Official Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting

Of the City of Richland, Texas

Mayor pro-tem Shirley Thomas called the meeting to order on February 9, 2023, at 6:00 PM in the Civic Center of Richland, Texas. Those in attendance were Chief Financial Officer Bruce Thomas, Council members Jodie Farmer, Caren Smith, Jay Tidwell and Mike Weempe, Operations Director Sharon Settlemyer. Officer Winston. There were six (6) visitors present.

Mike Weempe gave the invocation.

Comments from citizens: None.

There was discussion with Krystal Sardaneta about placing a Manufactured home at 305 Memorial Drive. Richard with Clayton Homes explained to the Council that the home was a 28x76 with 4 bedrooms and 3 baths. The buyers had upgraded to metal underpinning and were also getting wooden decks. Caren Smith asked on what side of the pond the home would be placed. Krystal stated on the opposite side of the existing house. Jodie Farmer made a motion to allow the Manufactured home to be placed at 305 Memorial Drive. Caren Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

There was discussion with Bobby Williams about Richland Clean-up letter. Bobby explained the house is located at 600 W. Main Street and his mother lived there prior to her death. His brother was in the house until he was incarcerated. He explained that he is willing to knock the house down and burn it, but with his brother being in jail, he won’t have anything when he gets out in August. He asked the Council to allow the house to stand, until his brother is able to go and get anything out he wants. Shirley Thomas asked about the yard being kept. He stated he would mow it, or he would have the neighbor mow it as needed. He also stated there’s a car there that belongs to someone his brother helped when the car broke down. The tires have been stolen, and someone tried to steal the car, so the ignition is messed up. Mike Weempe made a motion to give him until September, as long as he keeps the yard looking good. Jodie Farmer seconded the motion. Motion passed with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

There was discussion with Samantha Luzadder about the 400 N. Austin and the Richland Clean-up letter Samantha explained that there were several vehicles on the property which they allowed Bob Gerhardt to place there when he sold his property since he had a limited time to move them. He had visited several times, but when he didn’t come around for a while, they tried to find him and learned he had suffered a stroke. She had placed the RV where it is and wants to keep it there because her neighbors are harassing them. She stated that her neighbor had come and complained because the RV blocked his view. His view is her house. She stated they place trash in the truck because it costs less to haul it to the dump than what the local trash service charges. She asked the Council if she could put up a privacy fence. Samantha stated it would be a wooden fence, and they are planning on purchasing sections as they can afford it. Officer Winston stated that she would find out about the abandoned vehicles and let her know what can be done. Samantha stated that Oncor has a 25 foot easement between the properties, so they would make sure to put the fence on their side of that easement. Mike Weempe made a motion to allow the privacy fence to be put up as they can afford, and for Officer Winston to find out about getting the other cars removed. Jodie Farmer seconded the motion. Motion passed with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”. Samantha thanked the Council, then asked how much time she had. Mike Weempe stated as long as they’re working on it, and making progress, they will be fine.

There was discussion of the Minutes of the January 12, 2023 meeting. Mike Weempe 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 January 2023. Shirley Thomas asked if anyone had any questions. Caren Smith 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 the Water Report. Sharon told the Council that the City had just had its first TCEQ Comprehensive Compliance Investigation. There are a few things that the City needs to work on, the investigator was impressed with the record keeping and overall status of the system. 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”.

Things to place on next month’s agenda: Solar panels and maps.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

These minutes approved by the City Council of Richland, Texas on March 9, 2023.

APPROVED:

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Mayor Kenneth Guard

ATTEST:

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City Operations Director