

MINUTES
RICHWOOD CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting, Thursday, July 7, 2011
Richwood City Hall
215 Halbert
Richwood, TX 77531
7:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Clint Kocurek, Mayor and presiding officer.

A. Opening Prayer

The opening prayer was given by Glenn Patton, City Administrator.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

II. ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Roll call showed the following members present:

Clint Kocurek, Mayor and presiding officer
James Hughes, Position #1
John Pitts, Position #2 and Mayor Pro Tem
Lee Bryant, Position #3
Charles Pettey, Position #4

Absent:

Sandra Boykin, Position #5

A quorum was declared. Others present included Glenn Patton, City Administrator, Karen B. Schrom, City Secretary, Adam Sierra, Fire Chief, and Tim Seidler.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

On motion by Councilman Bryant, seconded by Councilman Pettey, with all members present voting aye, it was duly adopted to approve the minutes of June 13, 2011 as presented.

IV. ANYONE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

There was no one present who wished to address Council on matters not on the agenda.

V. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

A. Authorization to let bids for water wells project

On motion by Councilman Bryant, seconded by Councilman Pitts, with all members present voting aye, it was duly adopted to authorize the letting of bids for the water well projects.

B. Specific Use Permit request - Charity Sweepstakes

On motion by Councilman Bryant, seconded by Councilman Pitts, with all members present voting aye, it was duly adopted to table this item until Council can get more information and have Mr. Kelley completely fill out the variance application.

C. Appointment to Crime Control and Prevention District

On motion by Councilman Bryant, seconded by Councilman Pettey, with all members present voting aye, it was duly adopted to appoint Brent Dean to the Crime Control and Prevention District.

D. Amendment to contract with Brazosport River Authority for operation of sewage treatment plant

On motion by Councilman Bryant, seconded by Councilman Pettey, with all members present voting aye, it was duly adopted to authorize the amendment to the contract with Brazosport River Authority for the operation of sewage treatment plant. This amendment will allow BRA to complete the five year engineering plan rather than pay for an outside engineer.

E. Options for changing election dates for future city elections due to passage of Texas S.B. 100

With the passing of S.B. 100, the County has informed us that they will no longer be able to hold our elections in even numbered years nor can they lease or loan us their equipment.

We now have four options which are as follows:

Option 1 is to hold our own elections and this is the most expensive option. It would mean we'd have to purchase our own election machines, plus provide secured storage for when its not in use, hire election judges and clerks, etc. This is a very costly proposal for something that would only be used 2 weeks each year - in those years that we do not cancel elections. The cost of the machine alone would cost just under \$5,000 each and we'd need a minimum of 2 machines. Even after the purchase of the machines, annual costs will still be in excess of \$8,000 per year.

Option 2 is to hold our elections in November. This is the second most expensive at an estimated cost of \$4,500.00. Our costs would increase simply because this is a much larger election and a more expensive one. But the biggest drawback is the straight party vote. For those folks who chose to vote straight party, the voting ends right there. They would never see the city election and therefore would not vote.

Option 3 is changing to 4 year terms. This still allows for staggered elections like we have now where only 3 members of council are elected at any one time. This means you always have experience on a sitting council. To make this change, we'd need to put it on a ballot for a vote. The county has agreed to put it on the November ballot at no cost. The glitch with this option is that any vacancy would have to be filled with a special election.

The Option 4 is to keep the 2 year term but have elections in odd numbered years only. biggest drawback to this option is that we run the risk of having a completely new council every two years

There is no easy choice. Janice Evans, County Elections Administrator, will speak at the next BCCA meeting on July 20th and the City has signed up for the TML webinar on July 12th at 1:30 p.m.

Motion was made by Councilman Bryant, seconded by Councilman Pettey, with all members present voting aye, it was duly adopted to table this matter until August to allow fore more review.

F. Presentation of FY 2012 Budget Proposal and setting of date for Budget Workshop

On motion by Councilman Bryant, seconded by Councilman Pettey, with all members present voting aye, it was duly adopted to set the budget workshop for July 16th at 8:30 p.m.

G. Executive session pursuant to Section 551.074, Government Code, Personnel Matters to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee; or to hear a complaint against an officer or employee:

City Administrator

Council entered executive session at 7:40 p.m.

Council exited executive session at 8:18 p.m.

H. Action as a result of executive session

On motion by Councilman Bryant, seconded by Councilman Pitts, with all members present voting aye, it was duly adopted to appoint Mr. Patton as the full time City Administrator based on approval and review of a work agreement.

I. Payment of bills

On motion by Councilman Bryant, seconded by Councilman Pettey, with all members present voting aye, it was duly adopted to pay the bills as presented.

J. Financial Report

Par for the period ending June 30 is 25% remaining. Revenues are exceeding expenditures.

VI. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Patton reported that we should have the money for the water wells by next week and hopefully by then, we will have the permit as well.

The esplanades at Brazos Crossing have been removed.

BWA is still able to furnish water and DOW is making regular water purchases.

He reported he hoped to meet with Bobby Ford next week on the splash pad at the Bobby Ford Park.

City crews put up the fishing signs for Keep Richwood Beautiful.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

VIII. MAYOR'S REPORT

BCCA will be held July 20th

The City won a Gold Star again for Financial Transparency and had a perfect score.

City Council has been invited to participate in the Council Challenge at the Mosquito Festival

The parade honoring the Brazoswood Buc Baseball team will be July 11th and Council should meet at 6:00 p.m. at the Lighthouse Learning Center.

Councilman Pettey reported TxDOT is working on large projects and will put our projects on schedule as soon as they can since our project is one of the smaller ones. He also reported that they left the flags out from Flag Day to 4th of July and have applied for a grant to purchase replacement flags.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

APPROVED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF COUNCIL ON AUGUST 8, 2011.

Clint Kocurek, Mayor

ATTEST:

Karen B. Schrom, City Secretary

