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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, May 28, 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 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 Attorney Carvan Adkins
City Administrator Cynthia Northrop

City Secretary Shannon Montgomery
Public Works Director Sean Densmore

Public Presentations and Input

No public presentations were made.

Announcements from Mayor and Council Members

Mayor Pittman Di Credico made the following announcements:

- City Hall will reopen on Monday, June 15 with the hours of 8am until 2pm with only one person in the lobby at a time.
- June 2020 Meetings include the following:
 - June 4 Parks and Recreation Board Meeting has been cancelled
 - June 8 Special Planning & Zoning Commission meeting at 6pm will be a virtual meeting
 - June 11 City Council Meeting at 6:30pm will be a virtual meeting
 - June 25 City Council Meeting at 6:30pm will be an in-person meeting with COVID-19 provisions in place
 - Municipal Court will tentatively re-open in July, also with COVID-19 provisions in place
- Staff will be presenting the preliminary budget to Council Meeting on June 11 to receive input from the Council

Consent Agenda

A. Minutes of City Council Regular Session Minutes dated May 14, 2020

City Attorney Adkins advised Council that the appointment of municipal court judges must be performed by Ordinance and asked that this item be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Pittman Di Credico asked for a vote for Consent Agenda Item A.

Motion made by Council Member McCabe, seconded by Council Member Eason, to approve consent agenda item A as presented.

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.

B. Ratify Appointment of Municipal Court Judges

City Attorney Carvan stated that if the Council so chooses, they can make a motion approving the appointment of the municipal court judges while giving Staff the authority to draft an Ordinance using the terms and compensation stated in the proposed agreement in the agenda packet.

Motion made by Council Member Eason, seconded by Council Member Mackowski, approving an ordinance appointing the municipal court judge and alternate judge with the compensation stated in the proposed agreement.

Mayor Pittman Di Credico called 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 ORDINANCE NO. 2020-12

AN ORDINANCE APPOINTING A JUDGE AND ALTERNATE JUDGES OF THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF RECORD THE CITY OF RHOME, AND ESTABLISHING A SALARY FOR SUCH TERM

Regular Agenda – Old Business

C. Discussion and any necessary action regarding Eastside Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion including design and bidding

Mayor Pittman Di Credico stated that this agenda item is to allow the Council to make a decision on which design they would like to move forward with – the small or larger design. Di Credico stated that the City Engineers are here to provide background and answer any questions prior to Council making their decision.

Kyle Kubista, Kimley-Horn, stated his team designed both options and stated that the smaller design will also help resolve flow issues.

Kyle Welden, Kimley-Horn, provided a time line of the proposed project:

- Begin working on TCEQ Permit in June, completion in July
- Bid Project in August
- Award Bid in November
- Start Construction January 2021, with completion end of 2023

Kimley-Horn continued by stating that the larger design is out of the current price range; while the smaller design would allow for cost savings. The cost savings may be used to address other issues at the wastewater treatment plant, such as clay pipe replacement.

Motion made by Council Member Crenshaw, seconded by Council Member McCabe, to authorize the Mayor to proceed with the smaller design and comeback to Council to discuss what projects can be done with the proposed cost savings at a later date.

Mayor Pittman Di Credico called 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. Update, discussion and any necessary action regarding Municipal Complex Renovation Project

Mayor Pittman Di Credico stated that this is just an update and that Kim Dowdy, with Quorum will be at the June 11 Council Meeting with a cost estimate and a finished design plan at the end of September. Di Credico also stated that the target to complete construction would be the end of 2021.

Di Credico shared that Quorum is proposing an upfront demo to better check for any unforeseen issues.

Council Member Eason stated he has concerns regarding a cost projection in June and a final design in September; he is not confident that the cost projection would be accurate if it is completed before the final design is submitted. Mayor Pro Tem Priest shared Eason's concerns and requested final numbers in June to aid with the budgeting process.

No action taken, discussion only.

E. Discussion and any necessary action regarding rescinding approval of Amendment to Agreement with Monarch Utilities I, L.P. for water services and related fees (approved at the December 12, 2019 Meeting)

Mayor Pittman Di Credico stated that Council approved a legal reviewed Amendment to the Agreement with Monarch Utilities I. L.P. for water services and related fees at December 12, 2019 Council Meeting. The City has heard nothing from Monarch Utilities and would like to rescind the proposed amendment at this time.

Motion made by Council Member Eason, seconded by Council Member Mackowski, to rescind the proposed agreement at this time.

Mayor Pittman Di Credico called 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.

Regular Agenda – New Business

F. Discussion and any necessary action regarding partnering with Wise County and other local municipalities for grant program for local businesses affected by COVID-19

Mayor Pittman Di Credico shared that Wise County Jude Clark and Wise County Emergency Management Coordinator Cody Powell proposed a grant program for local business affected by COVID-19 to the Wise County Mayors. Di Credico introduced Cody Powell, Wise County Emergency Management Coordinator, and asked Mr. Powell to explain the program to the Council.

Powell stated that the CARES Act established funding for local governments and explained that the allocation nets to approximately \$55 per capital, thus allowing cities to draw twenty percent of the total allocation up front, which can be used to provide economic development relief to small businesses affected by COVID-19.

Powell continued by stating that there are seven non-profits and 173 businesses within Wise County that could potentially apply for this grant. If each city contributes, that would be \$3000 for each business.

Mayor Pittman Di Credico stated that the City's portion would be \$21,263.

Council Member Eason stated that the City of Rhome currently has seven businesses that would be able to apply for the grant and asked how would this grant be advertised.

Powell anticipates wide spread public announcements, cities will be able to spread the word to local businesses.

Di Credico stated that the county has been paying for the city's PPEs and that the County has helped other cities in this regard.

Motion made by Council Member Crenshaw, seconded by Council Member McCabe, to partner with Wise County to allow Wise County to administrator the grant as Rhome does not have the staff.

Powell ensured that there would be no double-dipping, businesses would not be allowed to participate if they have received federal funding.

Mayor Pittman Di Credico called 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 training for elected and appointed officials as well as staff

Council Member Eason stated that his goal, with requesting this item was to ensure checks and balances, that the "good ole boy" mentality was no longer being used, and requested required training for elected and appointed staff.

City Attorney Adkins stated that there is required training, such as the open meetings act and public information act training. Adkins also stated that current councils could not mandate future councils. Adkins also mentioned the newly elected officials TML training.

City Administrator Northrop stated that TML training could be more expensive and offered alternative training methods, such as webinars, include dedicated training agenda items throughout the year. Northrop stated she and City Attorney Adkins could put a calendar together for training.

Council Member Eason requested either an ordinance or resolution requiring bare minimum training to be drafted.

Adkins stated that a training resolution would be more appropriate.

Mayor Pro Tem Priest liked the idea of training be held during the Council meetings as this would educate both the Council and the citizens attending.

Motion made by Council Member Eason, seconded by Council Member Mackowski, to authorize Staff to draft a resolution for training setting city policy with periodic training not less than three times a year.

Eason also asked that TML webinars be provided to Council and citizens.

Mackowski stated that as the city grows, city administration will become more complex and training will become even more important.

Mayor Pittman Di Credico stated that staff will also be relied on more to help train the elected and appointed officials and staff needs to continue their training.

Mayor Pittman Di Credico called 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.

H. Discussion and any necessary action regarding selecting mayor pro tem for one-year term and updating authorized signatures for bank accounts

Motion made by Council Member Eason, seconded by Council Member Mackowski, to nominate Council Member Priest to continue serving as the Mayor Pro Tem.

Mayor Pittman Di Credico called 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.

I. Discussion and any necessary action regarding assigning one non-signatory council member to review and approve monthly bank reconciliations

Motion made by Council Member Eason, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Priest, to continue having non-signatory Council Member Mackowski review and approve monthly bank reconciliations.

Mayor Pittman Di Credico called 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.

J. Discussion and any necessary action regarding Ordinance amending Section 8.08.032 and Section 8.08.033 of the Code of Ordinances

City Administrator Northrop stating this item was a house cleaning item; the Municipal Judge, not City Council, should be the source for the hearing.

City Attorney Adkins agreed, stated that this is an unnecessary burden on Council and the municipal judge is more appropriate.

Motion made by Council Member McCabe, seconded by Council Member Eason, to approve an ordinance amending Section 8.08.032 and Section 8.08.033 of the Code of Ordinances.

Mayor Pittman Di Credico called 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
ORDINANCE NO. 2020-11**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF RHOME AMENDING SECTIONS 8.08.032, "ORDER TO REMOVE VEHICLE ON PRIVATE PROPERTY" AND 8.08.033, "ORDER TO REMOVE VEHICLE ON PUBLIC PROPERTY" OF DIVISION 2, "JUNKED VEHICLES" OF ARTICLE 8.08, "JUNKED OR ABANDONED VEHICLES AND OTHER ABANDONED PROPERTY" OF CHAPTER 8. "OFFENSES AND NUISANCES" OF THE CITY OF RHOME CODE OF ORDINANCES TO REPEAL SECTIONS 8.08.032(A)(5) AND 8.08.033(A)(5); PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

K. Discussion and any necessary action regarding annual review of city contracts as part of the 2020-2021 fiscal year budget planning process

Mayor Pittman Di Credico and City Administrator Northrop provided that Staff will be looking at the following contracts to see if there are better options – copiers, internet/phones, and garbage/trash collection.

Northrop does not recommend renewing CodeRED; Council Members Mackowski and Crenshaw agree, CodeRED should not be renewed.

Council Member Crenshaw asked that the Walnut Creek contract be reviewed.

Council Member McCabe agreed that the Waste Connections contract be reviewed and also requested looking at options of utilizing the 96-gallon trash cans that would not be blown all over the street.

Adjourn

Motion made by Council Member McCabe, seconded by Council Member Mackowski, to adjourn.

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

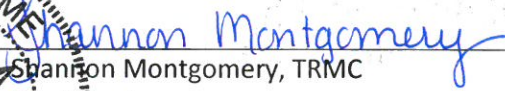
Council Member McCabe:	Aye
Council Member Crenshaw:	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Priest:	Aye
Council Member Eason	Aye
Council Member Mackowski:	Aye

Motion carried unanimously; meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Minutes approved the 11th day of June 2020.


Michelle Pittman Di Credico,
Mayor




Shannon Montgomery, TRMC
City Secretary