



REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY RICE, TEXAS

Thursday, September 12, 2024

6:00 PM

Rice City Hall

305 N. Dallas Street

Rice, TX 75155

1. Call to Order: Mayor Christi Campbell called meeting to order at 6 p.m.

2. Roll Call

- a. Sheila Teague: Present
- b. Rosa Vasquez: Present
- c. Nick White: Present
- d. Donnie P. Fisher: Present
- e. Troy Foreman: Present
- f. Mayor Christi Campbell: Present

3. Pledge of Allegiance: By All

4. Texas Pledge of Allegiance: By All

5. Prayer: Chief Charles Parson

6. Public Forum:

Valerie Rider.

Valerie Ryder brought information about a 19x38 storage building that she wanted to be built on sight on a piece of property in town. It is not a modular home. Wants City ordinance to be changed so that she can build it. She is selling her home and will be living in this home. Mayor stated that we will take this under consideration and discuss at later date.

Mayor allowed Curan Oakly to come up and speak.

Curan Alsup Oakley thanked the Mayor and City Council for allowing her to speak.

I have been a community member for over 49 1/2 years, 50 years in February. I have served my community in one way or another all my entire adult life. I have served The City of Rice as a police officer, on the event committee with Vickie Young. I have also partnered with the City with my current employer. I spend money in this town and although I don't live in the city. I am a vested member of this community. I want to see good things for Rice, and I've always wanted this. For the record this is not my first Council meeting. I have also attended a meeting with Commissioner Grant when he came to speak. Having said all of this it is disheartening to see our Mayor on a public Facebook page, having dialect with citizens and community members, that some find inappropriate. When you have this kind of dialogue with citizens. that it not only makes you look bad but the city as a whole look bad. Just don't take the bait. To call someone who has lived in this community and almost died fighting for it delusional, is very unbecoming of you. To suggest that someone sell their property within the city because they are not pleased with this or that, is sad. Please use your position as Mayor to have positive communication with your residence. Many residences use social media to keep track of what is going on in the community. We all know there are so many reasons why people don't come to city council meetings and that's really beside the point. Many have suggested that I run for Mayor. I always say I don't live in city limits but maybe just maybe I should rethink that because I guarantee that I will never talk down to your residents or community members that I have the pleasure to serve. I hope you take these words to heart and do better. Please note that I debated I really did debate whether I wanted to come tonight to speak, because I don't want to ruin my relationship with the city. The people in this room that know me know my heart. I hope you know the words come from my heart and you can do for the betterment of the community that we have all chosen to live in, and you were elected to serve. Thank you.

7. Alderman Updates: No Updates

8. Reports:

Motion to forego the reading of the reports made by Troy Foreman, and 2nd by Donnie P. Fisher.

Ayes: Troy Foreman, Donnie P Fisher, Sheila Teague, Rosa Vasquez, Nick White

Nays: None

Motion Passed

- a. August 2024 Volunteer Fire Department Report
- b. August 2024 Police Department Report
- c. August 2024 Municipal Court Report
- d. August 2024 Administrative Report
- e. August 2024 EDC Report
- f. August 2024 Mayor's Report

9. Consent Items

- a. Discuss and Deliberate approval of Minutes for Workshop on August 7, 2024.

Motion to Approve Minutes for Workshop on August 7, 2024, made by Donnie P. Fisher, and 2nd by Sheila Teague

Ayes: Donnie P. Fisher, Sheila Teague, Rosa Vasquez, Nick White, Troy Foreman.

Nays: None

Motion Passed

- b. Discuss and Deliberate approval of Minutes for Regular City Council meeting on August 8, 2024.

Motion to Approve the Minutes for Regular City Council meeting on August 8, 2024, made by Donnie P. Fisher and 2nd by Nick White.

Ayes: Donnie P. Fisher, Nick White, Sheila Teague, Rosa Vasquez, Troy Foreman.

Nays: None

Motion passed

- c. Discuss and Deliberate approval of Minutes for Workshop on August 13, 2024

Motion to Approve Minutes for Workshop on August 13, 2024, made by Troy Foreman, and 2nd by Sheila Teague.

Ayes: Troy Foreman, Sheila Teague, Rosa Vasquez, Nick White, Donnie P. Fisher

Nays: None

Motion Passed

- d. Discuss and Deliberate approval of Minutes for Special Meeting of the City Council on August 21, 2024

Motion to Approve the Minutes for Special Meeting of the City Council on August 21, 2024, made by Troy Foreman and 2nd by Sheila Teague.

Ayes: Troy Foreman, Sheila Teague, Rosa Vasquez, Nick White, Donnie P. Fisher

Nays: None

Motion Passed

- e. Discuss and Deliberate approval of Minutes for Special Meeting of City Council on August 26, 2024.

Motion to Approve the Minutes for Special Meeting of City Council on August 26, 2024, made by Troy Foreman, and 2nd by Sheila Teague.

Ayes: Troy Foreman, Sheila Teague, Rosa Vasquez, Nick White, Donnie P. Fisher

Nays: None

Motion Passed

- f. Discuss and Deliberate approval of August 2024 financial report.

Motion to Approve August 2024 Financial Report, made by Rosa Vasquez, and 2nd by Troy Foreman.

Ayes: Rosa Vasquez, Troy Foreman, Donnie P. Fisher, Sheila Teague, Nick White

Nays: None

Motion Passed

10. Public Hearing

- a. Public Hearing to consider the proposed 2024-2025 budget.
No Speakers.

- b. Public Hearing to consider the proposed tax rate for 2024-2025

- 1. Laura McGee

First off, I realize it is not a large tax increase, y'all have to realize that people are struggling they are really struggling. The appraisals are out of sight, foreclosures are up. Just the other day I talked to my banker, and he wanted to charge me 9% on a loan. How are people making it if they don't have a fixed rate on their mortgages. If these puppies have gone up this much are, I don't see how people are keeping up. The appraisals are outrageous, they say a 1-acre piece of land in Rice is \$45,000.00. That's higher than Mildred, that's higher than Corsicana, that's higher than any of the small towns around here. And we have the lowest median income of any of the towns around here. I want y'all to reconsider raising taxes. I think y'all perhaps have already decided on. You know I think since people are struggling so and that they are having to tighten their belts I think you should tighten yours. Ours are tight. Make yours tight. Our City government is pretty large for 1100 people. I got that off the US Census. When I left the City of Rice in 1999, there were approximately 800 people in Rice. Our city government consisted of Council which we know you are not paid, Administration was pretty much a City Secretary, a Court

Clerk, a Municipal Clerk, and a county Judge. And I believe just as I left, they brought on a prosecutor. That's it that was for 800 people. That was for 3 full-time officers and most of the time we carried 6 reserve officers. That's how we made it work in Rice. We used reserve officers and that was great because reserve officers, they could keep their license by being a reserve officer. Retired officers could keep their license, new officers get training could work as a reserve. There are other ways to do this besides just piling on more and more employees. Tighten your belts people, tighten your belts. That is really all I have to say. The last thing I want to say is

"The nine most terrifying words in the English language are, I'm from the Government and I'm here to help". Ronald Reagan, 8-12-86

Thank y'all for your time. You have a lovely evening.

2. J. Nicole Jackson

Good evening. I want to start off by thanking the Council and our staff for everything that you guys do every day and sacrificing your time to come in here and working on behalf of the city.

I'm coming as a citizen and realtor, to explain how we increase our taxes in our government and how it affects the little people. We have escrow in our mortgages and when the taxes increase, our mortgages increase. With the cost of food and the cost of everything going up, just making this small increase, can put someone into foreclosure. It is only adding about \$17000.00 to the budget. I have done the budget for three years, so I know there are things we can move around in the budget to be able to decrease. We decreased the taxes last year. Appraisals have gone up, which increases are income. We have new sales tax coming in with businesses coming in, which will increase our income. Every year we have had a surplus. So, I am asking you to consider what you are doing to the little people. I know its small to you guys on your budget, but on their mortgage every month, it's going to be a big increase.

That's all I have to say. Thank you for your time.

Mayor Campbell closed out public hearing at 6:22 p.m.

11. New Business

a. Discuss and Deliberate approval of the 2024-2025 proposed budget.

Motion to approve the 2024-2025 proposed budget made by Troy Foreman, and 2nd by Nick White.

Ayes: Troy Foreman, Nick White, Rosa Vasquez, Sheila Teague, Donnie P. Fisher

Nays: None

Motion Passed

b. Discuss and Deliberate approval of the 2024-2025 proposed tax rate of 0.4105/100

Motion to approve the 2024-2025 proposed tax rate of 0.4105/100, made by Troy Foreman, and 2nd by Nick White.

Ayes: Troy Foreman, Nick White, Rosa Vasquez, Sheila Teague,

Nays: Donnie P. Fisher

Motion Passed

c. Discuss and Deliberate the disposal of Unit 106

Motion to authorize Chief Parson to dispose of unit 106 to the highest bidder, Made by Donnie P. Fisher, and 2nd by Troy Foreman.

Ayes: Donnie P. Fisher, Troy Foreman, Sheila Teague, Nick White,

Rosa Vasquez

Nays: None

Motion Passed

d. Discuss and Deliberate installing a Stop sign on E. Calhoun Street at the Northbound cloverleaf intersection for traffic traveling West on Calhoun.

Motion to install a Stop sign on E. Calhoun Street at the Northbound Cloverleaf intersection for traffic, traveling West on Calhoun Street, made by Rosa Vasquez, and 2nd by Sheila Teague.

Ayes: Rosa Vasquez, Sheila Teague, Nick White, Troy Foreman, Donnie P. Fisher

Nays: None

Motion Passed

e. Discuss and Deliberate installing two Stop signs on East Camden Street at the intersection of North Sherman Street for traffic traveling East and West on Camden.

Motion to approve placing two Stop signs on East Camden Street at the intersection of North Sherman Street for traffic traveling East and West on Camden, made by Donnie P. Fisher, and 2nd by Nick White

Ayes: Donnie P. Fisher, Nick White, Sheila Teague, Rosa Vasquez, Troy Foreman.

Nays: None

Motion passed

f. Discuss and Deliberate installing a Stop sign on North Dallas Street at the intersection of East Gilmer Street for traffic travelling South out of the new subdivision on Dallas Street.

Motion to approve installing a Stop sign on North Dallas Street at the intersection of East Gilmer Street for traffic travelling South out of the new subdivision on Dallas Street, made by Troy Foreman, and 2nd by Nick White.

Ayes: Donnie P. Fisher, Troy Foreman, Sheila Teague, Nick White, Rosa Vasquez

Nays: None

Motion Passed

g. Discuss and Deliberate the purchase of an Asphalt Roller

Motion to deny purchase of roller made by Donnie P. Fisher, and 2nd by Troy Foreman.

Ayes: Donnie P. Fisher, Troy Foreman, Sheila Teague, Nick White, Rosa Vasquez

Nays: None

Motion Passed

h. Discuss and Deliberate the purchase of a dump trailer.

Motion to table item on dump trailer to allow time to get more info until October meeting made by Donnie P. Fisher and 2nd by Troy Foreman.

Ayes: Donnie P. Fisher, Troy Foreman, Sheila Teague, Nick White, Rosa Vasquez

Nays: None

Motion Passed

i. Discuss and Deliberate the purchase/order a new patrol vehicle.

Motion to table until October to have time for Admin and Chief to get numbers for financing and pricing made by Troy Foreman, and 2nd by Nick White.

Ayes: Donnie P. Fisher, Troy Foreman, Sheila Teague, Nick White, Rosa Vasquez

Nays: None

Motion Passed

12. Motion to Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn made by Donnie P. Fisher and 2nd by Sheila Teague.

Ayes: Donnie P. Fisher, Sheila Teague, Nick White, Troy Foreman, Rosa Vasquez

Nays: None

Motion Passed.

Attest:

Sharon Watkins, City Secretary/Finance Clerk

Date