



Physical Address: 501 South Main Street

Mailing Address: PO Box 228

Rhome, Texas 76078

Telephone: 817-636-2462

[www.cityofrhome.com](http://www.cityofrhome.com) | [citysecretary@cityofrhome.com](mailto:citysecretary@cityofrhome.com)

Mayor  
Patricia Mitchell

City Council

Mayor Pro-Tem,  
Place 1  
Josh McCabe

Place 2  
Michelle Tye

Place 3  
Elaine Priest

Place 4  
Kathy Konegni

Place 5  
Kasey Shumake

City  
Administrator  
Amanda DeGan

City Attorney  
Carvan Adkins

City Secretary  
Shaina Odom

Fire Chief  
Scott Estes

Police Chief  
Eric Debus

Public Works  
Director

## MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE RHOME CITY COUNCIL

Meeting Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023

Regular Session: 6 p.m.

**Meeting Location:** Rhome Community Center, 261 North School Road, Rhome, TX 76078

**LIVE Streaming:** In an effort to be as accessible as possible, we may Live Stream the meeting using GoToMeeting from your computer or phone.

### Regular Session: 6 pm

Mayor Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6 pm

### Call to Order and Establish a Quorum

Invocation – Pastor Heath Van Zandt

Pastor Heath Van Zandt led the Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag

*Honor the Texas Flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, One state under God, One and indivisible*

### Public Comments

1. *The Council is not permitted to take action on or discuss any comments made to the Council at this time concerning an item not listed on the agenda. However, a Council Member or Mayor may make a statement of fact regarding the item, make a statement concerning the policy regarding the item and/or may propose that the item be placed on a future agenda or direct the City Administrator to contact the individual to address. If you are attending the meeting via Live Streaming, and you would like to make a Public Comment, you must email the City Secretary at [citysecretary@cityofrhome.com](mailto:citysecretary@cityofrhome.com) prior to 4 pm on the day of meeting and must identify each subject you plan to present to be recognized.*
2. *If the writer of a Public Comment is unable to read their own comment, it should be given to a friend, family member, or associate, that is able to attend in person and read the statement in their stead.*
3. *Public Comments made in person require the speaker to submit the sign-up form to the City Secretary prior to the meeting, and the form must identify each subject the speaker plans to present.*
4. *A statement of no more than 3 minutes may be made. There will be no yielding of time to another person. Comments should be directed to the entire Council, not individual members. Engaging in verbal attacks, or comments intended to insult, abuse, malign, or slander any individuals shall be cause for termination of time privileges and removal from Council Chambers.*

- *Deborah BeCraft – spoke on social media and the audit*
- *Sam Eason – supported the statement of K. Konegni*
- *Lisa Wilson thru JoAnn Wilson – spoke on social media and the posts*
- *Ashley Majors – thanked Council Member Priest for her service, gave Council a handout, and spoke on the social media policy*
- *Donna DeGarmo – spoke on the professionalism in government, would like to see signs of new people running for office, possible a debate where the issues were explained and discussed*
- *JoAnn Wilson – spoke on social and negativity and the non-city Easter Egg event*

### **Announcements from Mayor and Council Members**

- City Council Meeting April 20, 2023 @ 6 pm.

Mayor Mitchell stated she had a few items to discuss:

1. Easter Egg Hunt – she specifically thanked the families and individuals who had been involved in making the event happen.
2. Social Media Policy – discussed that the City had a social media policy and the negativity that is being posted online recently was an issue. She stated the three (3) policies had been approved and that one was amended to include elected officials in the policy.

Council Member McCabe had an announcement:

1. Debt for Rhome – he had handouts for Council that indicated the debt for the City had been reported incorrectly. Mr. McCabe stated that the last audit report from FY 2021 stated the official statement of debt for Rhome, according to the Management, Discussion and Analysis (MDA), was \$3.9 million.

Council Member Shumake announced:

1. Medal of Honor Motorcade – he will be leading the Medal of Honor Motorcade on April 19<sup>th</sup> from DFW Airport to Gainesville. He stated he has been a part of this event for many years and was welcoming any resident who would like to ride in the motorcade to contact him for details.

### **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.*

1. Minutes of City Council Regular Session dated March 23, 2023 – tabled until April 20, 2023 meeting
2. 2006 Fuel and Gas Code update **(City Administrator)**
3. Sale of Old Brush Truck **(City Administrator)**

Mayor Mitchell asked that the Fuel and Gas Code and the Old Brush Truck be pulled for questions. Staff and the City Attorney explained that the update to the Fuel and Gas Code were routine business and cities often adopt these updates in order to keep up with latest standards. Chief Estes spoke on the sale of the old brush truck and the grant that we have to obtain a new large chassis truck, which will require another skid unit for the back that fits this frame.

Council Member McCabe made a motion made to approve the consent agenda items. Council Member Tye seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Monthly Staff Reports and Board Minutes**

*All items under this section are for informational purposes only; no action will be taken by Council.*

1. Departments: Administration, Building & Development, Fire Rescue, Municipal Court, Police and Public Works (Department Heads).

## **Regular Agenda**

### **Discussion and any necessary action for the following:**

1. Recognition of SHINE Recipient for the Second Quarter of FY 22-23 (**City Administrator**)  
Police Chief Debus read the nomination narrative and provided Council with an overview of SHINE Award. Office Hachtel was present to receive the award and be recognized for service that goes above and beyond.

2. Resignation of Place 4 Council Member – K. Konegni (**City Administrator**)

Discussion took place on the format and signature of K. Konegni and her resignation from the Place 4 Council Member seat. Mayor Mitchell conveyed that the Secretary of State's office had direction that the resignation needed to be in writing and signed by the person vacating the seat. City Administrator DeGan provided the Mayor and Council with the printed copy of the resignation notice with K. Konegni's signature. The City Attorney stated that her notice was sufficient for Council to accept her resignation. Mayor Mitchell stated the resignation should be in writing and signed and believe the document that was handed out was insufficient. City Administrator DeGan stated the Mrs. Konegni's resignation was in the same format as Mr. Meehan's, from earlier this year. Mayor Mitchell restated that she felt it should be hand written and signed. Council Member McCabe commented that this wasn't required of Mr. Meehan and it was accepted without opposition. Discussion then ensued with the City Attorney that Council may not refuse to accept a resignation and that Ms. Konegni's resignation could be accepted by Council at the Thursday meeting.

Motion made by Council Member Priest to accept Ms. Konegni's resignation. This was seconded by Council Member Tye. Approved unanimously.

3. Event for Public Safety sponsored by business owner and maintaining flag poles at Old City Hall (**City Administrator**)

Tabled until the meeting on April 20, 2023

4. Organizational Overview and Project Update (**City Administrator**)

City Administrator DeGan provided Council with an update on the following:

- a. **Preliminary budget work** – Staff have begun the process of compiling revenue and expenditure projections for next fiscal year; budget definitions and explanations on the tax rate and other details for the City's FY 23-24 document are being compiled to help provide residents with a greater understanding of public funds are used; GrantWorks has also been contacted to discuss possible future grants for the City.
- b. **Audit for FY 2022** – City Administrator DeGan discussed that we are working to secure a Certified Public Accountant who can come in and do the final preparation of the budget numbers and

documents for the auditing firm; Mr. Spore previously handled that for the City and has retired; the auditing firm in Wichita Falls who assisted with the previous audit is sending an engagement letter for FY 22 and potentially beyond as it would benefit the municipality to have a multi-year contract with an auditing firm; this audit for the previous year has been delayed due to a migration to a more comprehensive financial accounting system, and the vendors delays in the conversion. As well as, the move to a consolidated system of banking rather than several separate accounts and the City has experienced turnover in key positions. Staff understands that the audit is a priority and are working to get this process finished.

- c. **Records management** – Staff have scanned over 10,000 documents into the electronic system and had the paper records (that had been scanned) properly disposed of with a company that shreds documents.
- d. **Development** – the City Administrator conveyed that the developer who had reached out about the Prairie Point project had decided not to pursue their option at this time. A significant amount of infrastructure needs exists with this site.

#### 5. Aurora Police Contract Activity (Council Member Tye)

Chief Debus provided Council with an overview of the success the partnership has been for both cities. Aurora is very happy with the service, police presence, and interactions with the Rhome officers. Chief also discussed how the additional funds that have been generated through the partnership have helped him offset costs with vehicle repair and other items that have benefited the department.

#### 6. Special Event Fee Application and Use (Council Member Priest)

Council Member Priest stated that she had asked this item be placed on the agenda after a discussion with Mrs. Ashley Majors (Rhome resident) about the issue. She recommended that Council consider a refundable deposit for residents who wish to hold an event, use the pavilion or the veteran's park. Discussion ensued about what other cities do in the use of parks and the applicable fees that are charged. City Administrator DeGan stated that she could look into this issue and bring it back to Council for a later decision. The use of the park or other city areas and the responsibility of the city to help publicize such events was also discussed. Mrs. DeGan stated that Staff need Council direction on publicizing events. If the decision is made to publicize things like the Easter Egg Event the city would also need to publicize other events that may/may not be something the residents support – we have to treat each event/group equally.

The process in Newark was explained by Mrs. Pixler as she heads the Heart for Park group in that city. She discussed how the events are organized, the amount of volunteer hours that are handled behind the scenes by the group, the partnerships with those in the community and businesses, and the types of events that the host. She also discussed the relationship she has with the Mayor of Newark and that this is helpful in making decisions and in publicizing what the group does each year. Mrs. Pixler also conveyed that they put together an annual schedule and gives it to the city. Council directed the City Administrator to meet with Mrs. Pixler to discuss the topic further and bring this item back to Council at a later date.

## 7. Citizen Survey (City Administrator)

City Administrator DeGan discussed the draft citizen survey for the residents and business owners with Council. No changes were made to the draft document and Council direction was that the survey be mailed out to each home. The survey will stay active for thirty (30) days and Staff will compile the data and present it to Council for use during the budget process.

## 8. Ordinance revisions to clarify roles and responsibilities of staff positions (City Administrator)

Tabled until a later meeting

## 9. Fire Department pay (City Administrator)

Mrs. DeGan discussed with Council a change in IRS laws that requires us to issue W-2's rather than 1099's to part-time (volunteer) firefighter positions. The funding for this change is projected to comply with this fiscal year's expenditures and will be discussed further during the preparation for the next fiscal year. No vote was needed as this was an informational presentation.

### **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:*

1. Section 551.071 Consultation with Attorney - pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offer or to seek advice from attorney
2. 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
3. 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 a public hearing
  - a. City Secretary
  - b. Utility Billing – Permit Clerk
  - c. City Administrator Evaluation
4. 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

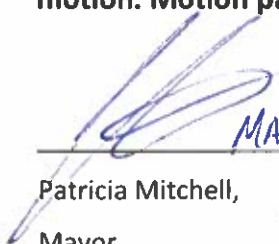
### **Regular Agenda (Resume)**

1. Action to be taken from Executive Session discussions

No Action was taken regarding Executive Session

### **Adjourn**

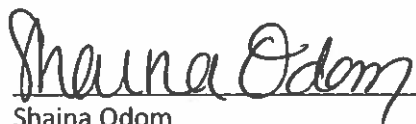
Mayor Pro-Tem McCabe made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Council Member Shumake seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

  
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MAYOR PRO TEM

Patricia Mitchell,  
Mayor

MAYOR MITCHELL REFUSED TO SIGN

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Shaina Odom  
City Secretary

