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Mayor
Patricia Mitchell

City Council

Place 1
Jimmy Johnson

Mayor Pro-Tem,
Place 2
Michelle Tye

Place 3
Randall Loftis

Place 4
Kristi King

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
Jesus Dominguez

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE RHOME CITY COUNCIL

Meeting Date: Thursday, July 27, 2023

Regular Session: 6 p.m.

Regular Session: 6 p.m.

Mayor Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6 pm

Call to Order and Establish a Quorum

Invocation led by Pastor Heath Van Zandt

Pastor 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 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.*
 - Lisa Wilson – By JoAnn Wilson
 - Deborah BeCraft
 - Shirley Mize

Announcements from Mayor and Council Members

- Bulk Trash Pickup August 1, 2023
- Planning and Zoning Meeting August 7, 2023 @ 6 pm
- City Council Meeting August 10, 2023 @ 6 pm

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 July 13, 2023 **(City Secretary)**
2. Minutes of City Council Budget Workshop dated July 14, 2023 **(City Secretary)**

Mayor Pro-Tem Tye made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Council Member Shumake seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Regular Agenda

Discussion and any necessary action for the following:

1. Swearing in Reserve Officer, James George **(Police Chief)**

Police Chief, Debus, swore in newly appointed officer, James George.

2. Dissolving By Laws for Fire Department **(Fire Chief)**

Council is in agreement with dissolving the By Laws and replacing them with Standard Operating Guideline (SOG), for paid and volunteer fire fighters. The council directed staff to bring back with an ordinance to dissolve the By Laws, and both current SOG's and By Laws to compare with the new SOG.

3. ESD **(Fire Chief)**

Chief Thompson signed into the Council Meeting live streaming to answer any questions the council may have during the discussion of changing from a city fire department to an ESD. The ESD tax would have to be set at the maximum rate, \$.10 for at least the first several years to create a budget for the ESD. The current home exemptions for taxes would not apply to the ESD tax, like disabled veteran's exemptions or over 65 exemptions. In order to obtain an ESD it would have to go through an election. Starting with a petition with 100 signatures within the bounds currently being serviced by the Rhome Fire Department (54 square miles), any new annexations would have to have 50 signatures on the petition to become included in the ESD going forward. The County would bear the cost of the election. The board of the ESD would decide where the new fire department would be located. Any homeowners located more than 5 miles would be affected by their insurance rates. This item had no action taken, discussion only.

4. MDD Update from Boyd Mayor Holmes **(City Administrator)**

Mayor Holmes from Boyd came in and talked about the Municipal Development District they created in Boyd and how it benefits the City of Boyd. The funds can be used for restricted items. This was supported by the half percent tax used for property tax reduction being given back to the city to be able to use it for development.

5. Budget Discussion **(City Administrator)**

City Administrator, DeGan, went over the budget she prepared with the bare minimum needed to operate the City of Rhome. She left the rest up to Council. Council Members went through their ideas of what is necessary to add to the budget to better the city. Main concerns were Water, Sewer, Wells, Payroll and Firefighters. Budget discussion will continue throughout the next two months. Council discussed the current pay for Fire Chief, Estes. Mayor Pro-Tem Tye

made a motion to increase the Fire Chief pay \$6,500 annually until his first review, at that time he would receive another \$6,500.00 annually. Council Member Shumake seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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.
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 executive session was held.

Future Agenda Items

(Agenda items are due by 5 p.m. on the Wednesday of the week prior to the Council meeting)

Adjourn

Mayor Pro-Tem Tye made a motion to dismiss. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously

Michelle Tye

 Patricia Mitchell, Michelle Tye
 Mayor Mayor ProTem

ATTEST:

Shaina Odom

 Shaina Odom
 City Secretary

