



**OFFICIAL MINUTES
RINCON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2021
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
107 W. 17TH STREET
7:00 PM**

Councilmember Present:

Jesse Blackwell, Jr.
Reese Browher
Patrick Kirkland
W. Frederick Long
Levi Scott, Jr.
Michelle Taylor

Present:

Ken Lee, Mayor
John Klimm, City Manager
Raymond Dickey, City Attorney
Dulcia King, City Clerk
Jonathon Murrell, Police Chief
Pete Smith, Asst. Fire Chief
Jason Stewart, City Planner
David Mattos, Building Inspector
Tim Bowles, Public Works Director

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM. The Invocation was given by Councilmember Browher and Pledge to the Flag was recited.

Approval of the agenda with the following:

Addition of new business item 14A, approval of the probation service agreement for year 2022.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Long
Second: Councilmember Scott
Vote by Council: Unanimous

Approval of the November 22, 2021 minutes:

There were a few grammatical errors that were given to the City Clerk.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Scott

Second: Councilmember Blackwell

Vote by Council: Unanimous

Approval of the December 6, 2021 minutes:

Motion to approve: Councilmember Long

Second: Councilmember Blackwell

Vote by Council: Unanimous

Presentations of Police Awards by Chief Murrell

Lieutenant Thompson along with Chief Murrell presented 6 officers with the awards. Corporal Matthew Estes, Officer Daniel Nicholson were presented with the Exceptional Service Award for helping out with a structural fire; Officers Marquis Parker, Devonte Boddie and Brian Mihuta were presented with the Life Saving Award for helping the Fire Department with a patient; Officers Nicholson, Officer Boddie and Officer Mihuta were presented with the Exceptional Service Award for helping with a structural fire. Officer Mitchell Adderton was not present, but will be presented with the Community Engagement Award for organizing the Rincon Roundup to help with gifts for Christmas. Lieutenant Thompson also thanked the Fire Department for showing up and supporting the Police Department.

New Business:

1. Effingham Health System Foundation requests a Special Events Permit with a fee waiver for a Car Show and Food Truck Festival at Freedom Park on Saturday, March 12, 2022.

Jessica Griffin, Effingham Health System Foundation Director was present. Mrs. Griffin said this will be the 3rd annual Gears and Grub Fundraiser. Benefits go to Effingham Health Foundation for continuing growth of the Effingham Health System. They are looking to expand the cancer care services, senior care and pediatric care.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Long

Second: Councilmember Blackwell

Vote by Council: Unanimous

2. A request has been filed by John and Debra Lessard requesting approval for a Recombination of a 0.69 acre parcel adding 0.58 acres located at 3364 S Hwy 21. The 2.58 acre parcel located at 3396 S Hwy 21 will be revised to 2.00 acres. Both properties are owned by Rincon Church of God Inc. (Map and Parcel # R2700007 & R2700008)

Jimmy Bowen, Bowen Plumbing said that he is currently renting the space from Rincon Church of God and wants to buy the building. There is a small parcel behind that is not doing anyone any good so he wants to buy that also.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Kirkland
Second: Councilmember Scott
Vote by Council: Unanimous

3. Request for Council to issue a 10 day notice according to the ordinance for nuisance on property located at 19 Talmadge Drive and to pay all assessed fees.

David Mattos said this started in February 2021. The original owner did not want to come in front of Council so she sold the property. Michael Harrelson brought the property knowing that the code enforcement case was not going anywhere and it needed to be cleaned up. He took it over on October 22, 2021. Mr. Mattos said he went by there today and he cleaned up some but not all, he has fees of \$330.64. 90% has been cleaned up.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Long
Second: Councilmember Browher

Michael Harrelson did show up. He approached the podium and had discussion with Mr. Mattos about what needs to be cleaned.

Vote by Council: 5 yes votes Councilmember Kirkland abstained

Councilmember Taylor asked if the other people, Franklin Johnson, paid their fines (nuisance at 719 W Seventh Street). Mr. Mattos said no they were supposed to contact Mr. Klimm if they needed to schedule arrangements for the fees. Mr. Mattos said he sent a letter and they never paid the fees. There was discussion on the Johnson case and the fines that were not paid from September 27, 2021. Mr. Mattos said he will send a letter to Mr. Johnson reminding him of the fees that are due. There has been no contact at all.

4. Request approval to pay M.E. Sack for engineering services done at the WWTP in the amount of \$5,537.50. LI #320.4335.541453

Mr. Klimm made the suggestion to postpone items 4 and 5 until next week, since Marcus Sack was not present.

Motion to table: Councilmember Browher
Second: Councilmember Blackwell
Vote by Council: Unanimous

5. Request approval to pay Gilbert Pump and Mechanical \$9,200.00 for repairs to the WWTP. LI #506.4335.531125

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

**6. Griffin Contracting Inc request approval of pay request #2 in the amount of \$142,255.93 for the 2021 Rincon TSPLOST – Middleground Road.
LI #320.4100.549104**

Doug Morgan with EMC Engineering was present. Mr. Morgan said the barrels are poured, all they have to do is aprons and rocks. They will tie in the water lines at 7th Street this week. Mayor Lee said just from his observation he does not know if December 31st will be achievable, Mr. Morgan said he has been talking to the contractor. Rock is hard to come by, they can't mill out the road until they have the rock on hand. Hopefully in the next day or two they will know when the rock will come in.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Scott
Second: Councilmember Kirkland
Vote by Council: Unanimous

7. Request approval of proposed City of Rincon false alarm Fees.

Chief Murrell said this should read City of Rincon False Alarm Ordinance. Attorney Dickey said there is a Georgia Code that applies to this. Before we move any farther they need questions answered by Council. First of all you need to decide whether this will be treated as a civil matter or criminal matter. The Chief would like to go the criminal route; they would have to pay a citation.

No action taken.

8. Request approval to trade in current department issued duty weapons for new weapons.

Chief Murrell said they last traded in weapons 10 years ago and he wants to trade the current Glock 22 40 caliber guns for Glock 45 9mm guns.

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

9. Request approval to trade current .40 cal. ammunition for 9mm ammunition.

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

10. Discussion on the 2022 LMIG project.

Mr. Bowles said the 2022 LMIG project is coming up and Mr. Stewart needs to apply for the grant to received money from state. They chose to look at East 5th Street or East 6th Street. The cost estimate is probably going to be \$250,000, we only get somewhere around \$168,000 – \$180,000 from LMIG. Mr. Bowles recommends East 6th Street. A motion was made to approve East 6 Street as the 2022 LMIG project.

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

11. Vote on the first reading of an ordinance to annex 67.95 acre parcel located at 1360 Fort Howard Road; property is owned by Kenneth P Rule. (Map and Parcel # 04750061)

Mr. Stewart this property was originally subdivided by the County. The proposed rezoning will be heard next month.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Scott
Second: Councilmember Long
Vote by Council: Unanimous

12. Vote on the first reading of an ordinance to annex 4.46 acre parcel located at 0 Fort Howard Road; property is owned by Kenneth P Rule. (Map and Parcel # 04750061A00)

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

13. Request to approve the City of Rincon's Workers Compensation Insurance with Georgia Municipal Association (policy period 1/1/2022 to 1/1/2023) at a total premium amount of \$147,952.00.

Mr. Klimm said we annually receive a letter from GMA when they calculate the cost to each City there is an experience factor. We have had some cases that boost up the cost 16% to 17% this year.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Kirkland
Second: Councilmember Scott
Vote by Council: Unanimous

14. Request approval to cancel the December 27, 2021 City Council meeting.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Long
Second: Councilmember Scott

Vote by Council: Unanimous

14A. Approval of the Probation Service Agreement for year 2022.

This is an agreement between our court and our probation services.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Kirkland

Second: Councilmember Taylor

Vote by Council: Unanimous

15. Administrative Reports:

City Manager – Mr. Klimm said we will have the budget as amended before Council next week. He thanked Council who provided guidance and suggestion; if Council has reviewed the financial report they will have seen that this year we ended in a strong financial position, the last three years we have improved fund balance; we have been notified by GMA they are holding a workshop to provide guidance to local cities on LOST; he made a request to revisit the issue of tractor trailer ordinance. There was discussion on the ordinance. Mr. Klimm and Mr. Stewart will meet with some residents.

City Engineer – Councilmember Browher thanked EMC Engineering for work on the TSPLOST roads. He asked about stripeing on Weisenbaker Road, Mr. Morgan said it is not finished yet. They have issued the final punch list and will be holding the retainage until everything is complete.

Fire Department – Councilmember Taylor asked about the new fire engine, Assistant Chief Smith said it is still in Wisconsin.

Building/Zoning Dept. – Mr. Stewart said Lolly Whatley, Sheri Swagert and the Planning Board have attended training. He is appreciative of Council for letting him budget for that. Councilmember Kirkland asked how we address leaf blowing into the street. Mr. Stewart said there are ordinances in place and he could call the police if it is a hazard, but call him and he could find the correct department. Councilmember Browher asked about the former KFC property, Mr. Stewart said they can send them a letter about clean up.

Water/Sewer/Public Works – Councilmember Long said the patch work on Lexington Avenue is bad, Mr. Bowles said he will call Savannah River Utilities to fix it; Councilmember Scott said before the curve on 7th Street is also bad, Mr. Bowles said he will look at that also; Councilmember Browher mentioned the place on Highway 21 that was sinking by McDonald's, Mr. Bowles said GDOT thinks a one of the Utilities had done some damage to a storm drain. They are supposed to bring in a camera to see what is going on; Councilmember Browher said crossing over Ft Howard Road towards Tractor Supply the road is starting to look bad. Mr. Bowles said they have to figure out how to close the road to patch that.

Mayor and Council – Councilmember Browher mentioned the property on the corner of Carolina Avenue and West 9th Street and asked Mr. Stewart had there been any complaints about that. Mr. Stewart said he will take a look at it.

16. 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 Scott
Second: Councilmember Blackwell
Vote by Council: Unanimous

17. Follow the statutes of executive session, to put on file an executive session affidavit ad resolution.

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

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

No action taken.

Adjourn:

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