



CITY OF RICHMOND HILL MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

**Monday, January 14, 2019
7:00 P.M.**

**Richmond Hill City Hall Council Chambers
40 Richard Davis Drive
Richmond Hill, Georgia 31324**

Present from City Council: Russ Carpenter, *Mayor*; *Councilmembers:* Jan Bass, John Fesperman and Tara Baraniak

Staff Present: Chris Lovell, *City Manager*; Scott Allison, *Assistant City Manager*; Dawnne Greene, *City Clerk*; Bob Whitmarsh, *Finance Director*; Michael Coon, *EOM*; Mitch Shores, *Police Chief*; and John Cook, *Interim Fire Chief*.

Mayor Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Chief Shores gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes of Council Meeting **January 2, 2019**

Councilmember Fesperman made a motion to approve the January 2, 2019 City Council Minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Baraniak. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Baraniak, Bass and Fesperman.

ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Councilmember Bass made the motion to approve Councilmember Tara Baraniak as Mayor Pro Tempore. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Bass, Fesperman and Baraniak.

Mayor Carpenter swore Councilmember Baraniak in as Mayor Pro Tempore. See Appendix A for signed oath.

DEPARTMENTS

ADMINISTRATION: Dawnne Greene

Approval/Disapproval of Shannon Baughman of Coastal Tree Foundation to serve beer and wine only at the Pavilion for an annual meeting on March 9, 2019.

Councilmember Baraniak made the motion to approve Shannon Baughman of Coastal Tree Foundation to serve beer and wine only at the Pavilion for an annual meeting on March 9, 2019. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Bass, Fesperman and Baraniak.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

FIRE: John Cook, Interim Chief
Monthly report submitted.

POLICE: Mitch Shores, Chief
Monthly report submitted.

PUBLIC WORKS: Michael Coon and Charlie Heino, EOM
Monthly report submitted.

Board of Zoning Appeals Items

Public Hearing (called to order at 7:08 p.m.)

A petition has been filed with the City of Richmond Hill by **Melisa and Todd Cotsman** requesting a 10 foot side setback variance to allow a 20 foot side setback in order to construct a covered patio addition at their property located at 949 Young Way. The property is in a R-2, Low Density Residential District. Map 0537, Parcel 075.

No one addressed Mayor and Council for or against the petition.

Hearing closed at 7:10 p.m.

Variance

Approval/Disapproval of the petition filed with the City of Richmond Hill by **Melisa and Todd Cotsman** requesting a 10 foot side setback variance to allow a 20 foot side setback in order to construct a covered patio addition at their property located at 949 Young Way. The property is in a R-2, Low Density Residential District. Map 0537, Parcel 075.

Councilmember Baraniak made the motion to approve the petition filed with the City of Richmond Hill by Melisa and Todd Cotsman requesting a 10 foot side setback variance to allow a 20 foot side setback in order to construct a covered patio addition at their property located at 949 Young Way. The property is in a R-2, Low Density Residential District. Map 0537, Parcel 075. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Bass, Fesperman and Baraniak.

CITY MANAGER TOPICS

Update on Fire Chief recruitment process

Position has been advertised, and 66 applications have been received thus far. Human Resources is working to narrow them down to 10 candidates for interviews, and bring 4-5 to Council for final decision.

COMMUNICATIONS

The 1ST annual Martin Luther King, Jr. parade will be held on Saturday, January 19th at 10:00 a.m. It will follow the Christmas parade route, and end with festivities in J.F. Gregory Park under the pavilion.

City offices will be closed on Monday, January 21, 2019 to observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Rhonda Fesperman, resident of 136 Cypress Point Drive, addressed Mayor and Council as the spouse of Councilmember Fesperman. She read a prepared statement that outlined her feelings toward the recent public questioning of her husband's residence status and the potential personal and professional for them.

Ms. Linda Norris, resident of 2502 River Oaks Drive, addressed Mayor and Council along with other River Oaks residents with concerns regarding how the Georgia Department of Transportation's Highway 144 widening project negatively impacts the River Oaks community's quality of life and safety. Mayor and Council committed to reaching out to GDOT as a liaison to help coordinate a meeting between GDOT and River Oaks representatives.

Councilmember Baraniak asked Mayor Carpenter if she should offer a few comments, and he granted permission. Councilmember Baraniak gave praise to staff including City Clerk Dawnne Greene, Park Director Harvey Lashley and EOM for their efforts in making the Sterling Creek Park Phase II Lakeside grand opening a success for the community.

Councilmember Baraniak also addressed Mrs. Rhonda Fesperman’s public comments. She stated that Councilmember Fesperman’s engagement with the community and his constituents was questioned, not his character.

Closed session to discuss personnel matters

Councilmember Baraniak made the motion to enter into closed session to discuss personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bass. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Bass, Fesperman and Baraniak.

Councilmember Bass made the motion to instruct the City Attorney to proceed as per recommended and instructed by Mayor and Council. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Bass, Fesperman and Baraniak.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:08 P.M. in a motion by Councilmember Baraniak. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Baraniak, Fesperman and Bass.

Attest:

Russ Carpenter
Mayor

Dawnne Greene
City Clerk