

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

**Tuesday, April 19, 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*; Linda Blankenship, *Asst. City Clerk*; Ralph Catlett, *Fire Chief*; Scott Allison, *Director of Planning & Zoning*; Randy Dykes, *Asst. Planning & Zoning Director*; Bob Whitmarsh, *Finance Director*; Harvey Lashley, *Park & Tree Director*

Visitors: Darryl Peterman, Kate Barker, Jamie Parker, Peter Schoenauer, Melissa R. Angel, Jitan Patel, Art Hurt, Ron Elliott,

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

Swearing in of Ethics Committee: Jake Mullins, Christy Balbo, and Tom Sawyer. This item was removed from agenda.

Approve GA Cities Week Resolution. Mayor Fowler read Resolution as follows:

GEORGIA CITIES WEEK

April 17-23, 2016

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND HILL RECOGNIZING GEORGIA CITIES WEEK, APRIL 17-23, 2016 AND ENCOURAGING ALL CITIZENS TO SUPPORT THE CELEBRATION AND CORRESPONDING ACTIVITIES.

WHEREAS, city government is the closest to most citizens, and the one with the most direct daily impact upon its residents; and

WHEREAS, city government is administered for and by its citizens, and is dependent upon public commitment to and understanding of its many responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, city government officials and employees share the responsibility to pass along their understanding of public services and their benefits; and

WHEREAS, Georgia Cities Week is a very important time to recognize the important role played by city government in our lives; and

WHEREAS, Georgia Cities Week offers an important opportunity to spread the word to all the citizens of Georgia that they can shape and influence this branch of government which is closest to the people; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Municipal Association and its member cities have joined together to teach students and other citizens about municipal government through a variety of different projects and information; and

WHEREAS, Georgia Cities Week offers an important opportunity to convey to all the citizens of Georgia that they can shape and influence government through their civic involvement.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF RICHMOND HILL DECLARES APRIL 17-23, 2016 AS GEORGIA CITIES WEEK.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF RICHMOND HILL ENCOURAGES ALL CITIZENS, CITY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT THIS WEEK IS RECOGNIZED AND CELEBRATED ACCORDINGLY.

PASSED AND ADOPTED: April 19, 2016

Councilmember Carpenter made a motion to approve the GA Cities Week Resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bass. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.

1. Approval of Minutes of meeting April 5, 2016

Councilmember Bass made a motion to approve the April 5, 2016 City Council Minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Administration and Personnel: Linda Blankenship

Nothing to report.

Public Safety:

Police Department: Chief Billy Reynolds

1. Monthly Report submitted. Chief Reynolds told Council that the Police Department was using all of its resources to find the missing 15 year old student; he has not been found at this time.

Fire Department: Ralph Catlett

1. Monthly Report submitted.

Public Works: Charles Heino, Enviroworx

1. Approve/Disapprove Resolution to declare certain equipment surplus. Mr. Heino stated this Unit 755 – 1987 GMC Dump truck had been removed from active service and is no longer used in day to day service. Mr. Heino stated he would like to get it declared as surplus equipment and this kind of rolls into the second item. Mr. Heino stated he was approached by the Forty and Eight Veterans Organizations of the Lakeland, Georgia Police Department asking if this could be donated to them to use as a parade piece. Mayor Fowler stated that sounded like a great place for it to go. The two items will be voted on separately.

Councilmember Bass made a motion to declare the Unit 755 – 1987 GMC Dump truck as certain equipment surplus. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.

2. Approve/Disapprove Resolution to donate surplus equipment.

Councilmember Carpenter made a motion to donate the Unit 755 – 1987 GMC Dump truck as equipment surplus to the Forty and Eight Veterans Organizations of the Lakeland, Georgia Police Department. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.

3. Monthly Report submitted.

Mr. Heino stated that he was notified by the GWP that Richmond Hill's Water Distribution Center has been given the Gold Award. Mayor Fowler thanked Mr. Heino and his department for the great job they do.

Parks, Recreation and Culture: Harvey Lashley

Mr. Lashley reminded everyone of the Fishing Derby this Saturday, April 23, at the park beginning at 7:30 and ending at 12:00. The fish will be delivered late Thursday evening.

Planning, Zoning and Code Enforcement: Scott Allison

1. First Reading of a request filed with the City of Richmond by **Elvia Rodriguez** requesting the rezoning of 0.34 acres of property from R-2 High Density Residential zoning district to RMHD Residential Mobile/Manufactured Home zoning district. The property is located at 45 J.P. Rushing Road. Map 0461 Parcel 163. Mr. Allison stated the applicant owns this parcel and the neighboring parcel also. The neighboring parcel already has a manufactured home on it and she wishes to add another one. Mr. Allison noted there are other manufactured homes in the area that pre-date our current ordinance. Our current ordinance states manufactured home must be in an RMHD zone. Mr. Allison noted that Carter Street is designated RMHD. Mr. Allison noted this would be the first reading.
2. Approval/Disapproval of a Site Plan for **Hilton Home2Suites** to be located at Hwy 17 and Ponderosa Road. Mr. Allison noted the landscape plan would be reviewed at a later time. Mr. Allison reviewed the plans for Council noting there would be a small office onsite to manage the three hotels. Mr. Allison noted the parking had been shifted about 20 ft. from Wiley making it closer to Highway 17. All city requirements have been met. Mr. Allison noted Mr. Schoenauer and Mr. Patel are both present if you have any questions.

Councilmember Carpenter asked if there had been any word on the restaurant that was proposed to go in. Mr. Jitan Patel stated he currently does not have that information but hopefully in the future they would be able to bring a good sit down restaurant in the hotel.

Councilmember Carpenter made a motion to approve the Site Plan for Hilton Home2Suites to be located at Hwy 17 and Ponderosa Road. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Carpenter. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.

3. Approval/Disapproval of a Preliminary Plat for **Fairfield Inn & Suites and Sleep Inn** to be located at Hwy 17 and Ponderosa Road. Mr. Allison noted the next two items were interrelated. Mr. Allison stated this was preliminary plat for Fairfield Inn & Suites and Sleep Inn. Mr. Allison gave a quick review of the plat for council. They do meet all the city requirements.

Councilmember Bass made a motion to approve the Preliminary Plat for Fairfield Inn & Suites and Sleep Inn to be located at Hwy 17 and Ponderosa Road. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.

4. Approval/Disapproval of a Final Plat for **Fairfield Inn & Suites and Sleep Inn** to be located at Hwy 17 and Ponderosa Road. Mr. Allison noted this was the Final Plat approval.

Councilmember Bass made a motion to approve the Final Plat for Fairfield Inn & Suites and Sleep Inn to be located at Hwy 17 and Ponderosa Road. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.

5. Approval/Disapproval of a Landscape Plan for **Brisbon Boat Storage** to be located on Brisbon Road.

Councilmember Murphy recused himself from this item.

Mr. Allison stated it does meet the landscape ordinance, which includes a 3' berm; there was also discussion of a fence.

Councilmember Carpenter made a motion to approve the Landscape Plan for Brisbon Boat Storage to be located on Brisbon Road. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bass. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, and Bass.

Councilmember Murphy rejoined meeting.

6. Approval/Disapproval of a Final Plat for **Creekside Phase 7** to be located at Brisbon Road and Kepler Loop. Mr. Allison stated this does meet all city requirements.

Councilmember Bass made a motion to approve the Final Plat for Creekside Phase 7 to be located at Brisbon Road and Kepler Loop. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Murphy, and Bass.

7. Approval/Disapproval of a request by **Christopher Eli Simpson** for an alcohol license to sell beer and wine only for off premises consumption at Love's Travel Stop located at 8436 Ford Avenue. Mr. Allison stated this was change of Manager's; all background checks had been approved.

Councilmember Bass made a motion to approve the request by Christopher Eli Simpson for an alcohol license to sell beer and wine only for off premises consumption at Love's Travel Stop located at 8436 Ford Avenue. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Carpenter. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Murphy, and Bass.

8. Code Enforcement Monthly Report submitted.

Finance Department: Bob Whitmarsh

1. Approve/Disapprove agreement for Line of Credit with South State Bank for the purpose of financing infrastructure costs associated with the 50+ acre Ford Avenue Property. Mr. Whitmarsh stated the city was originally going to sign a Line of Credit with South State Bank for the infrastructure of the 50+ acres Ford Avenue Property; after talking with City Attorney Ray Smith we have decided to go with a different option. We have the money in our Grant Account so we have decided to use that account and then reimburse that account next year. We will be coming back before Council when we determine cost of infrastructure.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

CITY MANAGER TOPICS: Chris Lovell

Nothing to report.

COMMUNICATIONS

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve/Disapprove request from Maria Romero to serve **beer and wine only** at a birthday party in the Wetlands Center at J. F. Gregory Park, on May 8th, 2016.

Councilmember Carpenter made a motion to approve the request by Maria Romero to serve beer and wine only at a birthday party in the Wetlands Center at J. F. Gregory Park, on May 8th, 2016. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Murphy, and Bass.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 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,

Linda Blankenship
Asst. City Clerk

