

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

7:30 P.M.

## Richmond Hill City Hall Council Chambers

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

**Staff Present:** Ursula Lee, *City Clerk*; Billy Reynolds, *Police Chief*; Vernon Rushing, *Fire Chief*; Harvey Lashley, *Park & Tree Director*; Rick Lauver, *CHM2Hill*; Chris Stovall, *Engineer*; Capt. Mark Long, *Code Enforcement*; Randy Dykes, *Infrastructure Inspector*;

**Visitors:** Jake Mullins, Doug Martin, Dell Keith, Jamie Parker, Christi Balbo, Paul Carter, Bud Blount, Ronald David Hooks and Vicki Hooks, Dean Blount, Bonnie Proctor, Jason Sakelarios, Michael Albritton, John Reynolds, Jerry DeLoach, Billy Albritton

Mayor Harold Fowler called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. and Councilmember Fesperman gave the invocation. The pledge of allegiance was given.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the regular scheduled Council meeting held on January 3, 2013 were approved in a motion by Councilmember Carpenter seconded by Councilmember Bass, and carried in the affirmative by Councilmember Hunter and Councilmember Fesperman.

### 1. Presentation to Officer Hooks:

Mayor Fowler read the proclamation as follows:

#### PROCLAMATION TO HONOR RONALD DAVID HOOKS

**WHEREAS**, Ronald David Hooks has been employed by the City of Richmond Hill since September 15, 1987; and

**WHEREAS**, Ronald David Hooks has faithfully and conscientiously served the city and its citizens for 25 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Ronald David Hooks left his position as a Police Officer effective October 1, 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, Ronald David Hooks consistently performed to the best of his ability during his tenure as a Richmond Hill Police Officer; and

**WHEREAS**, he has earned and justly deserves his public recognition for his many years of service to our community; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Richmond Hill and the Council, by this recognition, wishes to express its great appreciation to Capt. Hooks for meritorious service, loyalty, and dedication to the City of Richmond Hill;

**NOW THEREFORE** we commend Capt. Hooks for many years of valuable service and express our sincere thanks on behalf of the City of Richmond Hill as well as our best wishes to him and his family.

## City Council

**In Witness Whereof**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Richmond Hill, Georgia to be affixed this 15th day of January, 2013.

Mayor and Council thanked former officer Capt. Hooks for an outstanding job while employed with the City of Richmond Hill. Along with the proclamation, an engraved watch was also presented to Capt. Hooks.

Chief Billy Reynolds also made a presentation to Capt. Hooks and thanked him for his 25 years of dedicated service with the department and presented his original badge encased in a plaque that read:

Presented to  
Captain R.D. Hooks  
Richmond Hill Police Department  
25 years of Service  
1987- 2012

Chief Reynolds explained that Capt. Hooks got out of high school and came to work for the City driving the mosquito truck and working in the jail. He was very eager to become a Richmond Hill police officer. He started out working as a reserve officer and then came on as a fulltime police officer. Capt. Hooks' entire police career has been in Richmond Hill. Capt. Hooks and Major Albritton can be credited for the revenue that was used to build the Police Station and the purchase of other major equipment for the City with seized funds as canine officers.

Chief Reynolds asked the other officers, who were present in support of Capt. Hooks, to introduce themselves and tell how long they were with the department.

Corporal Tim Saia 7 years  
Major Mike Albritton 18 years  
Lieutenant Jason Sakelarios 14 years  
Sergeant Luke Harris 12 years  
Corporal Brian Neesmith 6 years  
Corporal Officer Paul Carter 3 years

Chief Billy Reynolds presented some coins to Capt. Hooks for his children. Mayor Fowler gave the floor to Capt. Hooks to say a few words. Capt. Hooks stated that his wife, two boys, mother and father were there to support him. He had enjoyed working for the City of Richmond Hill, and he was 19 years old when he was hired on to the Police Dept.

### **2. Mayor gave oath to the Ethics Committee Board members as follows:**

#### **OATH OF AN ETHICS COMMITTEE MEMBER**

I, 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;

The oath was given Mr. Dell Keith, Mr. Jake Mullins, and Attorney Christi Balbo. They will serve a two year term as the Ethic Committee.

### **3. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

**Administration and Personnel: Ursula Lee**

**City Council**

1. Approval of qualifying fees for 2013 election

City Clerk Ursula Lee explained the State of Georgia requires each municipality to set election fees each election year and publish in the legal organ by February 1.

Mayor Fowler read the notice as follows:

**STATE OF GEORGIA**

**Richmond Hill CITY**

**QUALIFYING FEE NOTICE**

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §21-2-131 (a)(1), the following qualifying fees were set by the Richmond Hill Mayor and Council in the January 15, 2013 meeting:

Mayor	\$ <u>225.00</u>
Councilperson	\$ <u>150.00</u>

Qualifying for the offices listed above will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, August 26, 2013, and will end at 4:40 p.m. on Friday, August 30, 2013. The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2013.

Ursula G. Lee  
Election Superintendent  
Richmond Hill City

**Councilmember Bass made a motion to approve the election fee notice. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman, and carried in the affirmative by Councilmember Hunter and Councilmember Carpenter.**

**4. Public Safety:**

**Police Department: Chief Billy Reynolds**

1. Monthly report
2. Chief Billy Reynolds reports that Mark Long has 28 years of service with the City of Richmond Hill.

**Fire Department: Chief Vernon Rushing**

1. Monthly report
2. 2012 Annual Report
3. Chief Vernon Rushing reports that there was a 9 percent increase in calls last year, and there were over 1,300 calls last year. If calls keep going the way they are going, he expects at least an increase to 1,400 calls or more this year. He asked Council to please keep the firefighters in mind, for they are trying to do a good job for us.

**Public Works: Rick Lauver**

City Council

1. Monthly report

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

1. Monthly report

**Planning, Zoning and Code Enforcement: Randy Dykes**

1. Code Enforcement Report.
2. Requests were made for Proposals on Heating & Air maintenance for the buildings of City Hall, the Police Dept., Planning & Zoning, and the Fire Dept. Please take them home to review, and they will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

**Finance Department: Bob Whitmarsh**

Nothing to report.

**5. SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**

Nothing to report.

**6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. Approve/Disapprove bid for Architectural drawings of new Fire Station

**Councilmember Carpenter made a motion to approve the bid for Architectural drawings of new Fire Station from Kern & Coleman. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hunter and carried in the affirmative by Councilmember Bass and Councilmember Fesperman.**

**7. CITY MANAGER'S TOPICS: Chris Lovell**

**Recycling numbers requested by Councilmember Hunter a few weeks ago: In the month of November 91,000 lbs. was diverted from the landfill and 86,000 lbs. in the month of October. More residents are recycling.**

**8. COMMUNICATIONS:**

**9. NEW BUSINESS:**

Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce members Bonnie Proctor, Billy Albritton, John Reynolds and Jerry DeLoach were present to present the following requests.

1. Request from Brianne Yontz with RHBC Chamber of Commerce to use J. F. Gregory Park for the 2013 Great Ogeechee Seafood Festival.

Bonnie Proctor amended the request to include a **two year** agreement.

**Councilmember Carpenter made a motion to approve the request from the RHBC Chamber of Commerce to use the J. F. Gregory Park for the 2013 & 2014 Great Ogeechee Seafood Festival. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bass, and carried in the affirmative by Councilmember Hunter and Councilmember Fesperman.**

## City Council

2. Request from Brianne Yontz with RHBC Chamber of Commerce to **sell** beer and wine only at the 2013 Great Ogeechee Seafood Festival on October 18-19 at J. F. Gregory Park

**Councilmember Hunter made a motion to approve the request from the RHBC Chamber of Commerce to sell beer and wine only at the 2013 Great Ogeechee Seafood Festival on October 18-19 at J. F. Gregory Park. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman and carried in the affirmative by Councilmember Bass and Councilmember Carpenter.**

3. Request from Brianne Yontz with RHBC Chamber of Commerce to present fireworks at the Great Ogeechee Seafood Festival on October 19, 2013 at J. F. Gregory Park

**Councilmember Fesperman made a motion to approve the request from the RHBC Chamber of Commerce to present fireworks at the Great Ogeechee Seafood Festival on October 19, 2013 at J. F. Gregory Park. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bass, and carried in the affirmative by Councilmember Hunter and Councilmember Carpenter.**

### **10. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Councilmember Bass asked if the Boy Scout pancake breakfast was still on for January 21<sup>st</sup>, and the name of the young boy the other fundraiser was being held for. The young boy's name was Evan Nelms. Councilmember Bass suggested to Harvey Lashley that events like these should be put in the local newspaper if they were not already so citizens can see what are happening in the community. Harvey Lashley stated to her that most events are in the paper because he sees them, but he will see to it for ones that are related to Parks and Recreation.

Harvey Lashley further commented that the Christmas tree event had a good turn out. The public used some of the mulch, and the remainder, the Parks' Department is using for the City of Richmond Hill. Councilmember Bass suggested that was a great idea of putting the mulch to good use after the event.

**Councilmember Carpenter made a motion to take a recess for refreshments only. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman, and carried by Councilmember Bass and Hunter.**

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M. in a motion by Councilmember Carpenter, seconded by Councilmember Fesperman, and carried by all.**

Respectfully submitted,

Ursula G. Lee  
City Clerk