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"Crossroads to the Metroplex"

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION**

**May 26th, 2015**

Mayor Pittman called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, and announced a quorum. Council members present were Jo Ann Wilson, Dawn Davis, Jerry Taylor, Tim Robison, and Ronnie Moore.

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.

Citizen Robert Mahaffey gave the invocation and Mayor Pittman led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Pittman directed the agenda to an item of urgent public necessity concerning the municipal sewer and water services relating to the extensive flooding. Public Works Director Sam Dorsett prepared an incident report listing the dates the sewer plant overflowed. TCEQ has been out to investigate for two months for anything over 1” of overflow due to I & I. He stated that 50,000 is normal and we are running 300-500,000 per day. He explained Inflow and Infiltration, possibly due to broken pipes and old lines that allow water to flow straight into the sewer system. There has been an estimated 3 million gallon of overflow between April, May, and some in December. Public Works is working a significant amount of overtime to stay on top of this and Chaney has been out several times. City Secretary verified approximately $6000.00 so far and counting. Mayor Pittman noted that we will be over budget in this area. We are under control for now. Council Member Wilson asked about outside contractors to find the problem. Sam replied that we can hire someone instead of buying the camera. He got prices of $1.75 per foot to $2.00 per foot. Council member Wilson asked about the filters we just repaired, to which Sam replied that they are shot. He went on to say that they are old technology and don’t back wash properly. Council Member Wilson asked how much to fix it. Sam replied there is no easy fix and the manufacturer recommended a new filter system. Council Member Wilson asked about whether our vacuum truck would help to which Sam replied that it does not suck fast enough in a situation like this. Council Member Wilson asked if the rain slowed could we use it, to which Sam replied that this truck is not designed for that but it is good for some stuff and they have used it numerous times. Council Member Moore asked about the cost of the sewer camera, to which Sam replied $30,000.00, or more, the $50,000.00 has a 900 foot cable on it which would allow them to go further without as much effort. Council Member Robison said the plant has been a problem since it was built. Sam suggested we work out some sort of Interlocal agreement with Newark to share the camera costs. He also mentioned that there were fish and crawfish turning up at the plant. Council Member Wilson asked if there was anything they could do, to which Sam replied not at this time. Council Member Robison noted that most of Wise County has been or will be declared a disaster area and we could see about getting assistance. Mayor Pittman will look into the information on the sewer camera to the next meeting.

**Citizens Presentations and Public Input for Future Agenda Items**

Sam Eason introduced himself; he and his wife have lived in Rhome 2 years. He has been going through the city ordinances and found error in that the ordinance says that citizens are allowed 5 minutes to speak and not three. He stated that this right is a wonderful opportunity and goes back to our forefathers.

Mr. Eason next plans for the city’s future. He referenced the Chili Cook Off when he asked candidates what their vision was for Rhome. He was very disappointed in the lack of response. He would like to see council form a plan and asked what kind of community does council want and expressed that he would like to see Rhome maintain its small town feel. He asked council to make a plan and execute it.

Lastly, on the topic of Taco Casa, Mr. Eason expressed that he felt Rhome already has enough fast food and would like to see a sit-down and visit restaurant. He asked that council not give any tax abatements or waive any permit fees. As for their sign he likes the darkness of the area and fears the sign will light up the town.

There were no announcements

**Consent Agenda**

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

**Old Business**

Mayor Pittman asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the carports requests for 408 Stirling, 136 Kensington, and 330 Redbud. She noted that a Public Hearing was held on May 14th and confirmed that notice were sent and plans were reviewed. Council member Wilson made a motion to approve the requests but to place a moratorium or any future requests pending revision of the final inspection process. Mayor Pittman said she agrees with this. Council member Moore seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried.

At 7:29p.m. Council recessed into Executive Session. At 9:01p.m. Council reconvened into Open Session. There were no motions made in relation to the Executive Session.

With regards to approval of Taco Casa’s plans Council Member Moore made a motion to move this discussion to the June 11th meeting agenda.

Bill Lohrke from E.S. & C.M. introduced himself and addressed council on the concept of drilling water wells and also on the status of the pavilion. He noted that there has been a study done regarding surface water in the area and as a result of that he does not recommend that the city drill wells. He explained the variances in depth to hit water and does believe that there is enough water available to cover all of the costs involved in drilling and supplying the water. He recommended that we continue to purchase out water from Walnut Creek Utility District. He noted that a consultant should have been involved before beginning the application process for a loan. Next he addressed that pavilion at the Family Park. The problem he stated was that the slab was poured without an engineer checking it out and without notifying the state. Based on this he does not recommend building a structure on the slab. He offered instead, a light weight type of awning and offered to get quotes on this. Council Member Moore asked about what tests were done to determine this. Mr. Lohrke advised that there is really no text that can be done at this point to accurately tell what is below the concrete. The pictures he has seen do not show the size or strength of the steel used. Mayor Pittman asked for questions. Council Member Wilson asked what the life expectancy is on a fabric awning. Mr. Lohkre said it would probably vary. Council Member Jerry Taylor asked if other cities have done this. Mr. Lohrke said he has seen them but not sure where. Mayor Pittman asked if council wanted E.S. & C.M. to get a quote. Council Member Taylor said we can go out for bids ourselves. Mayor Pittman said she will get quotes for the next meeting.

Mayor Pittman asked City Attorney Walt Leonard to go over the Parking Ordinance. Mr. Leonard explained that the ordinance makes a provision for off-road parking and that law enforcement has discretion in dealing with it. Council Member Robison asked about the Right of Ways space. Mayor Pittman explained the situation on her street where it is not wide enough to take in a Right of Way to expand and driveways are small. Chief of Police Brandon Davis gave some perspective from the PD, in that the ordinance only calls for parking on an improved surface and that they can enforce however they need to. Council Member Moore asked where a person with three cars would park on Redbud Street without violating the ordinance. Chief Davis replied that they would be more lenient on Redbud where as if someone is parking in their yard when it is not necessary they would not. Council Member Wilson made a motion to authorize the mayor and staff to complete the revisions to this ordinance. Council Member Robison seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried.

Mayor Pittman explained that the action regarding Council Members serving was tabled but that the overall response seemed positive. City Attorney Walt Leonard explained that no ordinance or resolution is necessary we just need specific who and what the liaisons purpose is. Council Member Wilson noted that the liaison is not a boss. The recommendations for liaison were Ronnie Moore for the Police Department, JoAnn Wilson for Administration, Dawn Davis for Parks, Jerry Taylor for the Fire Department, and Time Robison for Public Works, also that the council will revisit this item in three months for review.

**New Business**

Council Member Wilson mentioned that we must wait until it is dry to set clean up dates. Council Member Robison also wants to wait until it is dry and make provisions for what can be taken. Chief of Police Davis said that only Rhome residents can partake and that last time a lot of no residents used it. He would like to see it be a volunteer program that you must volunteer work the clean up in order to use it. Council Member Moore made a motion to allow the mayor to set the clean up dates and also coordinate them with the Big Event next year. Council member Davis seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried

Council Member Wilson asked to have action for setting a date for a workshop on the agenda, she noted that council has the right to place an item on the agenda per section 1.03.004 of the Code of Ordinances. She noted that this was not what she asked for. Mayor Pittman said she did not understand it that way. Council Member Wilson said we seem to be delaying things. Council Member Robison said that the sooner the better to review the contracts due to budget time. Council Member Moore asked if we could do it before the next meeting. Mayor Pittman asked when, Council Member Robison made a motion to set a workshop to review contracts for June 2, 2015 at 7:00. Council Member Jerry Taylor seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried.

Council Member Wilson asked what the purpose is to having a council member review the bank statements. Mayor Pittman said that it is to look for things out of the ordinary or outstanding checks; she also noted that the auditor suggested this as a checks and balances. She also noted that it cannot be a signer on the account. Council Member Robison asked Council Member Davis if she would do this. Council Member Dawn Davis volunteered to review the bank statements.

Mayor Pittman said the Parks and Recreation Board had been de-activated for lack of a better word. Council Member Moore stated that the Parks and Recreation Board needs to be reactivated, we missed Veteran’s Day and that is sad. Council Member Wilson asked if we had a good outline of what we want. Mayor Pittman said there is a section in our code that defines it and read these guidelines. Mayor Pittman asked if the Parks Board would be in charge of events. Council Member Moore said they use d to give the council a list of events to approve. Council Member Moore noted that on Memorial Day and Veteran’s Day Council Member Wilson have done lots for the city. Council Member Moore said it is something you can be proud of. Mayor Pittman asked for a motion. Council Member Moore made motion to accept applications for the Parks & Recreation Board and Council Member Davis seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried.

Council Member Wilson said she asked for the agenda item to be fiscal year events for 2015 and not calendar year events for 2015. She also noted that we need information on the Splash Day event from the Support Crew so that we know where the dollars are being spent. Mayor Pittman said she thought that we wanted to set dates for all the events in the year. Council Member Wilson said she did not want anyone to go through what she went though on the Chili Cook Off. Council Member Robison said it should be all parties involved in the event. Council Member Moore said these events are very important to the city. Council discussed when Fall Festival will be. Council Member Taylor said we need to keep the same date every year to keep vendors coming back. Citizen Deborah Becraft said the date for the Fall Festival is the fourth weekend of September.

**Future Agenda Items**

None

At 10:13pm Council Member Moore made a motion to adjourn and Council Member Davis seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried.

 **CERTIFICATION:**

 **Passed and approved on this the 11TH day of June, 2015.**

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 **Michelle Pittman, Mayor**

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 **Angie Young, City Secretary**