



**City Council Meeting
Minutes
Regular Session
December 9, 2010 - 7:00 p.m.**

Rhome City Hall
105 W. First Street
Rhome, TX

Council Present: Mayor Evelyn L. Obenour; Mayor Pro Tem Chris Moore;
Council Members: David E. Wilson, Jo Ann Wilson, Charles Pennington and
Gerry McBride.

Staff Present: Walt Leonard, City Attorney; Ramah Burns, City Secretary;
Robert Pratt, Fire Chief, James Rose, Police Chief.

Invocation was given by Rev. Felton Mosley

Mayor Obenour led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizen Presentations and Public Input for Future Agenda Items:

Mayor Obenour read a statement from Louis Godfrey – He said he understands the city council is looking to put a skateboard park at Old Mill Road and Morris. He said he does support the idea of having a skateboard park in the City of Rhome. He doesn't support the present choice of location. The location is very run down and dangerous. It would need to be brought up to code. I don't think the council has put much thought into the planning of a skateboard park. The present location will cost the taxpayers of this city a great deal of money. It seems to him we can do better by the tax payers of this city than what has been proposed so far. He said he can't help but wonder or even consider the opinions and concerns of the surrounding residents. He said the council needs to do a lot more planning for a project of this size and not rush into any hasty and uninformed decisions that would cost the taxpayers a great deal of money. The council should also research the liability a skateboard park would be for the city. The citizens would also have a concern for the possibility of increased crime for non residents who would come to our city to use the skateboard park. He believes the skateboard park should be wide open outside and not in a building. An Outside Park would give the police better access. The skateboard park should not be close to any resident's homes or property. The council should use proper and professional planning techniques to plan this park right. That would include having professional plans drawn up and full research and development strategy plan to cover all development aspects of this park.

Lee Waldrop said he has property across the street from the proposed skateboard park. The property is zoned Residential and Commercial. It would keep him from being able to sell it at all. He said he owns four (4) lots there. He thinks it would unwise to put it there. The city needs businesses here. As far as he is concerned it's not a good location at all and it impels his ability to sell the property.

Elizabeth Rubin said she is on the park board. She said she has a son that's 16 years old and she wouldn't allow him to skate there. She looked at some of the initial drawings and first of all her impression is, she is a teacher, and what kids do behind walls, it is not something she would want to contend with. She said she was in agreement with this gentleman as far as needing businesses rather than another expenditure for this city. She said they run at night and there is no light there. She said the amount of work that would be required and the size – her neighbor who is professional said there is no way. She said you would have to take that entire lot and it would have to be completely transformed. The other thing they didn't know anything about it until the park board meeting the night when it was presented. They were like – they didn't know -she said there is no plan - she felt like it was a railroading.

Don Dixon passed out a list of residents that signed a petition against the Skateboard Park at the N. W. Corner of Morris and Old Mill Road. He passed out pictures of the structure. He said he bought the property on the corner of Main and Morris in January. He said the first thing he noticed was the building out back. By trade he is a Journeyman Carpenter and has worked on high raise buildings, concrete museums, wastewater plants – his first thought was this building needs to be condemned. If you look at the pictures you will see that the structure has failed tremendously. On the North wall you will see where he has placed sticks all the way through in the cracks. He said he has heard the plan; there are no plans; there is nothing on paper for them to look at? There are no specifications for them to look at. All we know are they wanted to spend \$25,000 and part of the deal is to pour a slab. You can't pour a slab over the old concrete. He said no one else in the city would want this park next to their house, I can guarantee you that. There is going to be sex, drinking, drugs and everything else you can imagine from kids 8 years old up to 25 years old. This is going to bring crime, vandalism, thief, and trespassing. He thinks this really needs to be thought out. He said the city needs to think about demolishing that building. There are some supports there; if someone is horse playing around and knock that support out the whole ceiling will cave in? It will be major trauma. Thank you very much.

Ronnie Moore said he was Chairman of the Parks & Recreation. He said this was brought to his attention 2 weeks ago. He said he apologized to the Parks & Recreation the other night. He didn't have time to get with each and everyone of them on this. He has been in the city for – well he is 54 years old and he would never do anything to harm anyone in this city or destroy their properties. The building structure over here – it has been looked at by people that know what they are doing before this meeting. He said he was going to apologize to the Parks & Recreation Board. He is going to resign tonight from the Parks & Recreation. He said he feels that they are more capable of doing this than him. He said he would be glad to help them anyway he can in the future. He doesn't want anyone to think that he is here to hurt or do anything wrong to this city. He said he loves this city. He said if he can help anyone in this town whatever it might be anyone can call him and he will come help you. He said he would never destroy you or take something from you or hurting anyone has never been in his mind or his heart. So as of tonight – he will bring a written resignation tomorrow morning to the city. Thank you.

Announcement from Mayor and Council Members

Mayor Obenour said she wanted to make some acknowledgements. Because of the generosity of the Dallas Children's Charities we have had a wonderful success for toys for children. On Saturday, December 4th, Cindi Misner, her assistant, Robert Pratt, Chris Moore, Don Dixon, Stephen Hoff, Elizabeth Hoff, Buddy Daugherty, Liz Rubin, Debbie Brown and Ramah Burns met at the water tower. They separated toys for the Wise County Spirit of Christmas. Cindi had a list of what the children wanted from the applications received. They had 29 families and 59 children. The remaining toys were taken to city hall and they were in contact with 20 additional families and 52 children. All of these toys were donated by the Dallas Children's Charities. Words could never express our gratitude and appreciation to the Dallas Children's Charities for supporting the Wise County Spirit of Christmas.

Mayor Obenour said we will be doing a special thank you to the Dallas Children's Charities.

Mayor Obenour said at this time she would like to recognize our artist Greg Quinn. She said he did 40 hours of work on the one picture alone. She presented Mr. Quinn with a plaque and pin.

Mr. Quinn said he was inspired to enter the art contest because in 1985 he had a wonderful art professor at UTA. He just died of lung cancer this year. He had a thing about being generous with your art. He said many people do art and keep it in a closet for 50 years and no one will ever see it. This encouraged him to go ahead and enter the contest.

Mr. Quinn unveiled a new picture of the “Old Rhome School” that he presented to the city. Mayor Obenour thanked him very much.

Mayor Obenour said she spoke with Chris Walton, Vilbig & Associates about the Love’s Travel Center. He said all of the permits have been turned in and have been approved. The contractors have been chosen. She said the pre-construction meeting will be in 2 weeks. A 6” gas line is being moved right now. The construction should begin in 3 to 4 weeks.

David Wilson said Evelyn was sick and he went to the Northwest Community Partnership Meeting. He said TX Dot has contracts on widening SH 114 from 35 this way. It’s going to be in 2 or 3 stages. This is going to be a major impact with traffic.

Charles Pennington said he would like to thank them for the railroad crossing.

A. Approval of Minutes:

- 1. November 11, 2010 Regular Session**
- 2. November 18, 2010 Special Session**
- 3. November 30, 2010 Special Session**

B. Acceptance of Report

- 1. Police Department**
- 2. Fire Department**
- 3. Public Works – The leak at the new plant between the lift station & check valve has been repaired. The bearing in the motor on the older positive displacement blower are going out. To repair it is \$1,000 a new motor is \$1,400 after December 19th. The price goes to \$1,950. He ordered a new motor for \$1,400 and will have the other one rebuilt for a spare. The wheel valves and check valves for the lift station are not working properly so he ordered new ones. They will be installing the silencer on the blower on the filters to minimize the noise that the residents in Ellis hear when it’s running. In the very near future they will have to do repairs on the air chamber on the new plant. It’s leaking a little but hasn’t blown out yet. If he schedules it before it blows out it will be easier and less costly than an emergency. Consideration should be taken on purchasing the drying box or not from the City of Decatur. The total price \$30,000. Both the water and wastewater approvals have been granted by TX Dot for Love’s Travel Center. The pre construction meeting should be on the 15th.**

- 4. Administration**

- 5. Parks and Recreation**

C. Approval of Check Registers

1. November 16, 2010 through December 6, 2010

Motion was made by David Wilson to accept the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Chris Moore.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and necessary action concerning the following agenda items:

2. Old Business

A. City lots at Old Mill Road and Morris Street

David Wilson said he thinks a lot of the discussion that has been going on about these lots is a little premature because the council has not in any way shape form or fashion discussed doing anything with these lots. Now what people have heard out in the rumor mill is just rumor mill. The city owns those lots and the city would like to do something with them but they have never discussed putting a skateboard park there or anywhere else for that matter. He said he understands everyone's concerns but we are a little bit ahead of the hounds.

Charles Pennington said he thinks the park board talked about it the other night but like he says – I know they didn't decide on anything because he was there.

Mayor Obenour said she would also like to call attention to the fact that on November 18th when the lots were brought up that they said that was going to be discussed in a workshop. She said she didn't know what to do with the item on the agenda.

David Wilson said he would make a recommendation and motion that this item will not be Tabled but taken off the agenda. So it will not be brought back up and put on the agenda until after this workshop has taken place and some research that people have asked to be done as to what to do with the lots. Gerry McBride seconded the motion.

Jo Ann Wilson said also when they have the workshop it will be posted and open to the public.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. New Business

- A. Proposed Resolution 2010-17R, authorizes signatures on State of Texas documents for requesting funds for the Texas Capital Fund, Contract #710112.**

Motion was made by Gerry McBride to approve Resolution 2010-17R, authorizing signatures on State of Texas documents for requesting funds for the Texas Capital Fund, Contract #710112. Chris Moore seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Repair city hall restroom due to water damage.**

TML will be contacted and we will get estimates.

- 4. Recess to Executive Session at 7:37 p.m.: The Rhome City Council will convene into Executive Session in compliance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code (Open Meeting Act) Vernon's Texas Code Annotated, as follows:**

- a. Section 551.074 – Personnel – Police Chief**

- 5. No action was taken at 8:56 p.m. regarding taking any appropriate action Executive Session Item 4.a.**

- 6. Future Agenda Items:**

Workshop – January 8, 2011

- 1. Community Center Awning**
- 2. Morris Street/Old Mill**
- 3. Codification**
- 4. Sound System**
- 5. Impound yard**

- 7. There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.**

CERTIFICATION

Passed and approved on this 13th day of January, 2011.

Evelyn L. Obenour

Mayor

Ramah Burns

City Secretary