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"Crossroads to the Metroplex"

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
REGULAR SESSION**

**May 14th, 2015**

Mayor Pro Tem Charles Pennington called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, and announced a quorum. Council members Jo Ann Wilson, David Wilson, Michelle Pittman, and Ronnie Moore were present.

Staff Present: City Attorney, Walt Leonard, and City Secretary, Angie Young, Police Chief, Brandon Davis, Fire Chief, Jason Miller, and Public Works Director, Sam Dorsett.

Council member David Wilson gave the invocation and Mayor Pro Tem Charles Pennington led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Pro Tem Pennington asked for a motion to move straight to the Canvass of the May 9th, 2015 election. Jo Ann Wilson made a motion and Ronnie Moore seconded the motion all voted aye the motion carried. Mayor Pro tem Pennington read the result of the May 9th, 2015 election. Councilmember David Wilson made a motion to accept the results of the election and Council member Moore seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tem Pennington proceeded to administer the Statement of Officer of Michelle Pittman to the office of Mayor, City of Rhome and also administered the Oath of Office. Mayor Michelle Pittman proceeded to administer the Statement of Officer and Oath of Office to Ronnie Moore, Council Member, Dawn Davis, Council Member, and Tim Robison, Council Member

**Announcements from Mayor and Council Members**

There were no announcements

**Citizen Presentation and Public Input:**

Kelly Greenlee spoke in regards to the limitations of the mayor holding more than one city office. He stressed the importance of the council and departments working together as a team and asked that they do what is best for the city. He also cited other mayors that have held dual positions.

Silver Amos wanted to give notification of an appreciation cook out for fire and police personnel in Ellis Homestead on June 6th. He asked everyone to please come out and meet them.

Robert Mahaffey referenced Mr. Greenlee’s comments on the mayor holding more than one city office; specifically Mayor Pittman should be able to be on both. He pondered what agenda is being served by this. He also referenced Facebook comments on the Volunteer Fire Department regarding City Council.

John Aaron spoke regarding his request for a carport at his residence in Crown Point. He also addressed drainage of the structure.

Jimmy Johnson said he would wait until later to address his concerns. Chief Brandon Davis stated that he must have the floor to speak so speak now.

**Consent Agenda**

Council Member Ronnie Moore made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and Council Member Robison seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried.

**Regular Agenda**

Mayor Pittman noted that this is a one year term and asked the City Attorney to describe the responsibilities and duties of the Mayor Pro Tem. Mr. Leonard explained that while there is no specific function they step in when the Mayor is unavailable. If the Mayor Pro Tem has to act they are able to vote, whereas the Mayor only votes to break a tie. Council Member Moore nominated Jo Ann Wilson as Mayor Pro Tem and Council Member Robison seconded the nomination. Mayor Pittman asked for any other nominations. There being none, Council Member Moore made a motion to accept the nomination of Jo Ann Wilson as Mayor Pro Tem and Council Member Davis seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried

Mayor Pittman advised that vacancy on the City Council is to fill her vacated seat, which is a one year term. She also asked the City Attorney to describe the duties of his individual. He explained that they will fill the unexpired term of one year and that the position can be filled or left vacant or an election can be called to fill it. This person will have the same status and powers as other council members, no administrative or executive powers and they can set policy. Mayor Pittman also advised that the Handbook for Newly Elected Mayor and Council Members has been ordered for each of them and also advised of the required training for newly elected council members. Mayor Pittman asked for nominations to fill this vacancy. Council Member Wilson nominated Jerry Taylor and Council Member Moore seconded the nomination. Mayor Pittman asked for other nominations. There being no other nominations Council Member Wilson moved to appoint Jerry Taylor and Council Member Moore seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried.

Mayor Pittman explained that with the changing of officers the signatures on the bank accounts must be changed. Mayor Pittman asked for a motion to approve the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem as bank signatures. Council Member Robison made a motion Council Member Moore seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried.

Motion to go into Public Hearing was made by Council Member Robison and Council Member Wilson seconded. All voted aye, the motion carried. The hearing opened at 7:24pm, Mayor Pittman asked for anyone to speak for or against. James Thompson spoke regarding his request for a carport at 136 Kensington. He noted that it will have positive draining to the street. Mayor Pittman asked for any questions. John Aaron also spoke regarding his request at 408 Stirling. He also noted drainage would be towards the street and that he also did research on the effect of home values and carports and found nothing negative on them. Next, Mark McClary spoke on his request at 330 Redbud. He is hoping for approval as he believes it will protect his property value and in fact increase it. Mayor Pittman asked the City Secretary if all requirements had been met. City Secretary Angie Young replied that all notices had been sent to property owners and publications in the newspaper. Mayor Pittman asked for any further comments, there being none, Council Member Robison made a motion to close the Public Hearing and Council Member Wilson seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried and the Public Heating was closed at 7:29pm.

Mayor Pittman gave a brief history of progression of the Taco Casa project. We have had the plans reviewed by our inspectors and engineers and by Planning & Zoning and approved. The issues regarding drainage and fire lanes have been addressed. Jim Dewey of JDJR, engineers for Taco Casa addressed the audience and said that they have submitted a Final Plat for approval for two lots. Council member Wilson asked if TXDOT had approved the ingresses and egresses. Mr. Dewy said that they have submitted their request but it has not yet been approved but they believe that it will be. Council Member Robison asked about city services to the facility, do we have ample water and sewer lines. Public Works Director noted that this is normally at the builders cost, but we do have ample service and can provide. Will Reed, with Rifcon, the project developers, have some requests that he wanted to address council with. First of all they would like the city to put in the sewer line from lot 1 to lot 2 at the city’s cost. Mayor Pittman asked Sam Dorsett how much it would cost and Sam said he had just heard this for the first time and did not know off the top of his head. Council Member Moore asked how many feet of line would be needed to which Mr. Reed replied 262 feet. For his second request Mr. Reed asked that the city waive the tap fees and put them in on the front of lot 1. Council Member Robison asked what tap size. Mr. Reed said 2 inch. Next Mr. Reed asked the city to waive any permit fees or impact fees. Mr. Reed stated this would be approximately $2000.00 - $4000.000. He also asked for tax abatement for 2 years and also permission to erect a 100’ pole sign. Mr. Dewey noted that the plat shows the sign is part of lot 2. Council Member Wilson noted that we need to look at the sign ordinance and said we cannot do tax abatement. She also asked for Mr. Reed’s request in writing. Council Member Robison made a motion to move this item to the next meeting agenda. Council Member Davis seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried.

Dan Bishop and Jerry Cate spoke to council regarding their plat of the property at 120 School Rd. There was an old house there that was falling down and they have already removed it and are seeking approval to build 2 houses, each on a ¼ acre lot. Council Member Wilson asked about drainage to which Mr. Bishop noted that the drainage now is actually better than it was and that they will put up a retaining wall. Mayor Pittman asked for any other discussion or comments on the matter, there being none Council Member Moore made a motion to approve the plat as long is drainage is provided for and Council Member Wilson seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried.

Public Works Director Sam Dorsett addressed council regarding the need to purchase a sewer camera. He went over the problems with all of the rain fall the last few weeks and the issues arising from it. He stated that if we bought the camera we could use it over and over. He also stated that he has seen a city be put on a SSO by TCEQ because of these types of issues. Owning the camera will allow us to go at our pace. Mayor Pittman asked about the cost. To which Sam replied that the cameras run around $30,000.00 and up. He got a quote based on a camera that will go 900 feet. Council Member Moore asked if the sewer is clogged or overflowing. Sam said he is not sure if there is a main break because of the rocky soil it is not apparent, although he has found one spot. Council Member Robison asked if there is a lease option. Sam said did not know. Council Member Robison said he appreciates the heads up and the use of this technology but would like to hold off and see if there is a better way. He then made a motion to move this item to the next meeting agenda. Mayor Pittman asked about the life of the camera, to which Sam replied up to 10 years depending on the component. Council Member Davis asked if we can continue to use Boyd’s camera to which Sam replied that is does not go more than 50 – 200 feet and is hard to use. Council Member Wilson asked about the smoke test to which Sam replied that they are unreliable. Council Member Moore seconded Council Member Robison’s motion to move this item to the next meeting agenda. All voted aye, the motion carried.

Sam Dorsett addressed the council regarding the request to purchase a new mower for the parks. He stated they are having issues with the mower they have and they are push mowing and weed eating. He also noted that this equipment should come out of a streets or parks budget. Council Member Robison asked if they might be able to beat the price by shopping around and suggested checking with the state for surplus pricing. Council Member Wilson noted that the local John Deere is on BuyBoard to which Sam noted that this price is from BuyBoard. Mayor Pittman asked Sam to get 3 quotes. This item will be moved to the May 26th meeting.

Council Member Moore addressed the item regarding Council Mentors. They are more like liaisons, they are not there to be a boss but if the Department Head needs to go to council with something they have a designated council member to bring the issue to the mayor. Council Member Wilson said this has nothing to do with the chain of command. Chief Davis gave further detail on the concept. Council Member Moore said this is not meant to short cut the mayor. Chief Miller said he is also familiar with this concept and it works well. Council Member Wilson volunteered for administration, and Council Member Robison would like to help Public Works. Council Member Wilson said Council Member Jerry Taylor could work with the Fire Dept, and Council Member Davis could work with the Parks. Mayor Pittman consulted the City Attorney who said they could set it up in theory and name the mentors later. Council Member Robison made a motion to move this to the May 26th meeting and have the department heads on board with mentors. Council Member Davis seconded the motion. Council Members Robison and Davis voted in favor and Council Members Wilson and Moore voted against. Mayor Pittman broke the tie by voting in favor of moving the item to the May 26th agenda.

Council Member Moore addressed the issue of the mayor serving on more than one city entity. In his personal opinion is that the mayor should take care of the city first and not the Fire Department. He believes it will take time to do both. He is not opposed to being on both just running the department. He added that Mayor Pittman is a great volunteer but there are plenty of others that volunteer. Council Member Wilson agreed with Council Member Moore. She also noted that the mayor will have to approve of decide on matters that effect the Fire Department. She would like to see her stay on as a volunteer. Council Member Moore asked if there was anyone that can step in and do what she does. Chief Miller said Michelle runs calls 24/7 and does training and they can’t do without her. Council Member Wilson said that Michelle voted on the fire trucks and did not abstain. Mayor Pittman asked if she could stay on without the title but still do the duties. To do what all she does requires certain certificates. Chief Miller said Darrell Fitch does some of them but he and Michelle are the only ones qualified to do it all. Council Member Moore said that he wants a mayor that is not also a firefighter. Mayor Pittman noted that Ordinance 2012-010 allow for a mayor to be on the Volunteer Fire Department just not as Chief. She also cited other mayors that have done both to which Council Member Wilson pointed out that they were not officers. Council Member Robison made a motion to table the discusion. Council Member Moore seconded the motion. City Attorney asked for clarification as to whether the issue is that the mayor cannot be on both. Council Member Davis said she does not think that it should only be the mayor that council should not either. Council Member Moore said he could not be on Parks Board and be on council. Council Member Moore seconded the motion to table the discussion. Council Members Robison, Moore, and Davis voted in favor and Council Member Wilson voted against. The motion carried.

Council recessed into Executive Session at 8:22pm. Council reconvened into open session at 9:36pm

At 9:39pm Council Member Robison made a motion to adjourn and Council Member Wilson seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried.

**CERTIFICATION:**

**Passed and approved on this the 26TH day of May, 2015.**

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**Michelle Pittman, Mayor**

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**Angie Young, City Secretary**