

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

**Tuesday, June 7, 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*; Harvey Lashley, *Park & Tree Director*; Tiffany Christian, *Police Officer*; Bob Whitmarsh, *Finance Director*; Ray Smith, *City Attorney*; Chris Stovall, *City Engineer*

**Visitors:** Jamie Parker, Steve Scholar, Kate Barker, Denise & Anthony Sardinas, Harris Martin, Mike Hay, Monica Hal, Mat McCoy, Christy Balbo, Kathie DePlaceto, Tommy Brookshire, Shirley Fountain, Amanda Raman, Rodney Dickey, Darryl Petermann, Steve Dunn

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 Catlett.

1. Approval of Minutes of meeting **May 17, 2016**

**Councilmember Carpenter made a motion to approve the May 17, 2016 City Council Minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.**

**Swearing In of Ethics Committee: Christy Balbo, Tom Sawyer and Tommy Brookshire.**

Mayor Fowler called Ms. Christy Balbo & Mr. Tommy Brookshire forward to take Oath of Ethics Committee Member as follows:

OATH OF AN ETHICS COMMITTEE MEMBER

I, Tommy Brookshire, do solemnly swear or affirm that:

I will faithfully execute the office of an Ethic Committee Member of the City of Richmond Hill, and to the best of my ability support and defend the Constitution of Georgia, and the Charter, ordinances, and regulations of the city of Richmond Hill;

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tommy Brookshire

Sworn to and subscribed  
Before me this 7<sup>th</sup> day of  
June, 2016

OATH OF AN ETHICS COMMITTEE MEMBER

I, Christy Balbo, do solemnly swear or affirm that:

I will faithfully execute the office of an Ethic Committee Member of the City of Richmond Hill, and to the best of my ability support and defend the Constitution of Georgia, and the Charter, ordinances, and regulations of the city of Richmond Hill;

\_\_\_\_\_  
Christy Balbo

Sworn to and subscribed  
Before me this 7<sup>th</sup> day of  
June, 2016

Mayor Fowler thanked Ms. Balbo and Mr. Brookshire for donating their time and service.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

**Administration and Personnel: Linda Blankenship**

Nothing to report.

**Public Safety:**

**Police Department: Chief Billy Reynolds**

Nothing to report.

**Fire Department: Ralph Catlett**

1. Approve/Disapprove Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement. Chief Catlett explained that every city and county signs this with the State. This is just a formality.

**Councilmember Bass made a motion to approve Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.**

**Public Works: Charles Heino, Enviroworx**

Nothing to report.

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

Nothing to report

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

1. Approve/Disapprove nomination and appointment of Anthony Sardinas as the City of Richmond Hill representative on the CORE MPO Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) for a term length of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2018. Mr. Allison explained how the advisory committee works and how nominees are appointed. It's a two year commitment. Mr. Sardinas told Mayor and Council he would be glad to serve.

**Councilmember Murphy made a motion to approve the appointment of Anthony Sardinas as the City of Richmond Hill representative on the CORE MPO Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) for a term length of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2018. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.**

2. Approval/Disapproval of a request filed by **Rodney Dickey** for a variance from Article IV Section 7 (d) of the Richmond Hill Zoning Ordinance to allow a 10 foot left side setback instead of the required 20 foot side setback. The property is zoned R-3 Multi-family Residential and is Lot 30 of River Oaks Drive. Map 0601 Parcel 209. Mr. Allison explained this item was tabled at last meeting until both parties could meet and come to agreement. Mr. Allison passed out building elevations, colored renderings including building materials. Mr. Allison noted both parties have resolved their issues.

Mr. Mat McCoy representative for Mr. Rodney Dickey stated they did meet with the River Oaks Homeowners Association and their attorney Mr. Harris Martin and they have resolved all their issues. Mr. McCoy did note that one of the changes were the garages; they will now have an arch. Other items discussed and agreed upon was how construction trucks would be entering and also parking. Mr. McCoy stated he would be glad to answer any questions.

Mr. Harris Martin stated he represented the River Oaks Homeowners Association and he was glad to state that all issues had been resolved. Mr. Martin stated the Association is now officially on record stating they support Mr. Dickey's plans. Mr. Martin stated he would also be happy to answer any questions.

Mayor Fowler commented that he and Council appreciate both sides working together and coming to an agreement that benefitted everyone.

City Attorney Ray Smith asked if both parties had signed an agreement on the conditions and issues they had resolved. Mr. Martin and Mr. McCoy both stated they had not done that at present due to just resolving everything in the past few days but they would be drawing one up and both parties would sign.

**Councilmember Murphy made a motion to approve the request filed by Rodney Dickey for a variance from Article IV Section 7 (d) of the Richmond Hill Zoning Ordinance to allow a 10 foot left side setback instead of the required 20 foot side setback. The property is zoned R-3 Multi-family Residential and is Lot 30 of River Oaks Drive. Map 0601 Parcel 209, on the contingency that everything would be completed as presented to Council, and that all plans, submittals, and documents are on file with the city. 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 for **Charming Chicks Boutique to be** located at 2481 US Highway 17. Mr. Allison stated it is in compliance with ordinance and matches existing signs in the plaza.

**Councilmember Bass made a motion to approve the building sign for Charming Chicks Boutique to be located at 2481 US Highway 17. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers**

**Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.**

4. Approval/Disapproval of the building sign for **Ways Station at the Crossroads** located at 2451 US Highway 17. Mr. Allison stated it's the same shopping plaza.

**Councilmember Carpenter made a motion to approve the building sign for Ways Station at the Crossroads located at 2451 US Highway 17. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bass. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.**

5. Approval/Disapproval of the landscape plan for **Port Royal Apartments** located on the north side of Port Royal Road between Sterling Links Way and Harris Trail with Map and Parcel numbers 055-005-004 and 0524-086-18. Mr. Allison stated all information is in Council's packets. They have a very manicured landscaping along Port Royal Road. They will clear out underbrush of the existing tree line. There will be a shadow box fence.

Councilmember Carpenter commented that it is so much better when you have an existing line of trees that you can incorporate as a buffer. There was a brief discussion about shadow box fence.

**Councilmember Fesperman made a motion to approve the landscape plan for Port Royal Apartments located on the north side of Port Royal Road between Sterling Links Way and Harris Trail with Map and Parcel numbers 055-005-004 and 0524-086-18. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bass. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.**

6. Approval/Disapproval of a request by **James Gordon Scott** for an alcohol license to sell beer, wine, and liquor for on premises consumption at The Ford Plantation. Mr. Allison stated this was a change of management and all background checks have been completed and approved.

**Councilmember Carpenter made a motion to approve the request by James Gordon Scott for an alcohol license to sell beer, wine, and liquor for on premises consumption at The Ford Plantation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.**

**Finance Department: Bob Whitmarsh**

1. Approve/Disapprove a Reimbursement Resolution for Infrastructure Costs for Fifty-one Acre Ford Plantation Tract. **Councilmember Murphy recused himself.** City Manager Lovell stated whenever we spend cash, if we have any indication that we may borrow funds later to reimburse ourselves we have to do a resolution within sixty days of spending the first dollar. That's what this resolution is for; we bought the property and we have done some infrastructure, so money has been spent. We may do a GEFA loan later or some other type of financing to reimburse some of those dollars. This resolution has to be approved for those dollars to be financed.

Councilmember Carpenter stated if we decide to use SPLOST Funds, then we will not need to do any financing. Mr. Lovell stated that is correct. A copy of Resolution will be on file with

Minutes.

**Councilmember Carpenter made a motion to approve a Reimbursement Resolution for Infrastructure Costs for Fifty-one Acre Ford Plantation Tract. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bass. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, and Bass.**

**Councilmember Murphy returned.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**CITY MANAGER TOPICS: Chris Lovell**

1. Approve/Disapprove Department of Corrections Contract for 2017. Mr. Lovell stated this is same contract as last year.

**Councilmember Murphy made a motion to approve Department of Corrections Contract for 2017. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Carpenter. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.**

2. Approve/Disapprove Coastal EMC Franchise Agreement renewal. Mr. Lovell stated this is renewal contract we received an increase from 2% to 4% and a few other things that were made clearer in the contract.

**Councilmember Murphy made a motion to approve Coastal EMC Franchise Agreement renewal. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bass. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.**

3. First reading of proposed "Homeless" Policy. Mr. Lovell stated the next two items go together. Mr. Lovell stated this is a first reading and asked Council to review both items. Mr. Lovell further stated it's sad but true that we are dealing with homelessness and we have nothing in our Ordinances to help us deal and place those folks. One of the proposals is to actually have a Resource Officer that will be well informed as to where to take homeless people and different programs that are in place to help these people. United Way and Family Promise do great jobs and these are policies that will help us help those folks. So please take time to read the two items and get back with us with any questions or suggestions.
4. First reading of proposed Ordinance regarding Urban Camping and Other Improper Uses of Public Places Within the City. Mr. Lovell noted again this is first readings.

Councilmember Carpenter stated we are not kicking them out we are just going to move them to a facility where they will get better care.

Ms. Kathi DePlaceto stated she was just curious as to where Mayor & Council were going to move those folks. Mr. Lovell stated that he understood there were places in Savannah that would take those folks in and we would make sure they were transported to those facilities. Mr. Lovell stated he would be glad to meet with Ms. DePlaceto to hear any of her suggestions.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Presentation of Ford Ave. Property Master Plan on June 21<sup>st</sup> @ 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers of City Hall**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Councilmember Carpenter stated that after speaking with Mr. Heino that they had broken up 32 beaver dams and he wanted to commend them for a great job. Also Chief Catlett and his staff was also on alert for the storm.

**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 8:15 P. M. in a motion by Councilmember Carpenter. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Bass. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Fesperman, Carpenter, Bass and Murphy.**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Blankenship  
Asst. City Clerk