Official Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting

Of the City of Richland, Texas

Mayor Kenneth Guard called the meeting to order on April 13, 2023, at 6:00 PM in the Civic Center of Richland, Texas. Those in attendance were Chief Financial Officer Bruce Thomas, Council members Shirley Thomas, Jodie Farmer, Caren Smith, Jay Tidwell and Mike Weempe, Operations Director Sharon Settlemyer. Chief Luu. There were two (2) visitors present.

Mike Weempe gave the invocation.

Comments from citizens: Odis Arnold wants streets worked on when deluge is over. Mike Weempe wants asphalt to put down instead of oil sand.

The discussion with Gerald Tierce was tabled.

There was discussion of the Minutes of the April 2023 meeting. Mike Weempe asked about the fifth car and if Officer Haley has his own insurance when he’s not working for us. If he’s in an accident while on duty, how much is deductible? Sharon stated yes, he has his own insurance, and the deductible is $500. He then asked when are there five officers on duty? Chief Luu explained on Saturdays, and he’s hoping to have even more. Mike Weempe stated he wants there to be officers working on Sundays. Chief Luu answered they already have been. Shirley Thomas made a motion to accept the minutes. Jodie Farmer seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

There was discussion of the financial report for April 2023. Jodie Farmer made a motion to accept the report. Caren Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

There was discussion of the Police Department/Municipal Court Reports. Mike Weempe made a motion to accept the report. Jay Tidwell seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

There was discussion of hiring Reserve Officer Adrian Hernandez. Mike Weempe made a motion to hire Officer Hernandez. Jodie Farmer seconded the motion. Motion passed with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

There was discussion of the Water Report. Shirley Thomas made a motion to accept the water report. Jodie Farmer seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

There was discussion of a salary increase for John Moon. Sharon explained that John had just recently passed his exam and is now a Class D Operator for our water system. Mike Weempe made a motion to increase his salary $3.00 per hour. Jay Tidwell seconded the motion. Motion passed with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

There was discussion of hiring a maintenance person. Sharon explained that the streets need to be worked on, there are streets signs and stop signs that need to be put up. Jay Tidwell made a motion to hire a maintenance person at $15.00 per hour, part-time. Mike Weempe seconded the motion.

Things to place on next month’s agenda: Mike Weempe would like a letter to go out with a satisfaction survey to everyone in the city. He would like to see more people come to the meeting. Sharon will work on a letter and a survey and send it to the Council for approval. Jay Tidwell would like a Crime watch meeting and suggested Chief Luu work on getting it set-up. Chief Luu stated he had been considering a Citizen Police Academy and an Explorer Post. Jay stated a Deputy had spoken with him that Richland is considered a “speed trap”. Chief Luu explained that there is not as much time spent on issuing speeding citations as other traffic violations, such as no insurance.

Meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

These minutes approved by the City Council of Richland, Texas on June 8, 2023.

 APPROVED:

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 Mayor Kenneth Guard

ATTEST:

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City Operations Director