Official Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting

Of the City of Richland, Texas

Mayor Kenneth Guard called the meeting to order on September 14, 2023, at 5:55 PM in the Civic Center of Richland, Texas. Those in attendance were Chief Financial Officer Bruce Thomas, Council members Shirley Thomas, Jodie Farmer, Caren Smith, Jay Tidwell and Mike Weempe, Operations Director Sharon Settlemyer. There were two (2) visitors present.

Kenneth Guard gave the invocation. Jay Tidwell asked everyone to pray for Deputy Matt Porter. He lost his home to a fire earlier. Jay Tidwell updated the council on the fire truck.

Comments from citizens: None.

There was discussion of budget. Mike Weempe stated that we need to make a plan for the police department. Mayor Guard suggested that be put on next month’s agenda. Mike Weempe stated we should look at hiring grant writers to obtain grants for vehicles. Sharon explained the salary page she had submitted to the council along with the proposed budget. Mike Weempe asked about water meters. If someone purchased land and wanted a lot of taps, what happens? Sharon stated they would have to come before the council.

There were no public comments on the budget.

There was discussion of Ordinance #185 adopting the budget. Mike Weempe made a motion to adopt the ordinance. Jay Tidwell seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

There was no public discussion on the tax rate.

There was discussion of Ordinance #186 adopting a tax rate of .2064 per $100 of valuation for 2023-2024. Caren Smith made a motion to adopt the ordinance. Mike Weempe seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

There was discussion of the Minutes of the August 10, 2023 and August 24, 2023, meeting. Mike Weempe made a motion to accept the minutes. Jodie Farmer seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

There was discussion of the financial report for August 2023. Sharon explained to the Council that the water system had several meters that were not working and were being replaced. The meters are under warranty. Shirley Thomas made a motion to accept the report. Jodie Farmer seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

There was discussion of the police department/municipal court report. Jodie Farmer made a motion to accept the report. Jay Tidwell seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

Mayor Guard announced the council will go into Executive Session to discuss personnel at 6:25 p.m.

Mayor Guard called the regular meeting back to order at 6:40 p.m.

There was discussion of the executive session agenda items. Caren Smith made a motion to accept what was discussed – hiring Zachary Hoffman as Chief; Laying Jessica Kee off as court clerk. Mike Weempe seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

There was discussion of accepting resignations of Reserve Officer Darrell Haley, Officer Christian Lopez, Officer Rachel, and Interim Chief Danielle Lee-Winston. Mike Weempe made a motion to accept the resignations. Jay Tidwell seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

There was discussion of the Water Report. Sharon explained that there had been two big leaks. Mayor Guard stated there was a lake at the airport. Sharon stated the leaks had been repaired. Mike Weempe made a motion to accept the water report. Jay Tidwell seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

There was discussion of nominations to the Navarro Central Appraisal District Board. Mike Weempe made a motion to nominate Buster Atkeisson. Jay Tidwell seconded the motion. Motion passed with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

Things to place on next month’s agenda: PD plan.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

These minutes approved by the City Council of Richland, Texas on October 12, 2023.

 APPROVED:

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 Mayor Kenneth Guard

ATTEST:

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City Operations Director