



**OFFICIAL MINUTES
RINCON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2022
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
107 W. 17TH STREET
6:00 PM**

Councilmember Present:

Reese Browher
Levi Scott, Jr.
Patrick Kirkland – Present by Phone
Michelle Taylor
Jesse Blackwell, Jr.
Damon Rahn

Present:

Ken Lee, Mayor
Jason Stewart, Interim City Manager
Raymond Dickey, City Attorney
Dulcia King, City Clerk
Jonathon Murrell, Police Chief
Lou Reed, Interim Fire Chief
Mike Osborne, Recreation Director
Tm Bowles, Public Works Director
Elizabeth Cartwright, Finance Director

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

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

Motion to return to meeting: Councilmember Scott
Second: Councilmember Blackwell
Vote by Council: Unanimous

Invocation was given by Mayor Lee and the Pledge to the Flag was recited.

Approval of the agenda with the following:

New business item 6 will be after Administrative Reports.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Scott

Second: Councilmember Browher

Public comments strike pertaining to agenda items and giving 5 minute, both motions were amended

Vote by Council: Unanimous

Chief Murrell presented officer Gallagher with a medal of valor for his actions during the Freedom Rings in Rincon Parade.

Approval of the August 8, 2022 minutes with the following:

Correction of grammatical errors.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Rahn

Second: Councilmember Scott

Vote by Council: Unanimous

Old Business:

1. Vote on the first reading of an ordinance to annex a 388.21 acre parcel located at 923 South Old Augusta Road; property is owned by Mill Creek Hunting Preserve, Inc. (Parcel # 04750058) (Tabled at the 8/8/2022 meeting)

Motion to remove from the table: Councilmember Blackwell

Second: Councilmember Scott

Vote by Council: Unanimous

Lexi Shockley, representing Mill Creek Hunting Preserve was present. She asked Council to table this item until the meeting of September 26th.

Motion to table: Councilmember Browher

Second: Councilmember Scott

Vote by Council: Unanimous

2. Vote on the First Reading of a petition filed by Lexye L. Shockley as attorney in fact for William Exley, CEO of Mill Creek Hunting Preserve, Inc. requesting a Zoning Map Amendment for a 213.121 acre parcel located at 923 South Old Augusta Road to amend the zoning from B-3 to GA (General Agricultural); the property is owned by Mill Creek Hunting Preserve, Inc. (Parcel # 04750058) (Tabled at the 8/8/2022 meeting)

Motion to remove from the table: Councilmember Scott
Second: Councilmember Blackwell
Vote by Council: Unanimous

Ms. Shockley requested this item to be tabled until September 26th.

Motion to table: Councilmember Blackwell
Second: Councilmember Taylor
Vote by Council: Unanimous

3. Vote on the First Reading of a petition filed by Lexye L. Shockley as attorney in fact for William Exley, CEO of Mill Creek Hunting Preserve, Inc. requesting a Zoning Map Amendment for a 175.024 acre parcel located at 923 South Old Augusta Road to amend the zoning from B-3 to LN (Light Industrial); the property is owned by Mill Creek Hunting Preserve, Inc. (Parcel # 04750058) (Tabled at the 8/8/2022 meeting)

Motion to remove from the table: Councilmember Rahn
Second: Councilmember Scott
Vote by Council: Unanimous

Ms. Shockley requested this item to be tabled until September 26th.

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

New Business:

1. Request for Council to issue a 10 day notice according to the ordinance for nuisance on property located at 202 Weisenbaker Street and to pay all assessed fees.

David Mattos, City Inspector, said this violation is for no permit and trash in the yard. He spoke with Mr. Coleman and would like to put this back on the agenda two weeks from now. He thinks he can work this out with Mr. Coleman. A motion was made to table until the September 12th meeting.

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

2. Request approval to purchase (11) portable radios from Louden Communications in the amount of \$48,726.04. LI #320.3500.542522

Chief Reed said this is to upgrade the radios. It is a state contract and with a discount the cost would actually be \$48,453.78.

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

3. Request approval to purchase a canine from Alabama Canine Law Enforcement Officers Training Center, Inc. in the amount of \$19,000. (Approved at the 3/7/2022 not to exceed \$16,000)

Chief Murrell said the funding is there. \$18,000 will come from SPLOST and he will use the money that was donated.

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

4. Request to renew a 12 month subscription with Spatial Engineering for RightSpot digital database in the amount of \$5,800.00

Mr. Stewart said these are the exact same terms as last year and the exact amount.

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

5. Second reading of the City of Rincon Capital Cost Recovery Fee Ordinance.

Mayor Lee said after discussion with staff he would like to ask that his be tabled until the next meeting so they can have the time to sit down with the engineers that came up with the fees and get the background on how they came up with the fees.

Councilmember Rahn asked did we pay engineers or did we base it off the City of Savannah. EMC Engineering did this. Councilmember Rahn asked when the last study was done; Attorney Dickey said we will have to ask the engineers.

Motion to table until Sept 12: Councilmember Scott
Second: Councilmember Blackwell
Vote by Council: Unanimous

7. Administrative Reports:

City Manager – Mr. Stewart said he would like to have a work shop next week about the Growth Management Ordinance. A workshop will be held August 29th at City Hall.

Recreation Dept. – Mr. Osborne gave Council an update on the rodeo. He said we will be having the rodeo unless we have severe weather and he did purchase the weather insurance; he has the Lewis and Clark Circus locked in for September; they are looking to start on the new park on the 30th October;

Water/Sewer/Public Works – Councilmember Browher asked about trees on Highway 21 between 5th and 6th Streets, Mr. Bowles said they are trying to coordinate between tree experts and GDOT.

Finance – Mrs. Cartwright informed Council she will be starting on the 2023 budget in September.

Mayor and Council – Councilmember Taylor said she would like to put on the workshop agenda getting the fire house built and increasing pay for the firefighters and police officers with the money we are getting from the government. Councilmember Rahn asked about accident near the YMCA, Mr. Bowles said that is a construction entrance, once construction is complete they will not be using it. Councilmember Browher asked about Picket Fences. He said we have to find a solution and he wants staff to come up with some options. Councilmember Scott said we need to sit aside funds and start a dialogue with all involved parties. Councilmember Rahn said we have a lot of things that we have tabled and put on the side is there any way we can put them on a white board to keep us on task. Mr. Stewart said yes. Councilmember Browher said the entrance light at Dashers Landing has been out; Mr. Stewart said he has reached out to Hargray and will try again.

6. Public Comments (Limit to five minutes)

One citizen had questions about the annexation request process.

Chief Murrell said he has four positions to fill and has two interested parties that are under 21. He wanted to know from Council if they can hire them. Councilmember Rahn asked the candidate pool, Chief Murrell said they have had one applicant within the past three to four weeks. Councilmember Rahn asked what does he see as the issue, advertisement, Chief Murrell said we are just not getting interest. Councilmember Rahn said money, Chief Murrell said money, we are not competitive with our pay anymore. Councilmember Rahn asked what do you see as the resolution; Chief Murrell said if we can get our pay bumped up, that is not the reason he came up here, but if we can bump our pay up to be competitive, \$21.50ish to \$22.80 an hour. Councilmember Scott said the County raised their pay but they did it during their budget, we are in the budget planning stage. This should be in the budget planning and not here. We all now it is an issue. Chief Murrell said he was able to show on paper where there is savings to the current salary this year because we have been short two employees all year and now we are short four, so there is money to fund that

without having to do a budget amendment. Councilmember Scott said when we approve a budget for the year we should try to work through that budget; he knows that every department needs new employees. Councilmember Rahn said he looks to Council to provide Chief Murrell with what he needs and budgets are made to be amended.

Councilmember Blackwell asked if the new hires will be with a senior office the whole year. Chief Murrell said no, it would be ten to twelve weeks. Mayor Lee asked was there any legal restrictions that would prevent us from doing this, Attorney Dickey said we should check with insurance company.

Councilmember Taylor said rest assured she spoke with the lady at GMA and they said we have money from the government, the Recovery Care Act and she is going to find it and get raises done.

Councilmember Browher asked was there no policy about hiring someone 21 years old, he wants to make sure we are not violating our policy and procedures. Chief Murrell said he couldn't find anything but will check again.

Eddie Coleman said as a citizen he prefers to be taxed fairly on the real estate value of his home as opposed to increase service fees in the City.

Cirincione Bacon stated his position on items 1, 2, and 3. Mr. Bacon said we should have the right to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. When you rezone this property you will change their way of life. The Council should consider the citizens that were here before.

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

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

Motion to return to meeting: Councilmember Scott
Second: Councilmember Blackwell
Vote by Council: Unanimous

9. Follow the statutes of executive session (for both executive sessions), to put on file an executive session affidavit and resolution.

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

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

No action taken

Adjourn:

Motion: Councilmember Scott

Second: Councilmember Rahn

Vote by Council: Unanimous