



**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
RINCON CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2021  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
107 W. 17<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
7:00 PM**

**Councilmember Present:**

Jesse Blackwell, Jr.  
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  
Lou Reed, Interim Fire Chief  
Jason Stewart, City Planner  
Tim Bowles, Public Works Director  
Tommy Kee, WWTP Director

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM. The Invocation was given by Councilmember Long and Pledge to the Flag was recited.

**Approval of the agenda:**

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

Mayor Lee recognized out going Councilmember Freddy Long. This will be his last meeting after serving for two years on Rincon City Council.

**Approval of the December 13, 2021 minutes with the following:**

One grammatical error and the second motion on item 17 was Councilmember Browher.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Scott

Second: Councilmember Kirkland

Vote by Council: Unanimous

**Old Business:**

**1. Request approval to pay M.E. Sack for engineering services done at the WWTP in the amount of \$5,537.50. LI #320.4335.541453 (Tabled at the 12/13/2021 meeting)**

Motion to remove from the table: Councilmember Blackwell

Second: Councilmember Scott

Vote by Council: Unanimous

Marcus Sack was present by phone. He said this is for continued work on design and permitting for Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Scott

Councilmember Taylor asked was this is for November, yes. Councilmember Kirkland asked were there any more cost associated with the project, yes it is in the budget.

Second: Councilmember Browher

Vote by Council: Unanimous

**2. Request approval to pay Gilbert Pump and Mechanical \$9,200.00 for repairs to the WWTP. LI #506.4335.531125 (Tabled at the 12/13/2021 meeting)**

Motion to remove from the table: Councilmember Scott

Second: Councilmember Blackwell

Vote by Council: Unanimous

Tommy Kee said this is a pump that does mixing. We have six and this is one needing replacing. The ones that have been in there have been in there since 2006.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Taylor

Second: Councilmember Blackwell

Vote by Council: Unanimous

**3. Second reading for proposed amendments to the City of Rincon Ordinances Sections 78-7 Traffic and 18-52 Home Occupations and Home Business Offices to amend said ordinances related to the keeping and storing of tractors, trailers, and heavy duty vehicles for personal or business use within residentially zoned property within the City. (Tabled at the 8/9/2021 meeting)**

Motion to remove from the table: Councilmember Long

Second: Councilmember Scott

Vote by Council: Unanimous

Jason Stewart said the first reading was held back in May. Mayor Lee said we have been dealing with this for a long time and have been trying to give the folks that have been impacted time to make some arrangements to comply with the new ordinance. At the same time Mr. Klimm has tried to look for options to help in the situation. Mr. Klimm said we have talked to several property owners about realistic option for folks, we have been working with a property owner as of last week that said he is looking to come before Planning in January. This will be a parking facility in a commercial area not impacting residential. It is a not a done deal but private sector initiative. Mr. Klimm said this is a policy issue to be decided by Council; staff has tried to do what we can do to try to look for realistic options if there are folks in the community that is doing the same we could collaborate. Councilmember Scott said we have to do something about this issue, we have informed the community that we have to do something, but we promised them a meeting. The question came back at the last Monday, he was unaware that we would try to have a meeting with folks in less than two days; we need to make sure we are doing everything in good faith and he does not think it is reasonable to have a meeting in less than 48 hours. It was to short of a notice. He does not think any citizen that has a truck can come to a meeting in less than 48 hours; they would need four or five days. Mr. Klimm said the request came from a Councilmember to put this on tonight's agenda, we had not had the community meeting so we called. There were four families that said they would be there and no one showed up. We have been talking about this for a year and the only ones that have been working on this, is our staff. Councilmember Long said we had a first meeting in May we are 7 months down the road, he thinks we have talked about it enough. Councilmember Scott said it was unprofessional to have a meeting on such short notice. Councilmember Browher said he agrees with Councilmember Scott we have been kicking this around for several months. He doesn't think it is fair that we have this last minute meeting, he certainly wants to hear their concerns before we have this second meeting, less do it fair.

Motion to table until the first meeting in February: Councilmember Kirkland

Second: Councilmember Browher

There was a discussion on the date of a community meeting. The meeting will be held on January 19 at 7:00PM.

Mr. Klimm asked for clarification in terms of the hopeful expectation of the meeting because all staff can offer is our hard work of finding an alternative. We are not advocating

doing this or not doing this. It is a policy change that the Council needs to decide. If you come to this community meeting the only thing staff can offer is alternatives unless Council is planning to be there, if the desire of the community is to debate the policy that is for the Council to decide. Mayor Lee said he thinks the purpose of the meeting is to hear from the community and their options. Councilmember Kirkland said we can give them a copy of the ordinance so they can see if we missed anything or can change anything on the ordinance.

Zack Mydell said when this first started it was about subdivisions and he does not understand how it got to one certain area. Someone called him on Tuesday and said be there at 2:00pm, he told them he couldn't make he would be out of town. They never called him back, if he wouldn't have come here tonight it would have went on through, no one called him from the City.

Vote by Council: 5 yes votes, Councilmember Long voted no

### **New Business:**

#### **1. Second reading of the proposed FY 2022 City of Rincon Budget.**

Mr. Klimm discussed the budget. Councilmember Scott said he appreciates the work the Mr. Klimm has done looking at the public safety. Councilmember Taylor said she would like to meet quarterly about the budget.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Browher  
Second: Councilmember Scott

Mayor Lee thanked Mr. Klimm and all of staff that had a hand in the budget.

Vote by Council: Unanimous

#### **2. Second reading of an ordinance to annex 67.95 acre parcel located at 1360 Fort Howard Road; property is owned by Kenneth P Rule. (Map and Parcel # 04750061)**

Mr. Charles Way representing Kenneth Rule was present.

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

#### **3. Second reading of an ordinance to annex 4.46 acre parcel located at 0 Fort Howard Road; property is owned by Kenneth P Rule. (Map and Parcel # 04750061A00)**

Motion to approve: Councilmember Long  
Second: Councilmember Blackwell

Councilmember Browher thanked them for annexing into the City.

Vote by Council: Unanimous

**4. Request approval to award the bid for Turn Out Gear in the amount of \$29,150.00 to Municipal Emergency Services.**

Interim Chief Reed said this is for ten sets of PPE. 30 sets have expired their ten year shelf life. The first six sets will go to new hires and three sets to volunteers. This will come from SPLOST Funds.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Scott

Second: Councilmember Blackwell

Vote by Council: Unanimous

**5. Request approval to award the bid for Battery Operated Hydraulic Tools in the amount of \$49,712.00 to Georgia Fire and Rescue Supply.**

Interim Chief Reed said the new electronic tools will allow them to move away from the vehicle even farther, they are limited to 100 feet right now. This will go on the new engine one. Councilmember Taylor asked did they get the new equipment from Fire House Subs, Chief Reed said not yet they will deposit the funds in January. This will come from SPLOST Funds.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Long

Second: Councilmember Scott

Vote by Council: Unanimous

**6. Request approval to reject all bids received and to cancel the RFP for Thermal Imaging Cameras.**

Interim Chief Reed said they have found a more viable cost for the cameras.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Browher

Second: Councilmember Scott

Vote by Council: Unanimous

**7. Motion to suspend Rincon Fire Department SOP 8, sections 4.1 through 4.3 and sections 5.1 through 5.4.**

Mr. Klimm said the next three items deal with the transition from our existing part time volunteer system to a permanent full time system. From talking to Interim Chief Reed that one of his goals in terms of his interim chief action plan is to rewrite the SOP which is archaic.

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

**8. Motion to create the position of full time Fire Chief and position of full time Deputy Fire Chief.**

Mr. Klimm said this is to create the permanent position of Fire Chief and Deputy Chief, but we will only fill the Chief position at this time.

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

**9. Motion to approve City Manager initiating a comprehensive search for a Fire Chief.**

Mr. Klimm said this will allow us to move forward in a comprehensive search for a fulltime Chief. The key is to do it well and not fast.

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

**10. Administrative Reports:**

**City Manager** – Mr. Klimm said City Hall will be closed Thursday and Friday and on December 31; tomorrow at 1:00PM Mayor Lee will meet with employees to thank staff at City Hall; he thanked Councilmember Kirkland with help on the survey. They are finalizing it and will distribute in January; Councilmember Kirkland said he would like to get Blue Line Solutions back on the agenda. Councilmember Blackwell asked about ice skating rink, Mr. Klimm said he would reach out to Mr. Osborne about this.

**City Engineer** – Mayor Lee asked Mr. Metzger about Middleground Road. He is getting email and people are asking when it will be done. He knows December 31 was the target date but knows that is not going to happen. Mr. Metzger said he will check with them to see what the projection is. The holdup is the rock.

**Chief of Police** – Chief Murrell informed Council that one of his best officers resigned, Darrien Vance he went to Liberty County.

**Fire Department** – Interim Chief Reed said they had a department wide meeting on Friday night and came up with four committees to work on the first few items on the audit, they set a 30, 60, 90 day timeline on the items; he brought id card maker and it is available for all city employees; Councilmember Scott asked about recruiting volunteers, Chief Reed said they are working on some ways they have not been in schools yet.

Councilmember Kirkland asked Chief Murrell did he have any resolution about the truck that was driving on the golf course. Chief Murrell said no, he was trying to look for video, but Lost Plantation but their cameras are down. Being that it is City Property we may need to look at getting a camera back there.

**Mayor and Council** – Councilmember Taylor said the beatification club will be going around the City. Councilmember Browher said the benches and trash receptacles on Highway 21 are old, we need to look at those. Councilmember Browher said at corner of East 7th Street and Carolina Avenue, Mr. Clyde Alley’s house; we need to look at the trees. There are some dead branches some are over his house and a few are on 7<sup>th</sup> Street, so if we can look at those and determine what we need to do. Also can we check to see if his septic tank has been bypassed, he was telling him about some issues and there is a short stretch of road by his driveway, in our right of way, that is washed out can Mr. Bowles put some crush and run down; secondly Plantation Drive is not bad yet but we need to go back over there and look at the potholes.

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

No executive session

**Adjourn:**

Motion: Councilmember Scott

Second: Councilmember Kirkland

Vote by Council: Unanimous