



Physical Address: 501 South Main Street

Mailing Address: PO Box 228

Rhome, Texas 76078

Telephone: 817-636-2462

www.cityofrhome.com | citysecretary@cityofrhome.com

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 Odum

Fire Chief
Scott Estes

Police Chief
Eric Debus

Public Works
Director
Jesus Dominguez

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE RHOME CITY COUNCIL

Meeting Date: Thursday, September 28, 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 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 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.*

Announcements from Mayor and Council Members

- Planning & Zoning Meeting October 2, 2023 @ 6 p.m.
- National Night Out – October 3, 2023 6 pm to 8 pm, Rhome Family Park, 400 South Virginia Lane
- Bulk Trash Pick-up October 3, 2023
- City Hall Closed October 9, 2023, for Columbus Day
- Hazardous Waste Pick-up October 10, 2023
- City Council Meeting October 12, 2023 @ 6 p.m.
- City Hall Closed October 20, 2023, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. for Staff Meeting/Training

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 from August 24, 2023, City Council Meeting
2. Minutes from September 14, 2023, City Council Meeting

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

Regular Agenda

Discussion and any necessary action for the following:

1. Grantwork's Presentation (City Administrator)

Grantwork's representative came in and spoke generally about grants regarding water, sewer, and streets. He also presented an opportunity to apply for a Resilient Communities Program grant that would assist us in updating our comprehensive plan.

2. Hilltop Presentation (City Administrator)

Hilltop representative went through a slide show to explain debt funding options and what may be available to the city to assist in the repair/rehab/replacement of the wastewater treatment plant and for the water system.

3. Badge Pinning Ceremony (Police Chief Debus)

Police Chief Debus spoke about rebranding the Police department, and how it affects morale within the department, redesigning the badge to represent the town and how the officers feel about their badge.

4. Engineering Firm Review (Council Member Tye)

Discussion was held concerning the current use of Kimley Horn as the engineering firm for the city. Administrator DeGan discussed that our engineer has been responsive to Staff requests and has a good understanding of the infrastructure within the city. Council Member Tye stated that Staff should annually review the contract to ensure we are getting the best service for the city. Council Member King also stated the city should have an independent third party review our water rates in the future.

5. Open Records Processes and Procedures (Council Member King)

Council Member King asked about the internal processes and the time that is taken to fill open records/public information requests by Staff. She also asked about the fees that could be charged for open records/public information requests to help offset the impact to the budget. Council discussed that open records/public information requests are very important to the business of local government and to the residents. Mayor Mitchell discussed what the city had reviewed in the past when we had previous Staff members in place. Council Member Shumake discussed what he has experienced and that other cities often have someone in each department who handles these requests. Discussion ensued on the multiple functions of the Staff in Rhome and the city secretary position specifically. The City Attorney also updated Council that this is a common issue for many of the cities that they represent and discussed the history and guidelines for open record requests.

Staff conveyed that we are not charging the allowable fees for these types of requests at this time. The city does charge \$.10 per page for copies, but staff time and supplies are not allocated. Staff were asked to research the guidelines for this process according to what is allowed by the State and see how this applies for the large records requests that the city receives.

6. ARPA Fund Allocations (City Administrator)

Discussion regarding the remaining balance of the ARPA Fund allocations was covered by Council, along with a review of what has been spent thus far from the funding for Rhome. Council authorized an additional funds for professional services, radio upgrades and the purchase of nozzles, hoses, and extrication equipment for the Fire Department. Council Member Tye made a motion to approve the funding, not to exceed \$25K, for professional services and it was seconded by Council Member King. Motion carried unanimously. Council Member King also made a motion to approve the request for the radio upgrades of \$5k for the Fire Department. Council Member Shumake seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Council Member Loftis made a motion to approve \$16K for technology, \$24K to hose/nozzle replacement, \$32K for extraction equipment. Seconded by Council Member King. After further discussion, Council Member Loftis amended his motion to include only the \$24K for hose/nozzle and \$32K for extraction equipment. Council Member King seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Proclamation designating October 8-14, 2023, Fire Prevention Week (Fire Chief Estes)

Fire Chief Estes explained the history of Fire Prevention Week. Administrator DeGan read the proclamation on behalf of Mayor Mitchell. Council Member Loftis made a motion to accept the proclamation for Fire Safety Week. Seconded by Council Member Tye. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Ratification of the Tax Rate (City Administrator)

Council previously approved the tax rate for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. As part of the budgeting process, Council approved the ordinance that was presented to ratify the tax rate. Council Member Tye made a motion to approve the ordinance to ratify the tax rate. Council Member Shumake seconded the motion.

Jimmy Johnson, Council Member Place 1 = Aye
Michelle Tye, Council Member Place 2, Mayor Pro Tem = Aye
Randall Loftis, Council Member Place 3 = Aye
Kristi King, Council Member Place 4 = Aye
Casey Shumaker, Council Member Place 5 = Aye

9. Wise County Appraisal District Nominations (City Administrator)

Administrator DeGan provided an update on the time requirement for this nomination. Discussion ensued and Staff were given direction to bring this back at the next meeting.

10. Appointment to Planning and Zoning Commissions (City Administrator)

Kathy Konegni was appointed to the Planning and Zoning Commission for the city. Council Member Tye made a motion to appoint Kathy Konegni to the Commission. Council Member Shumake seconded the motion. Discussion ensued about the appointment process. Motion carried 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

Future Agenda Items

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

Mayor Mitchell = Review of introduction verbiage for public speakers on the agenda.

Council Member King = Scheduling of future workshop discussion for bonds and capital improvement plans.

Adjourn



Patricia Mitchell,

Mayor

ATTEST:

Shaina Odom
Shaina Odom
City Secretary

