



**OFFICIAL MINUTES
RINCON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2020
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
107 W. 17TH STREET
7:00 PM**

Councilmembers Present:

Reese Browher
James Dasher
Patrick Kirkland – **Arrived 7:37 PM**
Levi Scott, Jr.
Ann Daniel

Present:

Ken Lee, Mayor
John Klimm, City Manager
Raymond Dickey, City Attorney
Dulcia King, City Clerk
Jonathan Murrell, Interim Police Chief
Corey Rahn, Fire Chief
LaMeisha Hunter Kelly, City Planner
Tim Bowles, Public Works Director

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM. The Invocation was given by Councilmember Scott and Pledge to the Flag was recited.

Approval of the agenda with the addition of new business item 6A:

Motion to approve: Councilmember Scott
Second: Councilmember Dasher
Vote by Council: Unanimous

Approval of the February 3, 2020 minutes with the following correction:

Under Mayor and Council report Picket was misspelled.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Daniel
Second: Councilmember Scott
Vote by Council: Dasher abstained

Approval of the February 24, 2020 minutes:

Motion to approve: Councilmember Dasher

Second: Councilmember Daniel

Vote by Council: Unanimous

New Business:

1. Request to approve professional services agreement with P. C. Simonton & Associates, Inc. for the Wastewater Treatment Facility Expansion project.

Mrs. Kelly said we need to start the engineering for the WWTP expansion. PC Simonton has been working with us now for a few years and we feel like they have a good understanding of the plant. Staff's recommendation is to engage with PC Simonton. Marcus Sack was present and stated they are currently rebranding to ME Sack Engineering. Councilmember Scott told Mr. Sack Council appreciates all that he has been doing.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Scott

Second: Councilmember Daniel

Vote by Council: Unanimous

2. Request approval to purchase 141 Meter Registers in the amount of \$21,150.00 from Delta Municipal Supply. LI #505.4440.541437

Mr. Bowles said this is a routine purchase item. They are trading in 141 old registers and will get \$35 to \$40 credit a piece on the old ones.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Browher

Second: Councilmember Dasher

Vote by Council: Unanimous

3. Rincon Police Department requests approval to purchase a Silverado 2WD SSV. LI# 320.3200.542216

There were two bids, Brannen Motor Company and Rincon Chevrolet. Councilmember Daniel asked is there a reason why we are doing a truck instead of an SUV, Chief Murrell said these will be admin vehicles and it will make the fleet more versatile. Also because of lack of availability for the chargers this is the next least expensive option. Councilmember Browher said he likes to buy local but there is a \$1000 difference and that is a lot of money. Mayor Lee said we have always tried to give preference to local companies, but the lowest bid is from Brannen. Councilmember Dasher said Rincon Chevrolet has always been pretty generous with sponsorship at the same time he hates for us to spend additional money. Councilmember Scott said his concern is the impact the local dealer has in the whole County. Councilmember Browher asked how much they have sponsored us for over the years. Mrs. Kelly said for many years they have been around a \$1,200.00 sponsor for

Freedom Rings. Councilmember Browner and Mayor Lee said that makes a difference. Mayor Lee suggested that we give one to Rincon Chevrolet and one to Brannen. Attorney Dickey said Council does not have to give it to the lowest bidder, but you can award that and authorize the City Manager to see if they can come down on their price.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Dasher
Second: Councilmember Scott

Both motions were amended to award the bid to Rincon Chevrolet with a price up to \$30,009.80.

Vote by Council: Unanimous

4. Rincon Police Department requests approval to purchase a Silverado 4WD SSV. LI# 320.3200.542216

A motion was made to award the bid to Rincon Chevrolet in the amount up to \$32,335.60.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Dasher
Second: Councilmember Scott
Vote by Council: Unanimous

5. Request for approval of changes to City Policy 80.20 "Take-Home Vehicle" to allow the mileage increase to 28 linear miles.

Interim Chief Murrell said they are trying to reach a much larger recruitment base.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Scott
Second: Councilmember Daniel
Vote by Council: Unanimous

6. Motion to set the qualifying period for the special election to fill the vacated seat of Council member Kevin Exley. Said dates shall be March 30, 2020, from 8:30 AM until 4:30 PM, March 31, 2020, from 8:30 AM until 4:30 PM, and April 1, 2020, from 8:30 AM until 2:00 PM.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Daniel
Second: Councilmember Scott

Both motions were amended to also issue the call for the election on May 19, 2020.

Vote by Council: Unanimous

6A. Request to approve Budget Amendment 2018-05 to amend the FY2018 Budget due to expenditures in excess of department budgets and to adjust project budget for the special projects capital projects fund.

Mr. Klimm said this request was similar to ones made every year after the completion of an audit, which has now been completed. The fund balance at the beginning of the year was 1.7 million and at the end of the year 1.3 million. Mayor Lee asked will the audit be ready to be sent after this approval, Mr. Klimm said it should be ready by no later the Wednesday.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Daniel

Second: Councilmember Scott

Vote by Council: Unanimous

7. Administrative Reports:

City Manager – Mr. Klimm said the RFP for Trash is due Thursday; the operation audit for the Fire Department is proceeding, they will be here March 25 - 27; there is an agency in North Carolina that collects water rates for various states and he provided those rates to Council; in terms of the finance department he is anxious to welcome Derrick Cowart, his start date will be the beginning of April, but he has been here almost every day; he has provided a monthly financial report, there is nothing that jumps out for the first several month; also he provided a weekly report from the beginning of the year for the Golf Course operations. Mayor Lee said GMA is have a planned golf meeting is on March 25 and he will report back after that. All the municipal golf courses are struggling with the same issues that we have. Mr. Klimm reminded Council that he will be attending the City Manager meeting next week in Augusta; he had a meeting last week with BROE about Omni Trax, he provided a water/sewer agreement and is waiting to hear back from them.

Chief of Police –The auction for the seized vehicles will be held on March 28; the closure on 15th Street had no incidents they actually finished early.

Mayor Lee asked about staffing, Chief Murrell said they just hired a K9 officer and received a new application on Friday afternoon. There are four openings.

Building/Zoning Dept. – Mrs. Kelly said she submitted a yearly revenue report, and 2019 was another good year.

Water/Sewer/Public Works – Councilmember Kirkland asked could something be done about trees hanging over Highway 21. Mr. Bowles he could call DOT but if it is on private property the property owner can take care of it. Councilmember Dasher asked how things are going with all of the rain; Mr. Bowles said there are no problems, he has addressed an issue at golf course pond, he took out the spillway box so the pond could drain down.

Mr. Klimm said March 5th came and went, the Picket Fences Road closure came together very well. Interim Chief Murrell said he spoke with the CSX representative and asked about a concrete crossing, they don't do them on smaller crossing unless the City pays.

Councilmember Browher mentioned a cardiac patient that the Fire Department kept alive until EMS got there.

Mayor and Council – Councilmember Scott said the Effingham Hospital Foundation event at Freedom Park was a success.

8. Executive session to discuss personnel, pending litigation, attorney client privilege, and real estate.

Motion: Councilmember Dasher
Second: Councilmember Daniel
Vote by Council: Unanimous

Motion to return to meeting: Councilmember Daniel
Second: Councilmember Browher
Vote by Council: Unanimous

9. Follow the statutes of executive session, to put on file an executive session affidavit and resolution.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Browher
Second: Councilmember Scott
Vote by Council: Unanimous

10. Take any action that is needed on the items from executive session.

No action taken.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn: Councilmember Kirkland
Second: Councilmember Scott
Vote by Council: Unanimous