



**OFFICIAL MINUTES
RINCON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
107 W. 17TH STREET
7:00 PM**

Councilmember Present:

Reese Browher
Levi Scott, Jr.
Patrick Kirkland – Arrived at 7:10 PM
Michelle Taylor
Jesse Blackwell, Jr.
Damon Rahn

Present:

Ken Lee, Mayor
John Klimm, City Manager
Raymond Dickey, City Attorney
Dulcia King, City Clerk
Jonathan Murrell, Police Chief
Lou Reed, Interim Fire Chief
Jason Stewart, City Planner
Tm Bowles, Public Works Director

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM. The invocation was given by Councilmember Browher and the pledge to the flag was recited.

Approval of the agenda:

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

Approval of the February 28, 2022 minutes with the following correction:

Councilmember Browher made the second motion for executive session.

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

Approval of the March 7, 2022 minutes:

Motion to approve: Councilmember Blackwell

Second: Councilmember Taylor

Vote by Council: 5 yes votes, Councilmember Scott abstained

New Business:

1. Request to approve the audit engagement letter with Caines, Hodges, and Company, P.C., for the 2021 City Audit in the amount of \$24,700.00.

Mr. Klimm said we are required to do an audit every year. The cost is within bounds of fees that like cities are paying.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Scott

Second: Councilmember Blackwell

Vote by Council: Unanimous

2. Request approval to purchase 12 Tasers from Axon Enterprise, Inc. in the amount of \$32,115.13. LI #320.3200.542528

Chief Murrell said they would like to purchase 12 Tasers and will get a trade in value for the old ones.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Taylor

Second: Councilmember Scott

Vote by Council: Unanimous

3. Request approval to encumber the budgeted capital expenditures from year 2021.

Mr. Klimm said each year for the last three years we have requested Council to encumber funds from previous year's budget so that we don't have multi appropriations for each project. These projects were already approved last year. The amount of the encumbrance is \$1,896,702.78. Councilmember Taylor asked where we are on the water lines. Mr. Klimm said Alec Metzger will give an update at the next meeting. Councilmember Scott thanked Mr. Klimm for keeping up with this.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Scott

Second: Councilmember Kirkland

Vote by Council: Unanimous

4. Discussion of an appointment of a City of Rincon representative to the Effingham County Industrial Development Authority Board.

Councilmember Scott said he thinks it is important that we have someone there that will keep us informed with the growth coming and nominated Paul Wendelken.

Councilmember Kirkland said Mr. Wendelken has a lot of the history and is a business owner in the City. Councilmember Rahn said he has been asked by the IDA Board to nominate Jody Jones and recommended we invite both in to speak to Council.

Councilmember Browher seconded Councilmember Scott's motion. Councilmember Browher said he has worked with Mr. Wendelken and feels that he will represent the City well. Councilmember Kirkland said he definitely loves the City. Councilmember Blackwell said he thinks Mr. Wendelken will be a great representative for the City of Rincon.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Scott

Second: Councilmember Browher

Vote by Council: 5 yes votes, Councilmember Rahn abstained

5. Administrative Reports:

City Manager – Mr. Klimm informed Council that he had a staff meeting last week. They discussed several items relating to the law with Attorney Dickey present and talked about the survey results. He challenged department heads to look at the results and to respond back to him on how they can improve numbers. He will form an employee working group with representatives from major departments and will work closely with them; Mr. Klimm informed Council that he attended the City/County Managers Association meeting; they had workshops on LOST negotiations and federal infrastructure. Funding is coming and we need to position ourselves and make sure we are ready. Mr. Klimm said he attended a workshop on community surveys, we are at a pivotal point with growth, and a survey might be timely and worthwhile.

Councilmember Kirkland asked about the comments from the employee survey, Mr. Klimm said he will get a copy to Council; Councilmember Rahn asked how do you expect to be proactive. Mr. Klimm said we could do engineering work up front so that we would be ready, without the basic work we will not even be ready; Councilmember Browher said a lot of subdivisions that we have taken the streets, the streets are starting to break down and that will not be a cheap venture; Councilmember Taylor said we need to have workshop to set priorities; Councilmember Scott mentioned electric vehicle charging systems, we need to try and get ahead of that.

Mr. Klimm said we received a nice letter about the Fire Department and read the letter.

City Engineer – Alec Metzger said they have started back up on Middleground Road from 6th Street to Highway 21. Councilmember Kirkland asked about a list of 2022 projects, Mr. Klimm said Mr. Metzger will give an update of projects at the next meeting.

Chief of Police – Chief Murrell said he has deposited \$46,000 of seized assets into the bank and is waiting on that to be awarded to use. Chief Murrell said he was approached by the mother with the case on 7th Street where a male subject was found in his car deceased in April 2020 and she would like for Rincon to take over investigating the case; Councilmember Blackwell asked about the surplus vehicles, Chief Murrell said the auction is this Saturday.

Fire Department – Interim Chief Reed discussed problems with Engine 12, it will cost \$59,000 to fix. Councilmember Kirkland asked about preliminary numbers for a new fire station. Chief Reed said the plans are still with the architect; three of the four new employees have started working, he is looking to have 12 paid firemen, four on each shift.

Mayor and Council – Councilmember Blackwell updated Council on the COVID numbers for Effingham County and they are trending down. Councilmember Scott said it shows on the daily census.

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

No executive session

Adjourn:

Motion: Councilmember Browner

Second: Councilmember Scott

Vote by Council: Unanimous