Official Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting

Of the City of Richland, Texas

Mayor Kenneth Guard called the meeting to order on March 9, 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 and Officer Winston. There were four (4) visitors present.

Kenneth Guard gave the invocation.

Comments from citizens: None.

There was discussion of Ordinance #183 Granting Oncor Electric Delivery Company, LLC Rights of Way along streets, alleys, highways, public utility easements, public ways and public property present and future. Oncor Representative Ignacio Aceves introduced himself and explained the Ordinance to the Council. He answered questions the Council had and explained that Oncor distributes the power, they don’t make it anymore. Solar equals 9%, wind equals 31%, coal, nuclear and other make up the rest. He explained that in the future it will take all of those and batteries to have the power that is needed. Mike Weempe made a motion to adopt the Ordinance. Jodie Farmer seconded the motion. Motion passed with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

Duke Energy Representative Eric Briones gave a presentation on the Pisgah Ridge Phase II update and map. He answered questions about having the solar panels to look at from Mike Weempe and Bruce Thomas. He explained that they have vegetative barriers in the contracts of all property owners who sign on with them. Phase II already has ten (10) property owners signed up and they are negotiating with a handful of others. They plan on Phase II being about half the size of Phase I. He passed out an information sheet and map of the proposed Phase II. There were questions about the reinvestment zone and explained that it won’t affect current property owners’ taxes. Mayor Guard thanked him for coming.

There was discussion of donating money to Officer Putz and Officer Winston families. Sharon explained that Officer Putz was the DPS Officer that was trapped under his vehicle recently. The Richland Fire Department had held a fundraiser and were short of the goal they wanted to give to the Officer and his family. He is in the hospital and will require a long time for rehab. Sharon then explained that Officer Winston’s brother had been shot and killed two weeks ago, and that funerals cost a lot. Mike Weempe stated he thought the City should donate to both. Sharon suggested $2,000 per family. Mike Weempe made a motion to donate $2,000 to each family. Caren Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

There was discussion of the Minutes of the February 2023 meeting. Caren Smith 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 February 2023. Shirley Thomas made a motion to accept the report. Jodie Farmer 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. Jodie Farmer seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

There was discussion of accepting the resignation of Michael Watson as Reserve Police Officer. Mike Weempe made a motion to accept the resignation. Jodie Farmer seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

There was discussion of the Water Report. Mike Weempe 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 Ordinance #182 Cancelling the election and declaring Jodie Farmer, Caren Smith and Jay Tidwell elected. Shirley Thomas made a motion to adopt the Ordinance. Mike Weempe seconded the motion. Motion passed with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

There was discussion of CD. Bruce explained we have one CD coming due on April 5, 2023. He suggested the Council wait until closer to renewal time to decide what to do. Community National offered 3.20% for 6 months, but he does not want to get trapped into an amount if the Fed raises the rate. Mike Weempe made a motion to wait until closer to renewal. Jodie Farmer seconded the motion. Motion passed with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

There was discussion of Salary Increase for Jessica Kee after she completed her GED. Sharon explained that Jessica completed her GED, which was required when she was hired. Caren asked what her current salary is. Sharon answered $15.00 an hour. Caren made a motion to give her a $1.00 an hour raise. Jay Tidwell seconded the motion. Motion passed with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

There was discussion of Resolution # 97 Joining Opioid Suit and Adopting Texas Term Sheet. Mike Weempe made a motion to adopt the Resolution. Jodie Farmer seconded the motion. Motion passed with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

An Emergency Telephone Vote was done on April 5, 2023 to discuss the CD coming due at Community National Bank. Bruce suggested that the Council move the CD from Community National to Verabank at 4.03% for 7 months. Mike Weempe made a motion to approve the move to Verabank. Jay Tidwell seconded the motion. Motion passed with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

Things to place on next month’s agenda: None

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

These minutes approved by the City Council of Richland, Texas on April 13, 2023.

 APPROVED:

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 Mayor Kenneth Guard

ATTEST:

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City Operations Director