



**OFFICIAL MINUTES
RINCON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
107 W. 17TH STREET
7:00 PM**

Councilmember Present:

Reese Browher
Patrick Kirkland
W. Frederick Long
Levi Scott, Jr.
Michelle Taylor

Present:

Ken Lee, Mayor
John Klimm, City Manager
Raymond Dickey, City Attorney
Dulcia King, City Clerk
Jonathon Murrell, Police Chief
Pete Smith, Assistant Fire Chief
Jason Stewart, City Planner
Tim Bowles, Public Works Director
Monica Woods, Finance Director

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM. The Invocation was given by Councilmember Taylor and Pledge to the Flag was recited.

Approval of the agenda:

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

Approval of the June 28, 2021 minutes:

Motion to table: Councilmember Scott
Second: Councilmember Long
Vote by Council: Unanimous

Old Business:

1. Joey Dolan request approval to appear before Council to discuss the placement of a fence in a drainage easement. (Tabled at the 6/14/2021 meeting)

Remove from the table: Councilmember Long
Second: Councilmember Scott
Vote by Council: Unanimous

Mr. Klimm said Council instructed the Public Works Director to view the site and look at the easement. Mr. Bowles said he and Doug Morgan, with EMC looked at this and it is listed on the plat as a private easement. The City does not maintain any backyard drainage or retention area in this subdivision. Staff recommends letting Mr. Dolan put up the fence.

No action was taken due to there being a private easement and not a City easement on Mr, Dolans property.

2. Consideration to appoint a Councilmember to serve out the term, ending in December 31, 2021, of seat vacated by Ann Daniel. (Tabled at the 6/28/2021)

Remove from the table: Councilmember Scott
Second: Councilmember Taylor
Vote by Council: Unanimous

Councilmember Kirkland said he did call all three nominations and he was impressed with all three. Councilmember Browher said he looks at this as an opportunity to do what is best for our City, 5 1/2 months is what we are looking at. He looks at all thing being equal and experience and qualifications and with what we are facing in the next 5 ½ months, budget is right around the corner, personally he thinks Paul Wendelken can come on and not skip a beat with no learning curve; he has been a volunteer firefighter he has a business in the city, he knows staff and he feels like he will be the best choice. Councilmember Browher made a motion to appoint Paul Wendelken.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Browher
No second was made, motion failed for lack of second.

Councilmember Long made a motion to appoint Jesse “Ben” Blackwell, Jr. He has talked to him and served with him on the Planning Board. Councilmember Long said Mr. Blackwell is aware of the zoning issues coming before us.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Long
Second: Councilmember Kirkland
Vote by Council: 4 yes votes, Councilmember Browher voted no.

Councilmember Browher said he doesn't vote no lightly and doesn't vote no for spite. He voted for several City Managers kind of to go along, to get along and against his better judgment, at the end of the day he wants to vote how he feels. With that being said he wishes Mr. Blackwell the best.

Mayor Lee said we all want the best for the City and the best representatives, any of the three would have been a good representative.

New Business:

1. Vote on a second reading to establish a Storm Water Utility Ordinance and to establish the fee to be charged for maintenance and management of the storm water utilities.

Councilmember Kirkland said once the second reading passes what is the schedule for letting the public know what is going to happen. Mr. Klimm it would take several months before Wade Burcham can get with finance to input all of the information. At a minimum we are looking at 2 – 3 months. He can report back at the next Council meeting in terms of timing. He knows it will take a couple of months just to get it on the water bills, but Wade Burcham is working with us on an educational program and he would like to see how much time he would need.

Councilmember Scott said it is time to get this moving, we need to get the education piece out. Councilmember Browher asked when this goes in to effect, Attorney Dickey said it doesn't have an effective date upon approval so it would be ten days. A motion was made to approve the ordinance and establish a \$2.00 stormwater maintenance fee and hold the implementation in abeyance for no more than 90 days.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Scott

Second: Councilmember Browher

Vote by Council: Unanimous

2. Request to approve Budget Amendment 2020-08 to amend the FY 2020 General Fund Budget and Fire Fund Budget due to expenditures in excess of department budgets and reclassifications between departments.

Mr. Klimm said every year after the draft from the auditors we ask you to consider a budget adjustment. This adjustment is for the 2020 budget. While we ask Council to make adjustments to some of the individual budgets we ended the year 2020 with an additional General Fund balance of 1.55 million dollars. In the area of financial responsibilities Council should be recognized for this. The fund balance is replenished. Councilmember Browher said he would like to thank Mr. Klimm, it hasn't been since 2005 that we have had surpluses like this. He appreciates department heads for understanding that we had to tighten our belts. This is a big deal. Mayor Lee said it is a big deal, in the past couple of years we had to make some decisions and tighten the purse strings. He commends all of the staff, this is probably one of the best reports that we have had in quite some time.

Councilmember Scott said it has been some nightmares, he thanked Mr. Klimm for coming in, changing the atmosphere, bringing staff together and developing their strengths.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Browher

Second: Councilmember Scott

Vote by Council: Unanimous

3. Approval of a Resolution to update the signature cards for the City of Rincon Ameris Bank accounts.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Kirkland

Second: Councilmember Scott

Vote by Council: Unanimous

4. Administrative Reports:

City Manager – Mr. Klimm said he continues to have regular communication with Doug Morgan about TSPLOST; we continue to see work on Savannah and Georgia Avenues; and the have preconstruction meeting this week on Weisenbaker Road, 4th Street and Middleground Road; at some point we will need to talk about next year’s TSPLOST projects; Mr. Klimm said he did receive communications from the County about holding our elections and he is looking for guidance from Council to see if this is something we wanted to pursue. Councilmember Kirkland said he thinks we should hold for now based on the cost. There was discussion on the location of the City election and using the electronic machines. Mayor Lee said he would like to see us have a movie night during the summer; he also asked about a mid-year budget review, Mr. Klimm said he was looking at August 2nd.

Chief of Police – Mayor Lee asked Chief Murrell about policy and procedures for false alarms that we have previously discussed, Chief Murrell said he has a draft to provide to Council.

Mayor and Council – Councilmember Long said the fireworks at Freedom Rings were good; Councilmember Taylor asked Council about taking budget classes.

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

Motion: Councilmember Scott

Second: Councilmember Long

Vote by Council: Unanimous

Motion to return to meeting: Councilmember Browher

Second: Councilmember Scott

Vote by Council: Unanimous

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

Motion to approve: Councilmember Kirkland

Second: Councilmember Scott

Vote by Council: Unanimous

Councilmember Browher left at 8:45 PM.

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

No action taken.

Adjourn:

Motion: Councilmember Scott

Second: Councilmember Long

Vote by Council: Unanimous