

# MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF RICHMOND HILL

Tuesday, February 16, 2016  
7:30 P.M.

## Richmond Hill City Hall Council Chambers

**Present from City Council:** Harold Fowler, *Mayor*; Russ Carpenter, *Mayor Pro-Tem*;  
*Councilmembers:* Johnny Murphy, John Fesperman, Jan Bass

**Staff Present:** Chris Lovell, *City Manager*; Ursula Lee, *City Clerk*; Ralph Catlett, *Fire Chief*; Scott Allison, *Director of Planning & Zoning*; Randy Dykes, *Asst. Planning & Zoning Director*; Mark Long, *Code Enforcement*; Bob Whitmarsh, *Finance Director*; Charlie Heino, *Enviroworx*

**Visitors:** Jamie Parker, Juraj Hudacek, Mike Pinault, Kim Stefan, Ron Elliott, Sarah Johnson, Steve Scholar, Eara Merritt, Lee Newton, Brian Baraniak, John Cameron, Ryan Peters, JoClaire Hickson, Michelle Meacham, Jordan Johnson, Buddy Barrow, Ben Edwards, Sean Curry, Brendon Greene, Jeff Nielsen, Chris Coursin

Mayor Fowler called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. Councilmember Carpenter gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chief Reynolds.

### 1. Approval of Minutes of meeting **February 2, 2016**

**Councilmember Carpenter made a motion to approve the February 2, 2016 City Council Minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.**

### **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

#### **Administration and Personnel: Ursula Lee**

Nothing to report.

#### **Public Safety:**

#### **Police Department: Chief Billy Reynolds**

1. 2015 Year Summary Report.
2. Monthly Report for January 2016.
3. Approve/Disapprove Resolution to Declare Certain Items as Surplus.

**CITY OF RICHMOND HILL  
RESOLUTION TO DECLARE CERTAIN  
EQUIPMENT AS SURPLUS**

**WHEREAS** the item named on this resolution has been removed from active service and is no longer used for day to day operation of the City of Richmond Hill we therefore declare this item to be surplus and as such may be disposed of by sale or donation as the city sees fit:

Proclaimed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2016

**Councilmember Fesperman made a motion to approve the RESOLUTION TO DECLARE CERTAIN EQUIPMENT AS SURPLUS. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bass. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.**

**Fire Department: Ralph Catlett**

1. Monthly Report for January 2016.
2. Pinning of Lt. Johnson and Lt. Curry. Chief Catlett called Firefighter's Johnson, Curry and their wives forward and asked Mayor Fowler to join them. Chief Catlett stated both firefighters had been promoted to Lieutenants and had their wives pin them. Mayor and Council congratulated them.

**Public Works: Charles Heino, Enviroworx**

1. Monthly Report.

**Parks, Recreation and Culture: Harvey Lashley**

Nothing to report

**Planning, Zoning and Code Enforcement: Scott Allison**

1. Approval/Disapproval of a petition filed by **Mike Pinault of Pinault's Defensive Solutions** for a text amendment to the zoning ordinance to add sporting goods store with gun sales as a conditional use in a C-4 Interchange Commercial Zoning District in the Richmond Hill Code of Ordinances. The address for the proposed text amendment is 3766 Hwy 17 Suite 103. Map 047 006 01. Mr. Allison stated this would be a sporting goods store with gun sales. This is in the shopping plaza that has Milans, and flower shop and daycare is located in the back.

**Councilmember Bass made a motion to approve the petition filed by Mike Pinault of Pinault's Defensive Solutions for a text amendment to the zoning ordinance to add sporting goods store with gun sales as a conditional use in a C-4 Interchange Commercial Zoning District in the Richmond Hill Code of Ordinances. The address for the proposed text amendment is 3766 Hwy 17 Suite 103. Map 047 006**

**01. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.**

2. Approval/Disapproval of the building sign for **Jeff's Beverage** located at 3745 U.S. Highway 17, Suite 700. Mr. Allison stated the condition was that Jeff's Beverage logo not exceed 3 ft. in height. Mr. Nielson had no problem with that. This is located at Harris Trail and Hwy. 17.

**Councilmember Murphy made a motion to approve the building sign for Jeff's Beverage located at 3745 U.S. Highway 17, Suite 700. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Carpenter. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.**

3. Approval/Disapproval of the building sign and freestanding sign for **Dollar General** to be located at 104750 U.S. Highway 17. Mr. Allison stated this would be located across the road from KOA. **Councilmember Murphy recused himself from this item.** Mr. Allison noted it would be Savannah Gray brick with Ivory to match. Mr. Allison told Council they had the renderings in their packet of the signs. There was a brief discussion about other businesses going in that location and their signs.

**Councilmember Carpenter made a motion to approve the building sign and freestanding sign for Dollar General to be located at 104750 U.S. Highway 17. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bass. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, and Bass.**

4. Approval/Disapproval of the building sign for **LoveMe Body Care** to be located at 10471 Ford Avenue, Suite B-1. Mr. Allison stated this is shopping Plaza where All Things Chocolate is located.

**Councilmember Carpenter made a motion to approve the building sign for LoveMe Body Care to be located at 10471 Ford Avenue, Suite B-1. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.**

5. Approval/Disapproval of a request by **Louis William Jones** for an alcohol license to sell beer, wine, and liquor for on premises consumption at Gravity to be located at 10074 Ford Avenue. Mr. Allison stated this where 69 East was located and they have passed all the background checks.

**Councilmember Bass made a motion to approve the request by Louis William Jones for an alcohol license to sell beer, wine, and liquor for on premises consumption at Gravity to be located at 10074 Ford Avenue. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.**

6. Status Update on the South Bryan County Transportation Study. Mr. Allison stated he had received an update from Thomas & Hutton Engineering, all the traffic counts, previous data and studies have been pulled together. Thomas & Hutton is now pulling it all together and are in process of getting reasonable assumptions for costs and rates of future commercial and industrial developments for 10 – 20 years and beyond. What this does is ensure the accuracy of what is coming and to do the transportation study. We should have that draft in two to three weeks and then we can present that to council.

7. Code Enforcement Monthly Report submitted.

**Finance Department: Bob Whitmarsh**

1. Approve/Disapprove November 2015 financial report. Mr. Whitmarsh explained that the revenue funds are doing very well. There were some extra ADA expenditures we had to do to city hall to meet their requirements.

**Councilmember Carpenter made a motion to approve the November 2015 financial report. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.**

2. Approve/Disapprove 2016 Capital Improvements Request from City Center. Mr. Whitmarsh stated that The Wilderman Group had some items that they would like to get funded for this year and had included them in council's packet. Mr. Whitmarsh stated they had broken the requests into quarters; beginning with the building needed to be maintained, updated audio/visual equipment; those orders for the first and second quarters would come to about \$50,000. Mr. Whitmarsh noted we had fairly good balances in that account by tax funding from the hotels. Mr. Whitmarsh stated he was not sure if we would be able to do the parking lot in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter; we should probably address that at that time.

Councilmember Carpenter asked to clarify that none of this is coming out of General Funds. Mr. Whitmarsh stated this is a special city center fund. City Manager Lovell stated to be clear we're just approving quarters one and two. City Manager Lovell stated he thought it was pretty good if we only spent \$100,000 every five to six years for upkeep.

**Councilmember Carpenter made a motion to approve the Capital Improvements request from the City Center for quarters one and two, not to exceed \$80,000.00. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.**

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### **CITY MANAGER TOPICS: Chris Lovell**

1. Approve/Disapprove Resolution in Support of Coastal GA Greenway. Ms. Jo Hickson stated she was the Executive Director for Greenway. Ms. Hickson told Council she was there to give them an update and status of the project. Ms. Hickson stated the reason for the Resolution is that they are going around to the different municipalities and counties giving updates and what the study committee report says and to endorse the effort and to secure your buy in. The City of Richmond Hill has passed two resolutions in the past in support of the project. In 2009 we had applied for a Two million grant but needless to say we did not receive that. The City of Richmond Hill would be responsible for the maintenance of the trail that would be in the city limits. Ms. Hickson noted the city would be responsible for the 2 ½ mile route that would run inside the city limits. Based on tax revenue over 10 ½ years would be about \$281,000 and maintenance total for the 10 years would be about \$7,800; so your net benefit during that 10 years would be about \$273,000. If the bill passes the House of Representatives then it would go to the Senate. If it does pass it recommends the state to pay one million dollars per year so that would be ten million dollars. The budget is around sixty million dollars; that includes everything. So then we have to figure out ways to raise the other fifty million dollars. Richmond Hill is the last city not to pass resolution along with Glynn County. Ms. Hickson gave council a revised resolution that fully covers the issues she just spoke about. Ms. Hickson thanked Council for their time.

Mayor and Council thanked Ms. Hickson for her review.

**Councilmember Carpenter made a motion to table this item until Council had time to review the new revised resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.**

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Councilmember Carpenter made a motion to take a recess for refreshments only. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bass. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Murphy, Carpenter, Bass and Fesperman.**

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:26 P. M. in a motion by Councilmember Carpenter. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Murphy.**

**Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Fesperman, Carpenter, Bass and Murphy.**

Respectfully submitted,

Ursula Lee  
City Clerk



