

City of Richland Springs Minutes of City Council Meeting on April 10th, 2023

Meeting: Discussion of the ongoing projects and regular business of the city

Council Attendees: Mayor Johnnie Reeves

Council Members: Aaron Bessett, Franky Soto, Frank Pearce, Larry Crump, and Jessica Scales

Called to Order: 07:00 PM

Note Taker: Jessica Scales

City Officials present: Mayor, Johnnie Reeves; Mayor Protem, Frank Pearce; Treasurer, Franky Soto; Secretary, Jessica Scales; Larry Crump; City Water Manager, Chris Perry.

Absent: Aaron Bessett

Guests present: Paige Moats, Dell Becker Sagebiel

7:00pm 1. Opened meeting with a prayer.

7:01pm 2. Citizen and Guest Participation: Paige – advised us she ordered more mulch for city park, will need assistance moving bags onto playground, was given general time frame for delivery; city advised will assist with tractor once they arrive.

7:05pm Dell – she states street maps are incorrect, Auburn St does not exist, states she has Marion St. address, believes the city street is her private property. Discussed other properties on the street. She states her family purchased all those properties decades ago. Advised that does not mean streets were included, still city property, street was never closed, and still not closing streets at this time. She accused the city of conspiracy to take her property via some form of taxes and states she will bring all her evidence to next meeting.

7:15pm 3. We discussed and approved previous meeting minutes.

Motion to approve made by Frank Pearce, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Franky Soto, passed by unanimous vote.

7:18pm 4. We discussed and approved the payment of bills for the city and water, sewer, and garbage. Normal payments this month except for purchase of supplies needed to complete sewer pond cleanout project.

Motion to approve bills made by Franky Soto, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jessica Scales, passed by unanimous vote.

7:23pm 5. We discussed the monthly reports for the city and the water sewer and garbage.

-Collection agency fully operating now, six ongoing collection accounts already in progress.

-AMS(sewer pond cleanout)-The location has power now in place, Oncor decided we needed our own transformer for steady power connection, power will be operational in 10 days(4/20). Had to connect water at different location than originally discussed, next to Frank Griffin's, original hilltop location next to tower did not have enough PSI to

- A court date has been set for April 20<sup>th</sup>, for a few who would like to challenge the citations given. Also 3 new certified letters sent about ordinance on multiple properties around town. 45 days notice is being given before incurring fines.
- Discharge permit application still in progress per TCEQ, they have also requested additional information in regards to gallons pumped in and out daily and how many hours pump runs. We will be monitoring daily for next 10 days to give most current stats. We may be pumping too much, will be investigating further to determine exact numbers
- Trade Days this weekend (April 15<sup>th</sup>), we will be setting out the city dumpsters to keep trash down for the city, The Feedlot and Preservation Society.
- Franky Soto, current member of Preservation Society, gave update. He advised us 501K status expired for Preservation Society Jan 2023, no longer has status of non-profit. Now county is requesting property taxes, and comptroller wants access to building to measure square footage to determine amounts. They have also requested income amounts for the business running out of the building. Franky will be investigating to find out how status was lost and see if taxes cant be reduced or dismissed completely. Preservation Society will need financial assistance if tax fees are required.

7:58pm 9. We discussed current rental fee for the Community Center. Compared to other centers for rent in area. Our fee is almost 75% less. Discussed inflation, current cost of stocking all supplies for building, paying professional cleaners monthly, and keeping electric and water on. All costs have increased. Decided to increase daily rental fee from \$25 to \$50, to keep profitable but reasonable. Also discussed last few renters not cleaning up center after use, as is requested, forcing us to schedule additional cleaning appointments. Discussed adding deposit to rental fee for cleaning, should center be left dirty. Did not want to increase fee too much, decided to give citizens verbal request and benefit of the doubt. Decided city will advise each renter at time of rental, that building must be left in condition it was rented or renter would be subject to \$50 cleaning fee. Should they not agree or not pay fee if requested, they will no longer be eligible to rent community center.

Motion made to raise the rental fee of the Community Center from \$25 to \$50 from this moment forward, and to personally advise each renter of verbal cleaning agreement, and should it not be met, to then impose a \$50 cleaning fee on renter as needed. Motion made by Frank Pearce, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Larry Crump, passed by unanimous vote.

8:04pm 10. Entered into Executive Session under Section 551-074 of the TX Govt Code Item 1.

8:20pm 11. Motion made to exit Exec Session by Jessica Scales, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Larry Crump, passed by unanimous vote.

City of Richland Springs Minutes of Executive Session on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Executive Session: Discussion of the Business of the City

Council Attendees: Mayor Johnie Reeves

Council Members: Aaron Bessett, Franky Soto, Frank Pearce, Larry Crump, and Jessica Scales

Called to Order: 8:04PM

Note Taker: Jessica Scales

City officials present: Mayor, Johnie Reeves; Treasurer, Franky Soto; Secretary, Jessica Scales; Larry Crump; City Water Manager, Chris Perry Absent: Aaron Bessett



Discussion:

-Johnie advised council he will still be mayor in name only, next meeting will be his last (May 2023). We as council will operate from that point going forward without official mayor presence at meeting. Discussed authorizing Chris to work as city manager and giving him official authorization to sign city documents as needed, in place of Johnie. Frank as Mayor Protem, is also able to sign but may be harder to reach him during the daytime. This designation will exist until someone runs for the position (no one submitted election form, election has now been cancelled), or until we appoint a chosen citizen as mayor. Discussed setting up resolution for the next meeting to make Chris official city manager. Discussed suggestions for mayor as well. Most people we approached with suggestion, as individual council members in personal time, said no. Jason Lewis is only citizen to directly inquire, spoke with Franky. Jason did not run again this year for RSISD school board president and would be eligible for mayor position pending last school board meeting. Will discuss candidates further in the future.

-Discussed water grant improvement project dragging on USDA end, nothing we can do but wait on them at this point, everything done and ready on our end. They extended date again for final approval.

No further discussions.

Motion to exit session made by Jessica Scales, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Larry Crump, passed by unanimous vote.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, Johnie Reeves  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Jessica Scales