



WORKSHOP OF THE GOVERNING BODY RICE, TEXAS

Thursday, June 27, 2024

6:00 PM

**Rice City Hall
305 N. Dallas Street
Rice, TX 75155**

AGENDA

1. **Roll Call: Mayor Pro-Tem Troy Foreman called The Workshop to order at 6:00**

p.m.

Present: Nick White, Rosa Vasquez, Sheila Teague, Donnie P. Fisher, Mayor Pro Tem, Troy Foreman.

Absent: Mayor Christi Campbell. (Mayor Christi Campbell arrived at 7:05 p.m.)

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Motion to forego Items 2 and 3 made by Donnie P. Fisher and 2nd by Nick White.

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

Nays: None

Motion Passed

3. **Texas Pledge of Allegiance**

4. **Prayer: By Donnie P. Fisher**

5. **Discuss understanding the financial report:**

Sharon Watkins explained how the financial report is read. Nick asked questions and made notes since he was new to the council and wanted to have a better understanding.

Sheila asks how Medicare and other payroll taxes are placed on the statement.

Sharon explained that was payroll, each employee has this deducted from their checks and Fundview rolls them over to FundView payables. Outside contract (Zumba) needs to be reminded to deposit her checks more quickly so that they don't affect financial reporting.

Troy Foreman wants ideas to bringing in money to the City.

Donnie P. Fisher is concerned with the Business Hub and other Rental Properties not being profitable and time-consuming.

6. **Discuss ideas for the 2024-2025 budget**

Vicki Fisher state that we must come up with creative ideas to keep expenses within budget.

Must get an Auditor quickly. Got one request back at \$70,000.00 to start a one-year audit. Insurance is going up. Need a new Tractor.

Rosa suggested taking some of the Audit money out of savings. Vicki stated that some of the saving's account must be sent to court accounts.

Donnie P. Fisher says we must raise taxes to cover streets and other expenses.

Donnie P. Fisher asked about why we are mowing easements. Officer Adams showed that the State law stated Easements are the homeowner's responsibility.

7. **Discuss topics from Council Members**

a. **Financial reports quarterly. Bank statements will be monthly.**

Troy Foreman suggested doing the Financial statement quarterly instead of each month. Donnie suggested to try doing just the summary every month instead of the whole financial statement. The Bank Statement will still be given every month.

b. **PowerPoint presentations for City Council meetings.**

Look into a laptop and tv to set up program to show the agenda in PowerPoint at the meetings.

c. **Staff reports**

Suggested that the reports not be read publicly, but the City Administrator will be available for questions on reports on the Agenda.

Questions on Agenda items be sent to the City Administrator before meeting.

d. **General topics/questions from Council members**

Rosa stated concerns about fuel cards and the Shell station gas costs.

The City Administrator is going to check on other gas options.

New Tractor: Get quotes and put them on the agenda, make sure we have a good warranty.

Sheila wanted to discuss the Open Records request that was sent by lawyer to Council Members. It was a Walking Quorum concern.

Question about responding or not responding to Public Forum.

Not allow the public to speak out of turn during the meeting.

Donnie P. Fisher wanted to know what protocol for closed meetings.

Vicki Fisher stated that there are limited protocols. 1. Personnel 2. To get legal advice from Lawyer. 3. Buying or selling land.

8. **Discuss Zoning maps**

Look at the maps and approve one.

The Mayor spoke on this issue. The 1998 map is the most current map approved by the council.

Need to update the 1998 version and be approved by council and have a city ordinance approved by council.

Troy spoke on what a zoning plan and comprehensive plan should be.

Donnie P. Fisher asked if Troy would agree to become the chairman of the Planning and zoning. Mayor stated that you can't because of not being able to vote. Donnie P. Fisher changed to say Board of Adjustment. Troy declined the offer but did offer any help he could.

9. **Adjourn: 8:28 p.m.**

Attest:

_____ Date _____
Sharon Watkins/ City Secretary/ Finance Director