERTIFICATION:

Passed and approved on this the 9th of October, 2014.

Louis Godfrey
Mayor

Ramah Burns
City Secretary