

**RICHLAND HILLS CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 27, 2018  
MINUTES**

Roll Call:

Council present:

Edward Lopez, Mayor  
Travis Malone, Place 1  
Allison Barger, Mayor Pro Tem  
Curtis A Bergthold, Place 3  
Roland Goveas, Place 4  
Athena Campbell, Place 5

Council Absent:

Staff

Eric Strong, City Manager  
Cathy Bourg, City Secretary  
Betsy Elam, City Attorney

**WORK SESSION – Mayor Lopez Called to Order – Time 6:00 p.m.**

1. **Executive Session: Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, Sec. 551.071, Sec. 551.072, Sec. 551.073, Sec. 551.074, Sec. 551.076, Sec. 551.087 and Sec. 418.0183 (f) and 418.106 (d) & (e) of the Texas Government Code (Texas Disaster Act).**

**Motion:** Motion was made by Councilmember Bergthold, and seconded by Councilmember Campbell to convene into executive session. Time: 6:01 p.m.

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Mayor Lopez reconvened into open session. Time: 6:27 p.m.

2. **Discussion of items and presentations listed on tonight's City Council Agenda**

**5A. Consideration of termination of Redflex Contract.**

Eric Strong, City Manager presented information on whether or not to continue the Redflex Red Light Program in the City of Richland Hills. While the contract does not end for several more years, there is a provision that allows termination at any time with 180 days written notice.

## **7B. Utility Rate Update**

Eric Strong, City Manager presented the following Utility Rate update:

In January of this year, the City conducted a utility (water and wastewater) cost of service study to determine revenue requirements to purchase and deliver utility services to 3,243 customers. The last comprehensive water and wastewater cost of service study and utility rate adjustment was performed in 2011.

The Water and Sewer departments strive to keep costs as low as possible, however, some costs such as the price of purchased water and sewer treatment, are beyond the City's control. The City entered into a 20 year agreement with the City of Fort Worth effective January 1, 2011 through September 30, 2031 whereby Fort Worth agreed to provide and treat water/wastewater to the City. Starting in Fiscal Year 2019 Fort Worth increased wholesale water rates 3.62% and sewer rates by 12.85%.

In order to stabilize the water and wastewater fund, staff recommends the following changes to the utility base rates (minimum amount charged to each active customer):

- Residential customers will not see an increase in the utility bill. This can be accomplished by:
  - o Reducing the drainage fee by \$5 and applying the \$5 to the water base rate;
  - o Applying the EPA fee of \$8.17 to the sewer base rate;
  - o Tiered volume charges based on the gallons used in a month will remain the same for both water and sewer.
  
- Commercial customers could potentially see up to \$27 per month increase in the utility statement. This will be accomplished as follows:
  - o Reducing the drainage fee by 10% and applying the equivalent of \$25 to the water base rate;
  - o Applying the EPA fee of \$8.17 to the sewer base rate;
  - o Increasing the sewer base rate by 10% or \$3.32;
  - o Tiered volume charges based on the gallons used in a month will remain the same for both water and sewer.

These rate adjustments will help with the reliability and affordability of water and sewer services. They will also support Council's commitment to the replacement of aging infrastructure.

These changes will not affect the residential utility bill, only how the money collected from that bill is allocated. It will cause an increase in most commercial accounts, which appears to be appropriate based on the rate study we did recently which shows we are one of the cheaper utility bills for many commercial accounts as compared to other cities.

The anticipated impact will be that we move approximately \$246,000 per year from Drainage Collections to Water/Wastewater collections.

Mayor Lopez called for a break: 6:58 p.m.

**REGULAR SESSION – Mayor Lopez Called to Order – Time 7:00 p.m.**

**Invocation** – Councilmember Campbell

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**1A. Citizen Appearances/Public Comments**

**(Citizens who have signed a card to speak to the City Council will be heard at this time. In compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, unless the subject matter of the presentation is on the agenda, the city staff and City Council members are prevented from discussion of the subject and may respond only with statements of factual information or existing city policy. Public comment will not be taken on items that the Council has previously considered in a public hearing.)**

William Parish, 6924 Danele Ct., spoke to Council regarding blinking yellow lights at signal lights.

Ray Bryant, 6940 Park Place, spoke to Council regarding the gazebo at Windmill Park. Mr. Byrant and his immediate neighbors are not in favor of the future playground plans for this park.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**2A. Approval of minutes from the August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 City Council Meeting.**

**2B. Approval of Resolution 500-18, Investment Policy and Strategies.**

**Motion:** Motion was made by Councilmember Campbell, and seconded by Councilmember Barger to approve the consent agenda with the correction to item 6A of the minutes to reflect the appointments to the Richland Hills Development Corporation Board.

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS, MEETINGS, AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS**

**3A. Public Hearing regarding FY 2019 Tax Rate.**

Eric Strong, City Manager presented information regarding FY 2019 Tax Rate. This public hearing is the second on the proposed tax rate. The anticipated adoption of the tax rate is September 10<sup>th</sup>. The tax rate for the current year is .563738. That is down

from a rate of the previous year of .595633. For the upcoming year, the effective tax rate is .525644 and the rollback rate is .555161. Adopting the effective rate will generate approximately \$2,289,017 in revenue, and the rollback rate will generate approximately \$2,444,511 (a difference of \$155,494).

Mayor Lopez opened the Public Hearing: Time 7:10 p.m.

No Speakers

Mayor Lopez closed the Public Hearing: Time 7:10 p.m.

### **3B. Public Hearing regarding FY 2018-2019 Budget.**

Eric Strong, City Manager presented information regarding FY 2018-2019 Budget public hearings. This public hearing is the second public hearings on the proposed budget. The anticipated budget adoption is September 10<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Lopez opened the Public Hearing: Time 7:11p.m.

No Speakers

Mayor Lopez closed the Public Hearing: Time 7:11p.m.

## **ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS**

**4A. None at this time.**

## **CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, BID AWARDS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS**

**5A. Consideration of termination of Redflex Contract.**

*\*Item was discussed during the work session under item #2.*

Doug Knowlton, 2749 Spruce Park, spoke against the Red Light Program.

William Parish, 6924 Danele Ct., asked where the money from the program goes.

**Motion:** Motion was made by Councilmember Goveas, and seconded by Councilmember Malone to approve.

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

## **OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**6A. None at this time.**

## **REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS**

### **7A. Presentation of Monthly Reports**

Eric Strong, City Manager discussed the Public Works department report with Council.

### **7B. Utility Rate Update**

*\*Item was discussed during the work session under item #2.*

Doug Knowlton, 2749 Spruce Park, express concern with moving things around with the utility bill.

Ricky Head, 3208 Kingsbury recommended the drainage fee money discussed, be used to fix the sewer.

### **7C. Budget Update**

Eric Strong, City Manager gave an updated on the FY 2018-2019 Budget. The following items were discussed:

- ◆ Tax Rate
- ◆ Recurring General Fund Revenues
- ◆ One Time General Fund Revenues
- ◆ Capital Project Fund
- ◆ CCPD excess funds
- ◆ Drainage Transfer
- ◆ Unfunded Requests
- ◆ 6Stones

Council discussed the tax rate and budget and recommended not renewing the 6Stones agreement.

## **8. COMMUNITY INTEREST ITEMS**

- Community Dinner – Thanks to Baker Blvd Church of Christ for sponsoring our first Community Dinner on Wednesday, August 22 serving hamburgers. 90 guests were served. The next Community Dinner is on Wednesday, September 26 sponsored by Center Point Church of Richland Hills. Community Dinners are held the fourth Wednesday of the month 7 PM – 8:30 PM.
- Senior Lunch Bunch – Thursday, Sept 13 at 12 noon – 2 PM at The Link serving Yings Chinese Kitchen. Free for Link Members and a recommended \$3 donation for non-members. Please call The Link at 817-616-3738 to register.
- First Week of Link Learners Academy – With the start of school last Monday, the Link Learners Academy started a second school year. This year we are serving five different area schools including BISD Richland, Jack C Binion, Birdville and

Mullendore Elementaries and International Leadership of Texas. We have a total of 56 students enrolled to start the new school year.

- Clear the Shelter event went great.

9. **Executive Session: Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, Sec. 551.071, Sec. 551.072, Sec. 551.073, Sec. 551.074, Sec. 551.076, Sec. 551.087 and Sec. 418.0183 (f) and 418.106 (d) & (e) of the Texas Government Code (Texas Disaster Act).**

None at this time.

10. **A motion was made by Councilmember Bergthold, and seconded by Councilmember Malone to adjourn. Motion passed 5-0.**

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Lopez declared the meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

**ATTEST**

**APPROVED**

---

Cathy Bourg, City Secretary

---

Edward Lopez, Mayor