



**OFFICIAL MINUTES
RINCON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
107 W. 17TH STREET
7:00 PM**

Councilmember Present:

Reese Browher
Patrick Kirkland
Jesse Blackwell, Jr.
Michelle Taylor
Damon Rahn

Councilmember Absent:

Levi Scott, Jr.

Present:

Ken Lee, Mayor
Jonathan Lynn, City Manager
Raymond Dickey, City Attorney
Dulcia King, City Clerk
Jonathon Murrell, Police Chief
Lou Reed, Interim Fire Chief
Terri Lewis, Planning and Development Director
Mike Osborne, Recreation Director
Tm Bowles, Public Works Director
Elizabeth Cartwright, Finance Director

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM. The Invocation was given by Councilmember Blackwell and the Pledge to the Flag was recited.

Invocation and Pledge to the Flag:

Approval of the agenda:

Motion to approve: Councilmember Rahn
Second: Councilmember Browher
Vote by Council: Unanimous

Approval of the March 13, 2023 minutes with the following correction:

Under administrative reports Chief Browher needs to be changed to Councilmember Browher.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Taylor

Second: Councilmember Blackwell

Vote by Council: Unanimous

Approval of the March 21, 2023 minutes:

Motion to approve: Councilmember Blackwell

Second: Councilmember Kirkland

Vote by Council: Unanimous

Introduction of New Police Officer

Chief Murrell introduced new officer Cody Chapman.

Old Business:

1. Cranston LLC request approval of Preliminary Sketch Plans for a Major Subdivision. The property is located at 0 Fairmont Drive. The property is 73.71 acres and is zoned R-4 (single family residential); the property is owned by Eddie and Darnett Coleman. (Parcel #: R2740001A00) (Tabled at the 1/23/2023 meeting)

Motion to remove from table: Councilmember Browher

Second: Councilmember Rahn

Vote by Council: Unanimous

Mayor Lee said according to staff the petitioner asked for this to be tabled further out. Mr. Lynn said according to their attorney Brad Skidmore, they are trying to redesign some things and have not met with homeowners in Kate's Cove. A motion was made to table until May 22 in order to give the petitioner additional time.

Motion to table: Councilmember Kirkland

Second: Councilmember Taylor

Vote by Council: Unanimous

New Business:

1. Vote on a request filed by Prosser on behalf of Gate Petroleum Company, requesting a Final Site Plan approval to construct a brand-new prototypical C-Store without the car wash facility. The 1.11 acre property is located at 390 South Columbia Ave and is zoned GC (General Commercial); the parcel is owned by Gate Petroleum Company. (Parcel # R2120015)

Matt Melchiori with Prosser said they have not made any changes and they are still trying to get the approval from the neighbor. Rebecca Hamilton with Gate Petroleum was present. Ms. Hamilton said they have submitted the landscape plan and hopes everything was to Council's liking. The City Attorney had asked them to reach out to their neighbor who they have a shared egress and ingress and get an approval letter from them. So they reached out to National Retail Properties and they did give verbal approval but they wanted to reach out to Mavis Tire who is their tenant and that may take up to 30 days. Ms. Hamilton asked Council for approval with the condition that they provide the letter prior to getting permits. Attorney Dickey said the problem is if you effect some ones easement and if the City gave you permission to do it than the City could be drugged into any dispute. Ms Hamilton has given the owners all of the information and they are going to make enhancements to the area. The property owners as a courtesy, wants to present the information to their tenants, Mavis Tires. By doing the enhancements it should help with the trucks parking there. Attorney Dickey said approval subject to getting the letter before the permits are issued, if that is not done they will have to come back to Council for a new site plan. Mrs. Lewis said the Planning and Zoning Board recommended approval. A motion was made to approve contingent upon an easement approval letter from National Retail Properties.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Taylor
Second: Councilmember Rahn
Vote by Council: Unanimous

2. Request approval to purchase 20 in-car thermal printers from L-Tron Corporation in the amount of \$9,097.80. LI #100.3200.542528

Chief Murrell said this was suggested by the SSI representative. There will be one printer in each patrol car, plus two in spare cars. These will print citations. Councilmember Rahn asked about maintenance on the printers, Chief Murrell said he does not have that information, but he can probably get replacements within 24 hours.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Rahn
Second: Councilmember Blackwell
Vote by Council: Unanimous

3. Administrative Reports:

City Manager – Mr. Lynn reminded Council that the Spring Fair starts on April 7; he wished City Inspector David Mattos a Happy Birthday; the GMA Annual Conference registration is March 30; the State of the County has been changed to April 27; emails on Friday did not come through, because of this Inter Dev is going to migrate quicker; an ad has been placed for the Golf Pro/Manager; Officer Gallagher was recognized this morning at the Georgia House; we do have a workshop request on April 3, the IDA wants to talk about Sewon.

Police Department – Chief Murrell said the court date for the parade perpetrator is April 27.

Building/Zoning Dept. – Mrs. Lewis said Planning has been very busy. Mayor Lee said at the upcoming workshop they need to talk about Planning and Board compensation.

Water/Sewer/Public Works – Mr. Bowles said the water tower has been taken down; Councilmember Browner asked about Lexington Avenue, Mr. Bowles said they will do the striping for that project.

Mayor and Council – Councilmember Blackwell said we need to establish a policy for the rental of Freedom Park. Councilmember Taylor said she will be making brochure of the Hinely Center and wanted to know if they can do a sidewalk by the garage; Councilmember Blackwell mentioned having a farmers market at Freedom Park, Mr. Lynn will look into that. Councilmember Browner asked do we no longer take cash at the Recreation Department. Mr. Lynn said they have asked the Recreation Department not to take any cash because of security. We are looking to shift towards a cashless operation at the concessions stands, Councilmember Browner said that is not good customer service. When you have kids there, the parents are not going to say here take my credit card they will give them five or ten dollars. He kind of heard about this from other people and thinks this should be a collective decision made by Mayor and Council before we make that policy change. Councilmember Blackwell said some people only have cash and cannot get a debit or credit card. Councilmember Kirkland said he wished Mike Osborne was here because the Mayor got a great compliment about our City Recreation Department this past weekend. They are doing a great job. Mayor Lee said to the point that Councilmember Browner was making there are a lot of young people that play out there and the parents are not always there. He doesn't know what policies or procedures we need to have in place but it is worthy of some further consideration. Councilmember Browner said he understands accountability and balancing at the end of the day. Mayor Lee reminded Council about the GMA Spring Training in Athens in April; also District 12 spring listening session is April 17th in Hinesville; he received a notice from the County about a TSPLOST meeting Tuesday, April 11th at 10:00 am; and the GMA Convention is in Savannah on June 23rd -27th;

Mayor Lee read an email he received from a resident about Fire Chief Lou Reed on how he did a great job on a first responder call that he had placed. Councilmember Kirkland said he can see the kindness and compassion in both the Police Officers and Fire Fighters that work here.

4. Executive session to discuss personnel, pending litigation, attorney client privilege, and real estate.

Motion: Councilmember Taylor
Second: Councilmember Blackwell
Vote by Council: Unanimous

Motion to return to meeting: Councilmember Kirkland
Second: Councilmember Blackwell
Vote by Council: Unanimous

5. Follow the statutes of executive session, to put on file an executive session affidavit and resolution.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Browher
Second: Councilmember Rahn
Vote by Council: Unanimous

6. Take any action that is needed on the items from executive session.

No action taken.

Adjourn:

Motion: Councilmember Kirkland
Second: Councilmember Blackwell
Vote by Council: Unanimous