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"Crossroads to the Metroplex"

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
REGULAR SESSION**

**August 25th, 2015**

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

Staff Present: City Secretary Angie Young, Police Chief Brandon Davis, City Attorney Walt Leonard

Citizen Robert Mahaffey gave the invocation and Mayor Pittman led the assembly in the pledge of allegiance.

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

Sam Eason – reserved the right to speak on a specific agenda item

Leanne Mackowski - reserved the right to speak in a specific agenda item

Kemp Akeman addressed council regarding the Zoning Board of Adjustments and the Planning & Zoning Board. Mr. Akeman commended the service of these individuals, noted his support for Sam Eason, and his appreciation of the vote on the variances. He is concerned about the future of the Volunteer Fire Department, Public Works as it relates to the TCEQ, the infrastructure, and the budget. He requested to be appointed to the Zoning Board of Adjustments and also to have the personnel rules added to the Code of Ordinances.

**Announcements from Mayor and Council Members**

Council Member Wilson commended the hard work of the Fall Festival volunteers and said that we are in need of more volunteers.

**Executive Session**

At 7:07pm council convened into Executive Session. At 7:59pm council reconvened into Regular Session.

**Budget Workshop**

Council convened into a Budget Workshop at approximately 8:02pm

**Consent Agenda**

Council Member Wilson made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda with the change to the future agenda items to read exactly as stated. Council Member Moore seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried.

**New Business**

Council Member Moore made a motion to approve the proposed budget set forth for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 and Council Member Wilson seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried.

Council Member Wilson made a motion to approve the proposed tax rate of .5833 per one hundred dollars of value for 2015 and Council Member Robison seconded the motion.

Citizen Sam Eason presented a petition signed by 107 people in favor of his appointment to the vacant seat in the City Council. Mr. Eason gave his credentials, expressed the need for change, and his interest in moving toward a bright prosperous future for Rhome.

Council Member Davis made a motion to accept the petition of Sam Eason for the vacant seat. Council Member Moore seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried.

Mayor Pittman gave an update on the pending investigation regarding complaints she received. Mayor Pittman read the sections of the Local Government Code as it pertains to the powers of the mayor and the rules of the personnel manual. At 10:04pm Council Member Moore walked out of the meeting. Mayor Pittman noted that she had begun an investigation regarding alleged actions regarding the appointment of a City Administrator. She advised that some of these allegations have been taken to outside agencies. Council Member Wilson asked that the allegations be addressed in Executive Session and with the individual. Chief Brandon Davis also expressed his concerns over recent communications with the mayor.

Council Member Wilson made a motion to take no action at this time on an Interim Public Works Director until we have had a chance to talk to USW. Council Member Robison seconded the motion. Council Member Davis abstained from voting. All others voted aye, the motion carried.

City Secretary Angie Young went over some areas in which services at City Hall will be streamlined to handle the traffic flow and be more efficient. Services for notarization and faxes will be done on certain days at certain times and limited to only Rhome citizens. She also mentioned a reviewed period for permits and limiting water bills inserts to three per quarter.

Chip Kowalski from the Parks and Recreation Board explained that the fee for health permits for food vendors for the Fall Festival is $35.00 per vendor; last year is was a flat rate of $100.00 for all. This waiver would be form city inspection regulations only since they already have one from the state. Council Member Wilson made a motion to waive the city’s health permit regulation for Fall Festival food vendors and Council Member Davis seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried.

\*Council Member Moore returned to the meeting at 10:18pm

**Old Business**

Council Member Robison made a motion to skip to the agenda item dealing with contracts for inspections and engineer services. Council Member Wilson seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion. Lee Swaim with Bureau Veritas gave a brief detail of services including combination inspections and review. He spoke to time savings, licensed employees and enforcement of codes. They are a onetime fee based service that is good for the entirety of the job. We only pay for the work done and they will also help us adopt updated codes. He also noted that they will get the data from a courier once it is collected at City Hall. They offer web-based tracking of jobs as well. Mr. Swaim will get more information on the fire plans inspections. He said that this is not a binding contract. Council Member Wilson made a motion that the city go with all these services except for fire inspections for 30 days Council Member Moore seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried. Next Derek Turner from Jacob & Martin addressed council. Mr. Turner spoke to the services of consulting engineers – civil, structural, mechanical, and general for small and medium size communities. They are project specific and offer an as needed type of contract for plan and plat review and project estimates. Council member Moore made a motion to remove the city’s current engineers for no confidence. Council Member Wilson seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried. Council Member Moore made a motion to appoint Jacob & Martin as the city’s engineers. Council Member Robison seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried. Council Member Wilson suggested that we not appoint a City Administrator at this time. She asked City Attorney Walt Leonard how to go about seeking other counsel. Mr. Leonard said the city attorney is an officer of the city can be removed for no confidence. Council Member Moore said he has no trust in Mr. Leonard. Mayor Pittman said Mr. Leonard does not represent her he works for the city. Council Member Moore made a motion to table this item and Council Member Robison seconded the motion. Council Member Davis voted nay, all others voted aye. The motion died for lack of a vote. Council Member Robison moved that we hold off on a grounds maintenance contract until we see what we have in the budget. Council Member Moore seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried. The position of City Prosecutor was also tabled.

City Secretary Angie Young said the process to update the ordinances online has begun. It will take approximately 30 days to review and then finalize any updates.

Mayor Pittman asked what we are going to do about the vac truck. Council Member Robison said it is not worth anything to us the way it is now, he suggested getting it repaired and getting a statement of worth and seeing about a short term note to finance the repairs. He also asked for a written warranty. Council Member Robison made a motion to proceed with the repairs and seek short term financing to pay for them. Council member Moore seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried.

Council Member Wilson said that Brandon Davis made contact with a company called USW to see about their services in running the daily operations for the water and waste water. She said we need to get with Greg Leveling to set up a meeting to see what they can do for us.

Council Member Moore made a motion to approve spending $2000.00 to have the concrete at the pavilion site testing. Council Member Wilson seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried.

Council Member Wilson made a motion to table the discussion regarding a City Administrator. Council Member Moore seconded the motion. Council Member Davis abstained from voting. All others voted aye, the motion carried.

**Future Agenda Items**

Council Member Robison asked for follow up and closure on the survey of the Norman Property, moving forward on Municipal Court Bailiff uniforms, variance request from Taco Casa will require another Public Hearing, and disciplinary action or decision on the Public Works Director.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, at 11:16pm Council Member Moore made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Robison seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried.

**CERTIFICATION:**

**Passed and approved on this the 10th day of September, 2015.**

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**Michelle Pittman, Mayor**

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**Angie Young, City Secretary**