

MINUTES FOR THE CITY OF RICHLAND REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 09, 2025 @6:00pm
103 W. MAIN ST.
RICHLAND, TX. 76681

CALL TO ORDER AT

ROLL CALL MAYOR MORRIS, JAY TIDWELL, MIKE WEEMPE, SHIRLEY THOMAS, RONDA FRANKS, CHIEF ROBINSON, OFFICER LOPEZ, JUDGE CONNIE HICKMAN. ABSENT FROM THE MEETING WAS CAREN SMITH. SPECIAL GUEST FRANK STEEL, TAYLOR WITH NAVCO CHRONICLE, MICHAEL BUSTAMANTE WITH TEXAS TOWING, MARC EICHENBAUM WITH LYTE FIBER INTERNET

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS MAYOR JERRY MORRIS TO MAKE **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**. MAYOR MORRIS ANNOUNCED THAT **DAVID MORRIS IS RESIGING EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 09, 2025, DUE TO HEALTH**

MR. FRANKS STEELE WITH ANDERSON, MARX AND BOHL, PC TO DISCUSS 2024 ANNUAL AUDIT. **MR. FRANK STEEL** EXPLAINED THE **2024 AUDIT** WITH COUNCIL. MR. STEEL LET COUNCIL KNOW THAT THE AUDIT WENT AS SMOOTH AS POSSIBLE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCE OF THE TURNOVER WITH THE CITY SECRETARY POSITION AND CHANGING ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE ALSO NO ADJUSTMENTS WERE EVER MADE FROM THE 2023 AUDIT. MR. STEEL WENT ON TO EXPLAINING THE AUDIT TO COUNCIL.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTING UPON **MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2025**, REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING.

MIKE WEEMPE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2025. **JAY TIDWELL** SECONDED THE MOTION. 3 AYES 0 NAYES

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTING UPON **FINANCIALS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025.** **MIKE WEEMPE** MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINANCIALS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025. **JAY TIDWELL** SECONDED THE MOTION. 3 AYES 0 NAYES

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTING UPON **MUNICIPAL COURT REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER** RICHLAND AND ANGUS.

JAY TIDWELL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MUNICIPAL COURT REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER. **MIKE WEEMPE** SECONDED THE MOTION. 3 AYES 0 NAYES

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTING UPON **POLICE REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2025.** **MIKE WEEMPE** MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE POLICE REPORT. **JAY TIDWELL** SECONDED THE MOTION. 3 AYES 0 NAYES

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTIONG UPON **CONTRACT FOR TEXAS TOWING.** MICHAEL BUSTAMANTE TALKED TO COUNCIL ABOUT THE CONTRACT WITH THE CITY OF RICHLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT. HE STATED THIS WAS THE SAME CONTRACT TEXAS TOWING HAS WITH OTHER CITIES. TEXAS TOWING AGREES TO PROVIDE TOWING SERVICE FOR ANY VEHICLES THE POLICE REQUEST TO BE TOWED. TEXAS TOWING WILL PAY THE CITY OF RICHLAND \$10.00 ADMINISTRATIVE FEE FOR EACH VEHICLE THAT WILL BE IMPOUNDED. TEXAS TOWING ALSO AGREES NOT TO CHARGE THE CITY OF RICHLAND FOR ANY CARS INVOLVED IN A SEIZURE OR HELD BY COURT ORDER. ALSO TO PROVIDE TOWING SERVICES FREE OF CHARGE FOR ANY VEHICLE OWNED BY THE RICHLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE WATER DEPARTMENT. CHIEF ROBINSON ALSO ASKED IF TEXAS TOWING WOULD BE WILLING TO SERVICE/REPAIR THE CITY VEHICLES. THIS CONTRACT CAN BE CANCELLED AT ANY TIME. **MIKE WEEMPE** HAS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE TEXAS TOWING CONTRACT. **JAY TIDWELL** SECONDED THE MOTION. 3 AYES 0 NAYES

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTING UPON **WATER DEPT REPORT** RONDA FRANKS PRESENTED THE WATER REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER. SHE STATED THAT THE CITY HAD PURCHASED 2,815,000 GALLONS OF WATER, WATER SOLD FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER WAS 1,537,900 GALLONS OF WATER USED FOR FIRE AND FLUSING LINE WAS 239,000 GALLONS OF WATER LOSS WAS 1,038,010 GALLONS. SHE ALSO GAVE A SECOND REPORT FOR 12 MONTHS OF PURCHASED WATER AND SOLD TOTAL WATER PURCHASED WAS 23,369,000 GALLONS WATER SOLD WAS 17,386,100 GALLONS OF WATER LOSS WAS 1,940,580 GALLONS OF WATER USED FOR FIRE AND FLUSING LINE WAS 4,042,250 GALLONS GIVING A TOTAL WATER LOSS FOR 12 MONTHS OF 8.30%. **MIKE WEEMPE** MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE WATER REPORT. **JAY TIDWELL** SECONDED THE MOTION. 3 AYES 0 NAYES

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTING UPON **Marc Eichenbaum, Vice President, Government Affairs & Community Development for Lyte Fiber, LLC.** Lyte Fiber would like to run fiber optic cables through Richland. **MR EICHENBAUM EXPLAINED TO COUNCIL THAT LYTE FIBER WILL BE PLACING FIBER OPTIC IN THE CITY OF RICHLAND BOTH UNDER GROUND AND ARIEL.** HE ALSO STATED THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO SERVICE HOMES OUTSIDE OF THE CITY LIMITS AND THAT LYTE FIBER IS THE FIRST FIBER OPTIC COMPANY THAT IS ABLE TO OFFER SERVICE TO HOMES OUTSIDE OF CITIES LIMITS. LYTE FIBER WILL BE PLACING FIBER OPTIC LINES THROUGH OUT NAVARRO COUNTY WHICH CONSIST OF 634 MILES. STARTING THE PROJECT BY THE END OF OCTOBER. **MR EICHENBAUM** STATED THAT THE PROPERTY USED FOR UNDERGROUND WILL BE LEFT IN THE CONDITION IT WAS FOUND OR BETTER. **NO ACTION TAKE BY COUNCIL**

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTING UPON **GRANT FOR FIXING PLANT (GET IT OPERATIONABLE) AT AIRPORT, GROUND STORAGE TANK TAKEN APART AND REASSEMBLED, PUMP REPLACED, AIR PACK, 50W GENERATOR, AND SCADA SYSTEM.** **TABLE FROM AUGUST 14, 2025, REGULAR MEETING.**

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTING UPON **SCORING TWO ENGINEERING FIRMS FOR THE CDBG GRANT.** THE CITY RECEIVED TWO RFQ PACKETS, ONE FROM HAYTER ENGINEERS AND ONE FROM FONTAINE. HAYTER ENGINEERING RECEIVED A TOTAL SCORE OF 400, FONTAINE RECEIVED A TOTAL SCORE OF 355. **MIKE WEEMPE** MADE A MOTION TO CHOSE HAYTER ENGINEERING. **JAY TIDWELL** SECONDED THE MOTION. 3 AYES 0 NAYES

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTING UPON **ADOPTING RESOLUTION 196 AUTHORIZIING** PROFESSIONAL SERVICE PROVIDER SELECTION FOR A 2025/2026 TCDB PROJECT THROUGH THE TEXAS DEPT OF AGRICULTURE (TDA) **MIKE WEEMPE** MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 196. **JAY TIWELL** SECONDRD THE MOTION. 3 AYRS 0 NAYES

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTING UPON **SETTING A DATE FOR A BUDGET WORKHOP.IN NOVEMBER.** THE COUNCIL CANCELLED THE BUDGET WORKSHOP FOR OCTOBER 14, 2025, DUE TO GETTING NEW ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE AN TO GIVE RONDA MORE TIME TO GATHER NUMBERS. **THE NEW DATES WILL BE NOVEMBER 18 AND DECEMBER 02.**

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTING UPON **MAKING MAYOR JERRY MORRIS AND MAYOR PRO-TEM JAY TIDWELL** SIGNERS ON ALL ACCOUNTS AT COMMUNITY NATIONAL BANK AND TRUST OF TEXAS. **MIKE WEEMPE** MADE A MOTION TO MAKE MAYOR JERRY MORRIS AND JAY TIDWELL SIGNERS ON ALL ACCOUNTS AT COMMUNITY NATIONAL BANK AND TRUST OF TEXAS AND ALSO WITH INCOMMONS BANK. **JAY TIDWELL** SECONDED THE MOTION. 3 AYAES AND 0 NAYES

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTING **UPON ALLOWING RONDA FRANKS CITY SECRETARY** TO HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION FOR THE CITY OF RICHLAND CDS. **MIKE WEEMPE** MADE A MOTION TO ALLOW RONDA FRANKS TO HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION ONLY FOR THE CITY OF RICHLAND CD'S AT COMMUNITY NATIONAL BANK AND INCOMMONS BANK. **JAY TIDWELL** SECONDED THE MOTION. 3 AYAES AND 0 NAYES

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTING UPON **GIVING HOLLI BENNETT COMP TIME** FOR WORKING ON GETTING NEW WEBSITE SET UP. **MIKE WEEMPE** MADE A MOTION TO GIVE HOLLI BENNETT 8 HOURS OF PTO FOR TIME SPENT GETTING NEW WEBSITE SET UP. **JAY TIDWELL** SECONDED THE MOTION. 3 AYAES 0 NAYES

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTING UPON **CHANGING OR ENFORCEING OR DO AWAY WITH TRAVEL TRAILOR ORDINANCE.** CHIEF ROBINSON LET COUNCIL KNOW HE COUNTED 17 CAMPERS IN TOWN. **NO ACTION TAKEN**

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTIN UPON **INCREASING WATER RATES DUE INFLATION.** **MAYOR MORRIS** TALKED TO COUNCIL CONCERNING THE WATER RATES CURRENTLY IN PLACE. STATING THAT THE ONLY INCREASE THE CUSTOMERS HAD RECEIVED WAS STRICTLY WHAT EVER CORSICANA INCREASE THE CITY BY SINCE 2006. THE REASON FOR THIS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THIS TIME WAS TO INCREASE RATES FOR IN TOWN AND OUT OF CITY LIMITS.CUSTOMERS. **MIKE WEEMPE** MADE A MOTION TO **INCREASE WATER RATES ON A TIER SYSTEM BY 12% FOR BOTH CUSTOMERS IN TOWN AND OUT OF TOWN.** **JAY TIDWELL** SECONDED THE MOTION. 3 AYAES 0 NAYES

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTING UPON **FIXING MOWING TRACTOR.** COUNCILMAN WEEMPE HAS INFORMATON ON COST. **MIKE WEEMPE** HAULED THE MOWING TRACTOR TO SMITH AG. WHICH GAVE MIKE AN ESTIMATE OF \$1,000.00 TO \$1,500.00 TO LOOK AT TRACTOR TO FIND PROBLEMS. ALSO, AN ESTIMATE ON POSSIBLE REPAIRS OF \$2,500.00 TO 3,000.00 OR POSSIBLY \$4,800.00. DICUSSION WAS TABLED TO SEE IF WE PUT THE MOWING BACK ON THE AGENDA NEXT MONTH, WE MAYBE ABLE TO GET BIDS ON SOMEONE USING THEIR OWN EQUIPMENT TO DO MOWING OF LOTS. **COUNCIL AND JUDGE HICKMAN** TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS. IN DATE: 10/09/25 TIME: 7:47PM

COUNCIL AND JUDGE HICKMAN CAME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION OUT DATE: 10/09/25 TIME: 8:01PM

ACTION TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION. **MIKE WEEMPE** MADE A MOTION TO GIVE HOLLI BENNETT A PAY RAISE OF \$6.00 PER HOUR AND TO HAVE HOLLI WORK 40 HOURS PER WEEK. BY DOING THIS IT WILL ALLOW US NOT TO HIRE A SECOND PERSON FOR THE COURT. **JAY TIDWELL SECONDED THE MOTION.** 3 AYES 0 NAYS

JUDGE HICKMAN MADE AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SHE WIL ALLOW RONDA FRANKS TO USE COURT TECHNOLOGY FUNDS TO HELP PAY FOR NEW ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE DUE TO HER DOING FINANCIALS FOR THE COURT.

TO BE PUT ON NEXT MONTHS AGENDA

BIDS FOR MOWING LOTS BID WIL HAVE TO INCLUDE USING THEIR OWN EQUIPMENT

Consider convening into executive session to receive attorney's advice on legal matters pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code, to deliberate on certain matters concerning real property pursuant to Section 551.072 of the Texas Government Code, to deliberate on matters concerning personnel pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code, and to discuss economic development.

ADJOURNMENT **MIKE WEEMPE** MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING SINCE THERE IS NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO DISCUSS. **JAY TIDWELL** SECONDED THE MOTION. 3 AYAES 0 NAYES

MAYOR, JERRY MORRIS

CITY SECRETARY, RONDA FRANKS