

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

**Tuesday, September 20, 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*; Billy Reynolds, *Police Chief*; Ralph Catlett, *Fire Chief*; Scott Allison, *Director of Planning & Zoning*; Randy Dykes, *Asst. Planning & Zoning Director*; Bob Whitmarsh, *Finance Director*; Mark Long, *Code Enforcement*; Chris Stovall, *City Engineer*, Jason Sakelarios, *Police Captain*

**Visitors:** Ron Elliott, Susan Davis, Jeff Davis, Tony Coleman, John Lowe, Jitan Patel

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

1. Approval of Minutes of meeting **September 6, 2016**

**Councilmember Carpenter made a motion to approve the September 6, 2016 City Council Minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bass. 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.
2. Approve/Disapprove GDOT List of Roadways for the use of speed detection devices.

**Councilmember Fesperman made a motion to approve the GDOT List of Roadways for the use of speed detection devices. 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 submitted.
2. Approve/Disapprove use of SPLOST funds to purchase a SCBE Reservicing Unit. Chief Catlett stated that last year they had applied for an AFG Grant, that's a Federal Grant; we did not receive the grant this year. Chief Catlett stated because of this we are asking to use SPLOST Funds to purchase the SCBE Reservicing Unit.

Councilmember Fesperman reminded everyone that the funds had already been allocated for this in the SPLOST budget.

**Councilmember Fesperman made a motion to approve the SPLOST funds to purchase a SCBE Reservicing Unit. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Carpenter. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.**

**Public Works: Charles Heino, Enviroworx**

1. Monthly Report submitted.

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

Nothing to report.

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

1. Approval/Disapproval of the building sign for **Chatterbox Pediatric Therapy** to be located at 2459-B US Highway 17. Mr. Allison stated this would be going next to Bubba's Bistro. They do meet all the city requirements.

**Councilmember Carpenter made a motion to approve the building sign for Chatterbox Pediatric Therapy to be located at 2459-B US Highway 17. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bass. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.**

2. Approval/Disapproval of the building sign for **Pawparazzi** to be located at 2485 US Highway 17. Mr. Allison stated this is the same shopping center as above but this

would be located in the old Cadre Shop. They meet all city requirements as well.

**Councilmember Bass made a motion to approve the building sign for Pawparazzi to be located at 2485 US Highway 17. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.**

3. Approval/Disapproval of the building sign for **Hanger 15** to be located at 9701 Ford Avenue, Suite 105. Mr. Allison stated this is located in the same shopping center as Goody's and Papa John's. It's a women's clothing establishment. The sign is Channel letters and colors will match existing awnings. The ARB did recommend approval.

**Councilmember Murphy made a motion to approve the building sign for Hanger 15 to be located at 9701 Ford Avenue, Suite 105. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Carpenter. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.**

4. Approval/Disapproval of the building sign for **Benchmark Physical Therapy** to be located at 60 Exchange Street, Suite B-4. Mr. Allison stated this is located in the shopping center by Kroger next to Urgent Care. It does meet all regulations and the ARB did approve.

**Councilmember Murphy made a motion to approve the building sign for Benchmark Physical Therapy to be located at 60 Exchange Street, Suite B-4. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.**

5. Approval/Disapproval of the landscape plan for **Hilton Home2Suites** to be located at Hwy 17 and Ponderosa Road. Mr. Allison stated this is kind of the last step of approval. Staff did have some comments on the landscape plan and they are included here. The landscape on the frontage by Hwy. 17 will have Live Oak trees and Crepe Myrtles mixed in; where the parking lot goes they will have a staggered row of Evergreen shrubs as buffers, within the parking lot there will be Crepe Myrtles. At the entrances they are using some knock-out roses and Annuals, at rear of property will be allocated for existing foliage to remain and include some Wax Myrtles to fill in. There will be a green privacy fence just before where the detention pond drops off with additional plantings.

Councilmember Carpenter asked where the privacy fence was going. Mr. Allison stated it was going just behind the existing buffer.

**Councilmember Murphy made a motion to approve the landscape 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.**

6. Approval/Disapproval of the landscape plan for **Fairway Links** to be located on the corner of Port Royal Road and Sterling Links Way. Mr. Allison stated this is the townhome development behind Publix. They have shown on this plan with the Live Oaks and Crepe Myrtles what this would look like when Commercial property comes in. The evergreens would be planted between the commercial lots and the pond. There is an existing berm off Sterling Links Way with an existing amount of landscaping they're not getting into that at all. They will be working around that with their development plans. They will be supplementing that on backside of berm of the townhomes.

Councilmember Bass asked the thing that looked like a racetrack on plan is that elevation or depression? Mr. Allison stated that was pond it's depression. The layout of townhomes, ponds, and roads came before council previously; this is just landscaping plan. Mr. Allison stated there would be 60 townhomes.

Councilmember Murphy asked if they would all be completed at the same time. Mr. Allison stated they would.

Councilmember Fesperman asked if there would be an entrance off of Port Royal Road for the commercial property. Mr. Allison stated yes there would. There was a brief discussion about the widening of road and piping underneath road.

**Councilmember Bass made a motion to approve the landscape plan for Fairway Links to be located on the corner of Port Royal Road and Sterling Links Way. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.**

7. Approval/Disapproval of the Preliminary Plat for **Fairway Links** to be located on the corner of Port Royal Road and Sterling Links Way. Mr. Allison stated this was same project and location. They do meet all city requirements and the roads are private. The main entrance into townhomes will have a gate.

**Councilmember Carpenter made a motion to approve the Preliminary Plat for Fairway Links to be located on the corner of Port Royal Road and Sterling Links Way. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.**

1. Code Enforcement Report submitted.

**Finance Department: Bob Whitmarsh**

1. Approve/Disapprove a Resolution to declare certain vehicle surplus. Mr. Whitmarsh stated this resolution is to add the 1997 city van and also to correct two VIN numbers from previous resolution.

**Councilmember Bass made a motion to approve the Resolution to declare certain vehicle surplus. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.**

2. Approve/Disapprove financial report for August, 2016. Mr. Whitmarsh stated this represents 2/3rds of the year. Connection and tap fees are ahead of budget. The city is doing great.

Councilmember Murphy asked about the insurance premiums of \$500,000. Mr. Whitmarsh stated that was life insurance that would come in around October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

**Councilmember Fesperman made a motion to approve the financial report for August, 2016. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.**

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

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

1. Approve/Disapprove Fourth Amendment to Contract with Waste Management. City Manager Lovell stated our contract was scheduled to end this year so we went ahead and made an amendment to add a year to it and also negotiate a lower rate from \$15.00 per unit per month to \$13.26 per unit per month. This extends it out to the end of next year.

Councilmember Murphy asked when it would go into effect. Mr. Lovell stated it should go into effect next month. Councilmember Murphy stated well that should help offset the stormwater. Mr. Lovell stated that is correct.

**Councilmember Murphy made a motion to approve the Fourth Amendment to Contract with Waste Management. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Carpenter. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.**

2. Approval/Disapproval for Site Contractor for the Construction of the Ford Avenue Property-Phase 2 located on Highway 144 in Richmond Hill, GA.

Councilmember Murphy recused himself.

Mr. Lovell stated they had pretty much completed Phase I and were now getting ready to start Phase II on the 51 acres. We had a bid opening this past week with the help of Coleman and Company. We had a total bid of \$692,000 and a base bid of \$660,000; the contractor was Mr. Jack Barfield.

**Councilmember Bass made a motion to approve the Site Contractor for the Construction of the Ford Avenue Property-Phase 2 located on Highway 144 in Richmond Hill, GA. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Carpenter. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, and Bass.**

Councilmember Murphy rejoined council.

3. Approve/Disapprove MOU Agreement for Probation Services with Southeast Corrections, LLC. Mr. Lovell stated they increased it from \$35.00 a month to \$40.00 a month. This is something that they pay, the city does not but we still have to approve it.

**Councilmember Bass made a motion to approve the MOU Agreement for Probation Services with Southeast Corrections, LLC. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.**

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Mayor Fowler read The Red Ribbon Proclamation as follows:

### Proclamation

Whereas, communities across America have been plagued by the numerous problems associated with illicit drug use and those that traffic in them; and

Whereas, there is hope in winning the war on drugs, and that hope lies in education and drug demand reduction, coupled with the hard work and determination of organizations such as the Young Marine of the Marine Corps League to foster a healthy, drug-free lifestyle; and

Whereas, governments and community leaders know that citizen support one of the most effective tools in the effort to reduce the sale of illicit drugs in our communities; and

Whereas, the red ribbon has been chosen as a symbol commemorating the work of Enrique Kiki Camarena, a Drug Enforcement Administration Agent who was murdered in the line of duty, and represents the belief that one can make a difference; and

Whereas, the Red Ribbon Campaign was established by Congress in 1988 to encourage a drug-free lifestyle and involvement in drug prevention and reduction efforts; and

Whereas, October 23-31 has been designated National Red Ribbon Week, which encourages Americans to wear a Red Ribbon to show their support for a drug-free environment;

Now, Therefore, I E. Harold Fowler, Mayor of Richmond Hill do hereby proclaim October 23-31 as Red Ribbon Week in Richmond Hill, and urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.

Proclaimed this 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2016

**Councilmember Carpenter made a motion to approve the Red Ribbon Proclamation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.**

Councilmember Carpenter reminded everyone that on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 5-7 p.m. there would be an Open House for the Sterling Creek Park here at City Hall.

Mayor Fowler stated there would be a Ribbon Cutting in the morning for Omega Construction at 10:00 a.m.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Approve/Disapprove request from Chris Stovall for the Savannah Brewers League to serve **beer and wine only** at an event in the Wetlands Center in J. F. Gregory Park on February 4, 2017.

**Councilmember Fesperman made a motion to approve the request from Chris Stovall for the Savannah Brewers League to serve beer and wine only at an event in the Wetlands Center in J. F. Gregory Park on February 4, 2017. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Fesperman, Carpenter, Bass and Murphy.**

**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 8:45 P. M. in a motion by Councilmember Bass. 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



