Physical Address: 501 South Main Street
Mailing Address: PO Box 228
Rhome, Texas 76078
Telephone: 817-636-2462
www.cityofrhome.com | bboiler@cityofrhome.com

Mayor
Kenneth Crenshaw

City Council

Place 1
Jimmy Johnson

Mayor Pro-Tem,
Place 2
Michelle Tye
(Online)

Place 3
Randall Loftis

Place 4
Kristi King

Place 5
Kasey Shumake

City Administrator
Amanda DeGan

City Attorney
Carvan Adkins

City Secretary
Brooke Boller

Fire Chief
Scott Estes

Police Chief
Eric Debus

Public Works
Director
Jesus Dominguez

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE RHOME CITY COUNCIL

Meeting Date: Thursday, August 8, 2024
Regular Session: 6 p.m.

Meeting Location: Rhome Community Center, 261 N. School Road, Rhome, Texas 76078
LIVE Streaming: In an effort to be as accessible as possible, we MAY live stream the meeting using GoToMeeting from your computer or phone.

By Computer	By Phone
GoToMeeting: Select Join: Select Meeting	Call 1 (646) 749-3129
Session ID: 646-749-3129	Access Code: 504-348-989
Access Code: 504-348-989	Toll Free Option: 1 (877) 309-2073

The Rhome City Council *may* conduct this meeting by videoconference call in accordance with Section 551.127 of the Texas Open Meetings Act. A quorum of the City Council will be physically present at the address listed above and the public may attend the meeting at the same location.

Regular Session: 6 p.m.**(Regular session called to order by Mayor Kenneth Crenshaw at 6:00 pm, Roll Call with the mentioned names to the side.)**

Call to Order and Establish a Quorum
Invocation Pastor Heath Van Zandt
Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag
Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag
Honor the Texas Flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, One state under God, One and indivisible

Public Comments

1. *The Council is not permitted to take action or discuss any comments made to the Council at this time concerning an item not listed on the agenda. However, they may make a statement of fact regarding the item or policy. They may also ask that the item be placed on a future agenda or direct the City Administrator to contact the individual to address.*
2. *Public Comments require the speaker to submit the sign-up form to the City Secretary prior to the meeting, are limited to 3 minutes, and the form must identify each subject the speaker plans to present.*
3. *There will be no yielding of time to another person. Engaging in verbal attacks, or comments intended to insult or slander any individual shall be cause for removal from Council Chambers.*
4. *If the writer of a Public Comment is unable to read their own comment, it should be given to a friend, family member, or associate, that is able to attend in person and read the statement in their stead.*

Announcements from Mayor and Council Members

- August 22, 2024, City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- Citizen's Police Academy sign-up on the police department's Facebook page or call the department for registration opportunities. Classes begin September 24, 2024.

Mayor Crenshaw wanted to remind citizens that during a case of emergency citizens should call 911 and not city hall. Also, as a reminder the city is under water restriction, even numbers water on Wednesday and odd numbers water on Friday.

Consent Agenda

All items under this section are recommended for approval for the Consent Agenda. These items are of a routine nature and require only brief deliberation by Council. The Council reserves the right to remove any item on the Consent Agenda for further deliberation.

1. Approval of Minutes from July 11, 2024 (City Secretary)
2. Renewal of Oncor Membership (City Administrator) (pulled from the meeting – already approved)
3. Procurement Policy Approval for Resilient Communities Grant (RCG) (City Administrator)

   Motion: Councilwoman Kristi King
   Second: Councilman Kasey Shumake
   Vote: All in Favor
   Result: Council approved the minutes from July 11, 2024, as well as, the Procurement Policy approval for the Resilient Communities Grant (RCG).

Monthly Staff Reports, General Reports, and Board Minutes

All items under this section are for reading or informational purposes only; no action will be taken by Council.

1. Departments: Administration, Building & Development, Fire Rescue, Municipal Court, Police and Public Works (Department Heads).
2. Presentation of Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) Form A1024 CDBG Section 3 Goals and Concepts as related to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and Grant Contract Number CDV21-0018.

Regular Agenda

Discussion and any necessary action for the following:

1. Technology and Cybersecurity Options (City Administrator)

   Council heard from Ryan Young with Fulcrum on where the city is vulnerable. Mr. Young was asked by Council to return with a proposal on how the city can move forward being better protected than we are today.
2. Texas Rural Water Association Water/Wastewater Rate Study (City Administrator)

   Council received a presentation from Louis Booth with the Texas Rural Water Association on the water/wastewater rates today and how he would recommend the city update those rates. Mr. Booth recommends that the city eliminate the 0-2,000 gallons that is included in the base rate. He also recommends a raise in the base rate for residential and commercial users. Discussion was held relative to when the rate increases may/may not take place and the importance of a tiered rate system that helps encourage water conservation. The tiered system would charge users a higher rate for a higher number of gallons used per month. This is becoming a customary approach for cities across Texas. Any rate increases were based on the current financial stability of the Utility Fund,

which has been affected by the rates of the past. There have been many years where water/sewer rates have been held flat and were not incrementally raised to keep pace with depreciation within the system and the costs associated with inflation. Council will continue to review their options and no decision was made at the meeting. Staff were asked to conduct additional financial research and bring this item back to Council at a future meeting.

3. Budget and Tax Rate for FY 23/24 and/or FY 24/25 (City Administrator)
   Council received a presentation by City Administrator Amanda DeGan addressing the Voter Approved Rate, employee pay scale and new positions for the following departments Fire, Police and Public Works.
   Motion: Councilman Randall Loftis
   Second: Councilwoman Kristi King
   Vote: All in Favor
   Result: Motion was approved to adopt the Voter Approval Rate for the coming fiscal year.

   Motion: Councilwoman Kristi King
   Second: Councilman Kasey Shumake
   Vote: For: Mayor Pro Tem Michelle Tye (online), Councilman Randall Loftis, Councilwoman Kristi King, Councilman Kasey Shumake
   Against: Councilman Jimmy Johnson
   Result: Council approved the new pay scale going into effect October 1, 2024.

   Motion: Councilwoman Kristi King
   Second: Councilman Randall Loftis
   Vote: All in Favor
   Result: Council approved two (2) new Firefighters and one (1) Police Sargent for the upcoming fiscal year and would like to address adding new positions for the Public Works team after the review of the water/wastewater rates are concluded. Staff were also given direction to pursue the option of partnering with the City of Aurora for code enforcement in January 2025 and/or hiring a consultant for these services.

Executive Session

Pursuant to the following designated section of the Texas Government Code, Annotated, Chapter 551 (Texas Open Meetings Act), the Council may convene into executive session to discuss the following:

Council left for executive session at 7:43pm and returned at 8:05.

1. Section 551.071 Consultation with Attorney - pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offer or to seek advice from attorney.
2. Section 551.072 Deliberation regarding Real Property - purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property if deliberation in an open meeting would have detrimental effect on position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person.
   - Purchase or Sale of City Property

3. Section 551.074 Personnel – discuss appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee, or hear complaint or charge against officer or employee in executive session unless officer or employee requests a public hearing.
4. Section 551.087 – Deliberations regarding Economic Development Negotiations – to discuss or deliberate regarding commercial or financial information that the City has received from a business prospect that the City seeks to locate, stay, or expand in or near the City and with which the City is conducting economic development negotiations.

Regular Agenda (Resume)

1. Action to be taken from Executive Session
   No action taken out of Executive Session.

Future Agenda Items

(Agenda items are due by 5 p.m. on Wednesday of the week prior to the Council meeting)

1. Facility/Park Use Policy Update – Mayor Crenshaw
2. Short-term Rental Policy – Mayor Crenshaw
3. Panhandling Policy – Mayor Crenshaw
4. Updating city ordinances – Council Member Shumake

Adjourn

Motion: Councilman Jimmy Johnson
Second: Councilman Kasey Shumake
Vote: All in Favor
Result: Council adjourned the council meeting at 8:08pm

MINUTES APPROVED ON THIS, THE 22ND DAY OF AUGUST 2024

Kenneth Crenshaw, Mayor

Brooke Boller, City Secretary

CITY OF RHOME