Official Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting

Of the City of Richland, Texas

Mayor Kenneth Guard called the meeting to order on November 9, 2023, at 6:55 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, Mike Weempe and Jay Tidwell, Operations Director Sharon Settlemyer, Chief Hoffman, City Attorney Natalie Dawson. There were no (0) visitors present.

Comments from citizens: None.

There was discussion of the Minutes of the October 12, 2023, meeting. Jodie Farmer made a motion to accept the minutes. Jay Tidwell seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

There was discussion of the financial report for October 2023. 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 CD. Bruce Thomas stated that he had talked to five (5) different banks. Centex offered 4.15 for nine (9) months; Chase and CNB offered 2.25 for six (6) months; then CNB called back and offered 5.00 for nine (9) months; Verabank offered 4.60 for seven (7) months. Caren Smith made a motion to move CD to CNB for nine (9) months at 5.00. Mike Weempe seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

There was discussion of the police department/municipal court report. 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 COPS grant. Mike Weempe made a motion to accept the grant. Shirley Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

There was discussion of Resolution #98 Texas Smart Buy Membership Program. Caren Smith made a motion to adopt the Resolution. Jodie Farmer seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

There was discussion of ending the contract with LensLock. Chief Hoffman stated he is not happy with the products. The internet is slow and is still downloading from October. Jodie Farmer made a motion to end the contract. Shirley Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

There was discussion of entering into a contract with Axon for body cam, dash cam and tasers. Chief Hoffman stated he had brought this company to both Dawson and Venus. The first year would cost 10% of the total price of the purchase of $69,209.04; then the subsequent years would be $13,881.48. Chief Hoffman stated that he is planning to hire one officer in February and another after he graduates from the Academy. Mike Weempe asked about Reserves. Chief Hoffman stated he is going to revamp the reserve program and hopes to hire in the summer or next fall. Mike Weempe stated hopefully sooner than that. Jodie Farmer made a motion to enter into the contract with Axon. Caren Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

There was discussion of the purchase of traffic cones, road flares, blood specimen collection kits. Chief Hoffman stated he would like to purchase eight (8) cones per vehicle at a cost of $669.60, and thirty-six (36) road flares at a cost of $687.90. He stated he would also like to purchase three (3) sets of stop sticks at a cost of $1,515.00. Caren Smith stated he is asking for a lot of money to be spent during his probation period. She stated she understands that safety is number one, so she agrees with purchasing the cones and the flares, but the stop sticks will need to wait until later. Mike Weempe stated that the PD needs a five-year plan. City Attorney Natalie Dawson stated she would help with that. Caren Smith stated the PD needs a budget showing them how much they can spend. Chief Hoffman stated there will need to be funding from other things in the future for him to look at salary increases. He asked about a sewer system, and whether there are grants available. Mayor Guard explained that we had looked at this in the past and that without the rest area, the cost per house would have been $80-90 monthly. Jodie Farmer made a motion to purchase the cones and flares, and to see if there is a better price out there. Mike Weempe seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

There was discussion of purchasing equipment to replace emergency lighting and other repairs on Unit 1701 and 1402. Chief Hoffman stated there are repairs that need to be done on both vehicles. Mike Weempe suggested he take the cars to Mike Davis and have him fix them. Chief Hoffman then stated what he would like to do is take all the lights off 1701 and put them on 2201, then replace all the lights on 1701 at a cost of $5,400. Mike Weempe stated that right now, let us get the two cars’ lights repaired, then 2201 lights can be looked at in the future. Caren Smith again stated that he is still in his probation period. Caren Smith made a motion to take 1701 and 1492 to Mike Davis. Mike Weempe seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 5 “ayes” and 0 “nays”.

There was discussion of hiring Officer Kyle Gottschalk as full-time officer. Chief Hoffman introduced Officer Gottschalk to the Council. Mike Weempe made a motion to hire Officer Gottschalk. Jay Tidwell 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”.

Things to place on next month’s agenda: None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

These minutes approved by the City Council of Richland, Texas on December 14, 2023.

 APPROVED:

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 Mayor Kenneth Guard

ATTEST:

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City Operations Director