

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

Tuesday, October 4, 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*; Mark Long, *Code Enforcement*; Chris Stovall, *City Engineer*; Harvey Lashley, *Park Director*; Jason Sakelarios, *Police Captain*; Ray Smith, *City Attorney*

Visitors: Ron Elliott, Jamie Parker, Ted O'Neil, Brendon Greene, Bryant Maude, Raymond Fowler, Mike Blankenship, Steven Potts, Doug Sahlberg, Luke Harris, Tim Proffitt, Nikki Palmer, Bonnie Proctor, Doug Martin, Billy Albritton

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

1. Approval of Minutes of meeting **September 20, 2016**

Councilmember Bass made a motion to approve the September 20, 2016 City Council Minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass, and Murphy.

Presentation by GOSF Committee. Mr. Tim Proffitt stated that the committee would all like to personally thank the Mayor, Council, and Staff for all their help in getting the park renovations completed on time for the Seafood Festival. The GOSF Committee presented Mayor and Council with a packet for the festival.

Mayor and Council thanked the committee.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Administration and Personnel: Linda Blankenship

Nothing to report.

Public Safety:

Police Department: Chief Billy Reynolds

Captain Jason Sakelarios told Mayor and Council he was happy to announce that they did receive the Public Safety Grant and they were awarded \$8,000 to use for equipment and training for the Police & Fire Departments.

Councilmember Bass asked that Capt. Sakelarios relay a message to Officer Krum to thank him for his help in retrieving some lost dogs in her neighborhood.

Fire Department: Ralph Catlett

Mayor Fowler asked Chief Catlett to make announcement about what procedures may take place due to Hurricane Matthew. Chief Catlett stated that they take their lead from GEMA and their Emergency Management Director Freddie Howell. As far as any closings, evacuations, etc. will start from the State level and trickle down. Chief Catlett stated once it gets to our department we have our own Emergency Plan that we put in to place. Chief Catlett stated the next update will be tomorrow at 3:00 p.m. and we should know more at that time and we will make sure Mayor and Council know at that time. As of right now there are a lot of uncertainties about where the hurricane may go.

Councilmember Fesperman asked if they would keep the public informed. Chief Catlett replied they would keep the news media updated.

1. Approve/Disapprove request to use \$16,000 SPLOST funds for the purchase of UTV with "MEDLITE" skid unit. Chief Catlett explained this vehicle would be used in case someone got hurt on the trails and can't get emergency aid and First Responder to them; it would also be used for city events. This vehicle is Highway approved and can carry as much as 1,250 pound payload and two people, top speed is 50 mph. The UTV would be housed at Station two for easy access to the park.

Councilmember Carpenter made a motion to approve the request to use \$16,000 SPLOST funds for the purchase of UTV with "MEDLITE" skid unit. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.

2. Approve/Disapprove Proclamation for Fire Prevention Week Oct. 9-15, 2016. Chief Catlett read the Proclamation; a copy of the Proclamation will be on file with the Minutes.

Councilmember Bass made a motion to approve the Proclamation for Fire Prevention Week Oct. 9-15, 2016. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.

Public Works: Charles Heino, Enviroworx

Mr. Heino told Council they are ready to respond to any emergencies that might occur due to the storm and also if they happen to see anything that needs their attention to just give them a call. We are expecting a heavy amount of rain.

Mayor and Council thanked Mr. Heino and his department for their hard work and dedication.

Parks, Recreation and Culture: Harvey Lashley

Nothing to report.

Planning, Zoning and Code Enforcement: Scott Allison

1. Approval/Disapproval of the revisions to the building elevation for **Yates Astro** to be located at 10904 Ford Avenue. Mr. Allison stated the color revision will be a darker Pewter Grey for the metal roof along with the building elevations.

Councilmember Bass made a motion to approve the revisions to the building elevation for Yates Astro to be located at 10904 Ford Avenue. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Feserman, Bass and Murphy.

2. Approval/Disapproval of the building elevation for **Dogwood Inn and Suites** to be located at 4071 US Highway 17. Mr. Allison stated this is the old Motel 6 off of Hwy. 17. They are planning on completely remodeling the motel. The renovations are included in your packet. They will have complete suites in the motel including kitchen and bath. Mr. Allison stated Mr. Maude is present if Council has any additional questions. Again, this is a complete renovation of one of the older motels.

Councilmember Carpenter stated it really looks good and glad to see an older motel put to use. Mayor Fowler noted it would be nice to see some of the other motels to follow suit in doing that.

Councilmember Feserman made a motion to approve the building elevation for Dogwood Inn and Suites to be located at 4071 US Highway 17. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Carpenter. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Feserman, Bass and Murphy.

3. Status Update on the Coastal Incentive Grant for Implementation of a Coastal Access Plan for the Jerico River. Mr. Allison stated they had applied for a Grant along with Bryan County and Rayonier; Mr. Allison stated we received the Grant with

the city's portion of dollar amount to be \$10,000.00; which is very good news. The project would consist of several tasks: establish an advisory committee, start data collection and analysis of all surrounding properties, master plan options. Its \$46,500 in Federal funds, the grant is a one to one match with in-kind staff services. Council approved not to exceed \$10,000 but the numbers worked out to be \$8,500.00. The city will be paying \$8,500.00 for about \$70,000 worth of engineering and consulting services for this plan. The intention is to apply for a subsequent grant after this one is completed to help fund the structure. We anticipate this project to last between the end of this month through Spring. Sometime in May we're looking to have the Final Plan.

Finance Department: Bob Whitmarsh

Mr. Whitmarsh stated he had copies of the Timetable and Proposed Agenda for the 2017 Budget Process and presented Mayor and Council with copies. Council had no questions. We should be able to formally adopt the budget in December.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

CITY MANAGER TOPICS: Chris Lovell

1. Discussion of names for the 187 acre park at Elbow Swamp. City Manager Lovell stated the name turned in for new park was Sterling Creek Park and asked for Council's comments or suggestions. Councilmember Fesperman asked if it had to be decided tonight. Mr. Lovell stated "no", we could actually put it out on the website for residents to send in names and then have it on the agenda for the next meeting. Council decided that would be best. Councilmember Carpenter stated they are planning on doing the ribbon cutting sometime in January, and Ron Elliott is planning to have a 5K Race sometime in January. Mr. Lovell stated to get names by next week sometime.
2. Discussion of names for the streets in the Ford Ave property. City Manager Lovell stated the names presented for the two main streets were Harold Fowler Drive and Town Centre Blvd. Councilmember Bass stated that Pooler has the same exact name and spelling of Town Centre Blvd. so we may want to change that. It was suggested to be Town Centre Drive.

Councilmember Carpenter made a motion to approve the main street in the Ford Ave property to be named Town Centre Drive and the adjacent street to be named Harold Fowler Drive. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.

3. Approve/Disapprove Water Facilities Agreement with C'Mere, LLC

Councilmember Murphy recused himself.

Mr. Lovell stated this is the water Agreements with C'Mere, LLC and Fickling. Fickling is putting in the 280 apartments. The basic deal with this agreement is to lock down our connection fees with Fickling. We had some obligations to get this done in a timely manner where they could get water. We only have to spend city money until we get reimbursed from them. It's actually a pretty good deal for the city; the agreement is in Council's packet. Mr. Lovell stated we do need to add a High Pressure Zone with this project it will be discussed in item #5.

Councilmember Fesperman asked when the Closing for Fickling is. Mr. Lovell stated it was supposed to be today but because of Hurricane Matthew it's been delayed.

Councilmember Bass made a motion to approve the Water Facilities Agreement with C'Mere, LLC. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Carpenter. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, and Bass.

Councilmember Murphy is back.

4. Approve/Disapprove contractor for landscaping of intersection of Hwy 17 and 144. Mr. Lovell stated everyone has noticed that the poles are in and paving is getting done and now it's time for the landscaping and hardscaping. We put it out for bid and received the bid back at \$93,932.00; we originally allocated a budget of \$325,000 for that project and it ended up being \$308,000.00. We get the Grant from DOT of \$50,000.00 so total cost of project is \$258,000.00. We need to approve this contract to take the next step.

Councilmember Fesperman made a motion to approve the contractor for landscaping of intersection of Hwy 17 and 144. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Carpenter. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, Bass and Murphy.

5. Approve/Disapprove contractor for High Pressure Zone project.

Councilmember Murphy recused himself.

Mr. Lovell stated this item should have been with item #3 on the agenda. We have a bid for \$128,895.00 to put this High Pressure Zone in which will actually help Ford Plantation as well. Important to note this money will not be spent until after the Closing and the Connection Fees come in.

Councilmember Bass asked if anyone else beside the Ford Plantation would benefit from that line. Mr. Lovell stated Creekside, as well as other subdivisions in that area. Mr. Lovell commented that the water pressure is one of the things that held us up with the

ISO Rating in the past.

Councilmember Fesperman made a motion to approve the contractor for High Pressure Zone project. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bass. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Fesperman, and Bass.

Councilmember Murphy came back.

6. Discussion of remainder of Streetscape Project funds. This item was removed from agenda.
7. Closed Session to discuss personnel issue.

Motion to Enter Into a Closed Meeting of a City Council

Council member Carpenter makes the following motion:

(1) That this Mayor and Council now enter into closed session as allowed by O.C.G.A. §50-14-4 and pursuant to advice by the City Attorney, for the purpose of discussing the following: Personnel Matter

(2) That this body, in open session, adopt a resolution authorizing and directing the mayor or presiding officer to execute an affidavit in compliance with O.C.G.A. §50-14-4, and that this body ratify the actions of the council taken in closed session and confirm that the subject matters of the closed session were within exceptions permitted by the open meetings law, said resolution to be in the form as attached hereto.

The Motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman

Those voting in favor of the motion for closure: Council Members Bass, Fesperman, Carpenter, and Murphy.

Resolution of the Richmond Hill City Council

BE IT RESOLVED by the Richmond Hill City Council as follows: At the meeting held on the 4th day of October, 2016, the Council entered into closed session for the purpose of discussing Personnel Matter. At the close of the discussions upon this subject, the Council did vote to re-enter into open session and herewith takes the following action in open session:

(1) The actions of the Council and the discussions of the same regarding the matter set forth for closed session purposes are hereby ratified.

(2) Each member of this body does hereby confirm that to the best of his or her knowledge, based upon the advice of the City Attorney, the said subject matter of the meeting and of the closed session portion was devoted to matters within the specific relevant exception(s) as set forth above.

(3) The Mayor, or presiding officer, is hereby authorized and directed to execute an affidavit, with full support of the members of this Council, in order to comply with O.C.G.A. §50-14-4(b).

(4) The affidavit shall be included and filed with the official minutes of the meeting and shall be in a form as required by the statute, which shall be substantially as follows:

Approved this 4th day of October, 2016.

Councilmember Carpenter made a motion to approve the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Those voting in favor of the motion for closure: Council Members Bass, Fesperman, Carpenter, and Murphy.

Affidavit

Personally appeared before the undersigned-attesting officer, duly authorized to administer oaths, E. Harold Fowler, who, after being duly sworn, deposes and on oath states the following:

- (1) I was presiding officer of a meeting of the Richmond Hill City Council held on the 4th day of October, 2016
- (2) That it is my understanding that O.C.G.A §50-14-4(b) provides as follows:

When any meeting of an agency is closed to the public pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section, the chairperson or other person presiding over such meeting shall execute and file with the official minutes of the meeting a notarized affidavit stating under oath that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the exceptions provided by law and identifying the specific relevant exceptions.

- (3) The subject matter of the closed meeting or closed portion of the meeting held on the 4th of October, 2016, which was closed for the purpose(s) of discussion of Personnel Matter as allowed by O.C.G.A, Title 50, Chapter 14, was devoted to matters within those exceptions and as provided by law.

- (4) This affidavit is being executed for the purpose of complying with the mandate of O.C.G.A. §50-14-4(b) that such an affidavit be executed.

This 4th day of October, 2016.

Councilmember Bass made a motion to approve the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman. Those voting in favor of the motion for closure: Council Members Bass, Fesperman, Carpenter, and Murphy.

Councilmember Bass made a motion to go back into Open Session. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman. Those voting in favor of the motion for closure: Council Members Bass, Fesperman, Carpenter, and Murphy.

Councilmember Carpenter stated that this was a very tough decision; there were 4 very outstanding candidates.

Councilmember Carpenter made a motion to announce new Police Chief will be Mitch Shores. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bass. Those voting in favor of the motion: Council Members Bass, Fesperman, Carpenter, and Murphy.

COMMUNICATIONS

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilmember Carpenter stated he would like to thank Harvey Lashley, Randy Dykes, & Scott Allison for their hard work in getting the new park together. The Town Hall Meeting last night was a success due to their efforts and getting us ready for the Ribbon Cutting in January. Councilmember Bass stated she would like to thank Councilmember Carpenter and all his efforts as well to make sure the park was a success.

City Manager Lovell stated there was a letter in the back of their packet from Tiffany Walraven inviting Mayor and Council to GMA's Twelfth District Fall Meeting to be held, Tuesday October 18th at 11:30 at the Wetland Center. Mr. Lovell noted please advise if you want to attend.

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 8:48 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
Interim City Clerk

