

**MINUTES**  
**RICHWOOD CITY COUNCIL**  
Regular Meeting, Monday, January 10, 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 Michael Johnson, 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:

Michael Johnson, Mayor and presiding officer  
James Hughes, Position #1  
John Pitts, Position #2 and Mayor Pro Tem  
Charles Pettey, Position #4  
Sandra Boykin, Position #5

Absent:

Lee Bryant, Position #3

A quorum was declared. Others present included Glenn Patton, City Administrator, Karen B. Schrom, City Secretary, Ricky Brinkman, Public Works Director, Toni Breaux, Mrs. Kandler, Zak Kandler, and Madison Kandler.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

On motion by Councilman Pitts, seconded by Councilman Boykin, with all members present voting aye, the minutes of December 13, 2010 were approved as presented.

**IV. ANYONE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

Mrs. Kandler thanked Council for taking her issue into consideration and making changes to the dog ordinance.

**V. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

A. Resolution No. 11-01, authorizing the City Administrator to execute the Interlocal Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan with Brazoria County

Mr. Patton explained that several items are being added to our Hazard Mitigation plan. They are as follows:

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1. Develop a Master Drainage Plan
2. Replace the radio system in the Communication Center
3. Purchase two rescue vehicles
4. Install emergency power to water/sewer system - trailer mounted generators
5. Purchase of a 14 ft to 18 ft boat, motor and trailer

On motion by Councilman Pettey, seconded by Councilman Pitts, with all members present voting aye, Resolution No. 11-01, authorizing the City Administrator to execute the Interlocal Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan with Brazoria County.

B. Ordinance No. 361, Dangerous Dogs

The proposed ordinance helps clarify what is meant by "Dangerous Dogs" in the City and brings our current law into compliance with the most recent legislation. It also clarifies how a dog is determined to be dangerous and allows for due process in the event a dog has been qualified as dangerous.

On motion by Councilman Pitts, seconded by Councilman Boykin, with all members present voting aye, Ordinance No. 361, Dangerous Dogs was approved as presented.

C. Ordinance No. 362 - Drought Contingency Plan and Water Conservation Plan

The City's Drought Contingency Plan had not been updated since 1988 and no longer was in sync with that of Brazosport Water Authority nor did it meet the criteria set out by the State of Texas and TCEQ. The proposed ordinance is now in line with that of Brazosport Water Authority and the other member cities and meets all the required criteria.

On motion by Councilman Boykin, seconded by Councilman Pettey, with all members present voting aye, it was duly adopted to approve Ordinance No. 362, Drought Contingency Plan and Water Conservation Plan.

D. Authorization to start proceedings to replace Water Well #1

The City has been aware for quite some time that Water Well #1, located near the City's service center, has been in danger of failing for several years. A video tape shot in 2005 showed a split screen. Replacement has been deferred because of the high cost of replacing the well which was estimated to be in excess of \$250,000.00, not counting the additional engineering costs at the time. However, the cost to replace the well has jumped to in excess of \$350,000 over the last 5 years.

City staff is now looking for the authority to begin looking into the replacement of the well such as approaching the Texas Water Development Board, working with the City's Financial Advisors on financing alternatives and also research the legal and other requirements as well as costs associated with this venture.

On motion by Councilman Pitts, seconded by Councilman Pettey, with all members present voting aye, it was duly adopted to grant City staff the authorization to start proceedings to replace Water Well #1.

E. Proposed payroll changes to the Public Works Department

Ricky Brinkman, Public Works Director, has reviewed the staffing needs of the Public Works Department. He has made several recommendations and feels these changes will help the City maintain a more efficient Public Works Department.

His proposal is to reduce the current work force from six full time employees to five full time employees and hiring part time help to assist during the spring and summer months when the work load of the Public Works Department is increased as we struggle to maintain the parks and keep up with the mowing.

By lowering the workforce to five, it will enable us to give the remaining employees an increase in pay, raising the starting rate for Public Works and give an economic incentive to our employees for acquiring the required licenses.

The proposed increases are as follows:

Employee	Current rate	New rate
John Esparza	14.16	14.86
Jere Ryle	13.32	14.32
Kenny Williams	13.23	15.00
Beau Bullard	11.53	12.75
Water Tech (starting rate)	11.00	12.00

Pay increases for the acquisition of required licenses are as follows:

C Water license	.50 per hour
Level 1 waste water	.50 per hour
CDL	.25 per hour

Councilman Boykin stated she thought this was a good idea. We have been fighting this battle for years where we'd just get someone trained and they'd leave to go to another city for more money. The tests involved are heard.

Councilman Pettey expressed his concern that we were not replacing someone. He stated the City has not kept up with the utility department like we have the other departments. He agrees that salaries should be addressed but feels we should not cut an employee.

Mr. Brinkman explained that the proposal contains money for two part time employees which should help a great deal during the growing season. His goal is to create a workforce that can handle anything. Currently they are behind because all the employees need to work on their licenses or their renewals. There are employees who have yet to receive licenses that should have had them before he got here. He is confident that once the licenses are up to date, they will be able to handle the workload.

F. Proposal for Water Park Attraction (splash pad) at the Richwood Municipal Park

There are three options for possible water park attractions. They are as follows:

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- Option One - Geysers Spray Garden for a cost of \$24,875
- Option Two - Musical Theme for a cost of \$69,100
- Option Three - Water Dome Garden for a cost of \$24,900

City staff is recommending Option Three which will include nine water geysers and one mushroom water dome. Mr. Patton explained that this is just a start and it can be added to later on. He is hoping to convince Mr. Bobby Ford to help us put one in Bobby Ford Park as well.

On motion by Councilman Pettey, seconded by Councilman Boykin, with all members present voting aye, it was duly adopted to accept the proposal for Option Three. Mr. Patton stated that this can be in and operational by April 1<sup>st</sup> if the weather holds out.

G. Disposal of surplus equipment

City staff presented a list of equipment as examples of what might be offered for sale such as cages for police cars, truck bed covers, chipper, brush truck, grapple truck, dump truck, sewer boring machine, generator and Fire Department suburban. The list is not inclusive and is subject to change.

Councilman Pitts stated the Fire Department is considering liquidating the suburban but has not yet voted on it.

On motion by Councilman Pitts, seconded by Councilman Pettey, with all members voting aye, it was duly adopted to dispose of surplus equipment through sales or auctions. Councilman Pettey suggested we ask for a reserve on several items.

H. Payment of bills

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

I. Financial Report

Par for the period ending December 31, 2011 is 75%. With all members present voting aye, it was duly adopted to accept the Financial Report as presented.

VI. **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Patton reported that the work on the park is getting closer to being finished. The material has been ordered to replace the drains on the P.K. Forrest Community Center and the bathrooms. He also directed Council to the Save The Date notice they received in their packets. City staff will continue to add to it and make corrections as time goes on and hopefully this will keep Council better informed of events. With the help of Mr. Brinkman, the City was able to get a replacement dump truck at a very good price. It is a 2006 model and has all the maintenance records. The new police car has been received and Public Works has taken possession of the police truck. He asked that Council let him know immediately if they find anything wrong. The bathrooms were reported and that issue has been addressed.

VII. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Proposed skate park

VIII. **MAYOR'S REPORT**

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BCCA will be hosted by the City of West Columbia on January 19<sup>th</sup> and the Mayor's and City Manager's meeting will be at the Chamber on January 21<sup>st</sup>.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

APPROVED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF COUNCIL ON FEBRUARY 14, 2011.

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Michael Johnson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Karen B. Schrom, City Secretary