



**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
RINCON CITY COUNCIL  
CALLED MEETING  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2019  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
107 W. 17TH STREET  
7:00 PM**

**Councilmembers Present:**

Reese Browher  
James Dasher  
Levi Scott, Jr.  
Ann Daniel

**Councilmembers Absent:**

Kevin Exley  
Paul Wendelken

**Present:**

Ken Lee, Mayor  
John Klimm, City Manager  
Raymond Dickey, City Attorney  
Dulcia King, City Clerk  
Corey Rahn, Fire Chief  
Pete Smith, Assistant Fire Chief  
LaMeisha Hunter Kelly, City Planner  
Tim Bowles, Public Works Director

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM. The Invocation was given by Councilmember Browher and Pledge to the Flag was recited.

**Approval of the agenda with the following:**

Old business item should read second reading of an ordinance to adopt the proposed FY 2020 City of Rincon budget, and the addition of new business items 6A and 6B.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Dasher

Second: Councilmember Scott

Vote by Council: Unanimous

## **Old Business**

### **1. Second reading of an ordinance to adopt the proposed FY 2020 City of Rincon Budget.**

Mr. Klimm said he has provided an updated version of the budget and the only real change is 2% cost of living. Also there has been brief conversation about need for new position; the Planning Director will discuss that. This budget is what you would be described as a maintenance budget, the request before Council is four million for General Fund, the overall budget is \$11,900,000 almost entirely the increase is attributed to a number of SPLOST projects. All frozen positions we recommend to continue to be frozen. Mayor Lee asked Mrs. Kelly how she is doing filling the vacant position in her department; Mrs. Kelly said it has been filled. Mrs. Kelly said we talked about having a code compliance officer before; she went over the many steps that they take now in her department. She is asking for a code compliance officer who is post certified and with this officer the process will be streamlined and that person will deal directly with the Court Clerk and City Attorney to get it on the docket. This will eliminated 3 or 4 people. Attorney Dickey said if the person is post certified they can write an accusation on the tickets. That will be a summons and accusation for court; we will not run into that civil versus criminal issue. Mrs. Kelly said she wants this position to be more about educating citizens. It would not be fully funded there will be revenue generated from this position. The process we have not we track our time and there is restitution, it will not be just the General Fund carrying this position. Attorney Dickey said we have a complicated procedure; we need to redo our ordinances in this area so that it will be streamlined. Mrs. Kelly said this is good timing because Mr. Mattos is strong will building maintenance and we have not had someone available to focus on that. Mayor Lee said he knows we talked about this position and this simplifies our process, the question would be, would this individual report to you, Mrs. Kelly said yes. Mayor Lee said he would like to see someone sign off on the process like a checks and balance. Councilmember Dasher said he does not see where this would be simplified, the process needs to be changed not the title. He would like to have a lot more discussion about this position. Mrs. Kelly said the process will change because you will not have a lot of staff time. The new code compliance officer will work with and educate people and then issue citations. There was more discussion on the processes. Attorney Dickey said what he thinks Mrs. Kelly is indicating is that in the process the inspector, the tech and the city planner will be doing their jobs and the code compliance officer will be doing strictly code. Councilmember Scott said the problem is we have everyone trying to determine how much time they put into the process. Attorney Dickey said that is part of the problem, in order to collect that in court we will have to have all of those people in court to testify. Councilmember Browner asked do we need the position in place before we change the ordinance, Attorney Dickey said no changing the ordinance will take some time. Councilmember Daniel asked how much the position will cost, Mrs. Kelly said around \$17.00 an hour if they already have their certification. Mayor Lee asked Mrs. Kelly did she envision the revenue generated from this position will offset the cost; Mrs. Kelly said yes. Councilmember Dasher said where he is struggling at is we are sitting at a call meeting the last meeting of the year, the second reading of budget that we have talked about for

months, why have not discussed this before, we are doing this tonight at the last hour. Mr. Klimm said from his understanding historically Council has talked about. Mr. Klimm said if Council is not ready to vote in this we can address in the New Year. Councilmember Scott said we have been bombarded with more issues in the last six to seven month. His thing is when do we do something about it instead of talking about it. Councilmember Dasher said we have to be planners we wait to the 11 and a half hour to add this position. Councilmember Browner why don't we direct staff to come up with an implementation and get numbers. Mayor Lee said we all agree the position is probably needed and justified; the question is how it is coming to us tonight, how we are going to pay for it and justify the position. Council is not prepared to do this tonight. Attorney Dickey said some preliminary stuff can be discussed at the Atlanta workshop.

Mr. Klimm said he deeply appreciated Council supporting the Police Department in purchasing vehicles; the chief is exploring alternatives because of the difficulties of purchasing a charger. Interim Chief Murrell said the best option is going to be a Tahoe or a pickup truck.

Mayor Lee said this is a very professional report. Mr. Klimm said the only thing they have not discussed was the fee increase for fire. There was discussion on how much to increase the fee. Chief Rahn asked for \$7 because the cost for equipment. The fees will increase as follows: \$4 increase in residential fire fees; \$2 for residential water and \$1 for residential sewer effective March 2020.

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

### **New Business**

**1. Request to approve the City of Rincon's Workers Compensation Insurance with Georgia Municipal Association (policy period 1/1/2020 to 1/1/2021) at a total premium amount of \$126,553.00.**

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

**2. Request to approve the following appointments to the City of Rincon Planning and Zoning Board: Peggy Cowan; Roy Griffin Jr.; and Tom Wilson.**

Every one turned in an application of interest.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Daniel  
Second: Councilmember Scott

Councilmember Browher asked what kind of vetting do we do; Mrs. Kelly said none, but we can.

Vote by Council: Unanimous

### **3. Request approval to surplus miscellaneous electronic equipment.**

Mrs. Kelly asked Council to allow us to get rid of some very old equipment.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Scott

Second: Councilmember Browher

Vote by Council: Unanimous

### **4. Discussion of the bid for the residential and/or commercial solid waste and recycling collection and disposal.**

Mr. Klimm said we had a conversation to put this service out to bid. He put this item on to ask for more clarity, he wants to make sure he understands the intent of Council. Mayor Lee said he would like to keep recycling. Mrs. Kelly said we get a lot of request for bulk waste and it would be good if they can bid on that. Mr. Klimm said the consensus is to have people bid on various options. Attorney Dickey said maybe what you do on the RFP is have them bid on the whole package as one and the other option, would be to do your individuals.

### **5. Discussion of an Intergovernmental Agreement between Effingham County Board of Commissioners and the City of Rincon for Construction and Maintenance of a Roundabout at the intersection of Fort Howard and Old Augusta Roads.**

Attorney Dickey went over the contract with Council. Changes that were made by Attorney Dickey: the roundabout shall be constructed to GDOT standards; the County shall ensure the roundabout construction is properly bonded for a period of no less than 12 months after the completion of the project; under consideration of cost, the County shall provide financial assistance with construction through a Georgia Department of Transportation Grant in the amount of \$425,000, the City shall be responsible for all remaining cost through a special service district tax of 1.651 mils to be accessed by the County in the incorporated areas, it is anticipated that the county will received \$477,507.86 each year towards the construction cost on the 1.65mils, this amount comes straight from the Tax Commissioner per Mrs. Kelly; the last comment has to do with the term of the agreement it does not contain language about termination. Attorney Dickey will send the changes he made to the County for review.

### **6. Discussion of the TSPLOST draft distribution plan.**

Mr. Klimm said there have been several meetings about TSPLOST and each community was asked to submit projects needed. No one has taken the next step to draft an agreement so he and Attorney Dickey did some research to draft a plan; the sole reason of this draft is to

begin the conversation with the other communities. What we would like to know is, if we support the TSPLOST how much money would come to the City other cities have based it on population. Attorney Dickey said he did a lot of research, he looked at the presentation from the County and tweaked it. It will be a 1% TSPLOST and based on time frame the referendum will be November 3, 2020 and it will not begin until April 21, 2021. Effingham County wants to do a general obligation bond and they can. There is a risk involved with that. When it goes to court for approval, if there is a legal challenge, and it is not approved the referendum goes away. It doesn't matter if it was passed, that is one thing that will terminate a TSPLOST. There was discussion on the disbursement of the funds. 1% of all the money will go to the State general fund for administrating this. Mr. Klimm will send this draft out to the other entities.

**6A. Appointment of a City of Rincon Representative to the Effingham County Library Board.**

Mayor Lee nominated Mrs. Caren Blackwell.

Motion to approve: Councilmember Dasher  
Second: Councilmember Daniel  
Vote by Council: Unanimous

**6B. Approval of the LMIG projects for 2020.**

Mr. Bowles said this the second phase of the LMIG on Lexington Avenue, from Zittrouer Drive all the way to the railroad track.

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

Before executive Mayor Lee read a card to Council and Staff from the family of Tom A. Edenfield. Attorney Dickey said Judge Tom Edenfield started his judgeship in Bloomingdale and because of that Bloomingdale is naming the courtroom after him.

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

Motion: Councilmember Dasher  
Second: Councilmember Scott  
Vote by Council: Unanimous

Motion to return to meeting: Councilmember Daniel  
Second: Councilmember Scott  
Vote by Council: Unanimous

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

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

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

No action taken.

**Adjourn:**

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