

**RICHLAND HILLS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 2019
MINUTES**

Roll Call:

Council present:

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

Council Absent:

Staff

Candice Edmondson, Assistant City Manager
Cathy Bourg, City Secretary
James Donovan, City Attorney

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

Mayor Lopez announced the opportunity for Public Comment, to allow citizens an opportunity to address the City Council on items that are listed on the agenda, or issues that are not listed on the agenda (non-agenda comments).

No speakers

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).**

None at this time

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

Candice Edmondson, Assistant City Manager presented the following agenda items:

- 7C. Discussion on Vehicle Procurement
- 6A. Appointments to Boards and Committees

3. Discussion regarding Easement

*Item was moved up in the agenda to follow item #1.

Candice Edmondson, Assistant City Manager presented information regarding a strip of city owned property that runs between several residential lots on the south side of the City. This property has presented us with some challenges for several reasons, including:

1. Many property owners don't realize that it isn't their property and that we own it.
2. As such, many property owners have made improvements on the property over time. These improvements include fencing the area into their yard, erecting sheds and parking vehicles.
3. Technically, none of this is allowed as the property is city owned
4. Although we own the property, it has always been maintained by the property owners (or at least for as long as anyone on staff is aware).

City Council discussed the challenges and options for resolving the issues with the easement.

Mayor Lopez called for a break at 6:46 p.m.

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

Invocation – Mayor Lopez

Pledge of Allegiance

1A. Employee Service Award

Mayor Lopez presented a 10 year Service Award to Edgar Pina, Police Officer with the Richland Hills Police Department.

1B. Fire Department Pinning Ceremony

Cathy Bourg, City Secretary administered the Oaths of Office to Gabriel Munoz, Firefighter with the City of Richland Hills.

1C. Proclamation – Fire Prevention Month

Mayor Lopez presented a Proclamation for Fire Prevention Month to the Richland Hills Fire Department.

1D. 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.)

No speakers

CONSENT AGENDA

2A. Approval of minutes from the September 23, 2019 City Council Meeting

2B. Consider approval of purchase of a 2019 John Deere 50 G Mini Excavator

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Goveas, and seconded by Councilmember Campbell to approve the consent agenda.

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, MEETINGS, AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

3A. None

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

4A. Consider approval of Ordinance 1400-19 updating water and wastewater rates

Candice Edmondson, Assistant City Manager and Scott Mitchell, Director of Neighborhood Services presented Ordinance 1400-19, updating water and wastewater rates. During the budget process, there was discussion for the need to more regularly update the Utility Fund Rates. Specifically, staff recommends an annual review of rates with small, incremental increases to help fund our infrastructure capital improvement needs. This year, staff recommends the following:

- a. Increase the volume charge on the first 2,000 gallons of water purchased by 50 cents per thousand. This would change the rate from \$2.50 per thousand to \$3.00 per thousand. On most bills, this would equal a \$1 per month increase, and would generate approximately \$33,000 in new revenue.
- b. Increase the volume charge on sewer rates from \$1.98 per thousand to \$2.15 per thousand on residential bills, and from \$3.25 to \$3.35 on commercial bills. This would generate an additional \$28,000 per year. .
- c. Making both of the changes listed above will generate approximately \$61,000 per year that would go towards infrastructure replacement.

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Barger, and seconded by Councilmember Bergthold to approve.

Motion carried by a vote of 4-1. Councilmember Knowlton against.

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, BID AWARDS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

5A. Consider Agreement with Steele & Freeman, Inc. for Construction Manager at Risk Services for Fire Station Project

Candice Edmondson, Assistant City Manager presented an agreement for the Construction Manager at Risk Services for the Fire Station Project. Following voter approval of the bond proposition for a new fire station, and selection of an architectural firm, staff published a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for CMAR services in accordance with state guidelines. A total of 15 construction management firms submitted proposals with 15 firms meeting the submittal criterion as published in the RFQ. After thorough review of all 15 complete submittals, four firms were selected to move forward to the interview phase of our selection process. The firms interviewed included: Steele & Freeman, Byrne, AUI Contractors, and Crossland Construction.

Following extensive discussion among staff members serving on the interview panel, the field was narrowed to one finalist. Steele & Freeman, Inc. was unanimously selected to move forward as the recommendation to City Council.

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Bergthold, and seconded by Councilmember Knowlton to approve.

Motion carried by a vote of 4-0. Councilmember Goveas abstained.

OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

6A. Appointments to Boards and Committees

Candice Edmondson, Assistant City Manager presented information regarding appointments to the Animal Shelter Advisory Board.

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Campbell, and seconded by Councilmember Goveas to appoint Donna Murphy to the Animal Shelter Advisory Board Place 5.

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS

7A. Presentation of September Departmental Reports

Candice Edmondson, Assistant City Manager highlighted the Finance Report, Parks and Recreation Capital Projects for the Trail and Playground at Rosebud Park.

Councilmember Campbell highlighted the following from the Police Department Report:

- Sergeant Wright and Sergeant Gaytan attended the two week Sergeant Training Academy in Granbury, TX as part of the new sergeant training program
- Officer Miller participated in the 9/11 Memorial Climb in Dallas, Texas

- Officer Miller and Officer Rios participated in the Alliance for Children Bike Race

Councilmember Barger highlighted the Fire Department for participating in a First Responders Event at a local church.

7B. Update on traffic study on Gumwood Park

Scott Mitchell, Director of Neighborhood Services presented an update on traffic study on Gumwood Park. Sometime around the year 2000, the city closed off the connection of Gumwood Park and Handley Ederville Road. We did this by installing a gate and planters across Gumwood Park. To our knowledge, we have never identified a traffic study or any other reason to close this road. Approximately two months ago, a vehicle that was fleeing from police ran through the gate and destroyed it. Rather than put it back up, staff determined that we needed to do an analysis of whether or not the road should remain closed to traffic. We engaged Halff Engineering to conduct the traffic analysis. The takeaway from the analysis is that the road should remain open.

Richard McMahan, 2945 Gumwood Park spoke regarding the closure of Gumwood Park.

Logan Trundle, 2929 Gumwood Park spoke regarding traffic on Gumwood and feeling unsafe when backing out of driveway and his children can no longer play in the street.

John Hammons, 2916 Gumwood Park spoke regarding traffic and speeding on Gumwood Park.

Steve Ringo, 2920 Gumwood Park spoke regarding traffic and speeding on Gumwood Park.

Council discussed the traffic and possible options on Gumwood Park.

7C. Discussion on Vehicle Procurement

Item was discussed in the work session under item #2.

COMMUNITY INTEREST ITEMS

- Bulk Waste Collection Begins – October 21st
- Senior Lunch Bunch – Thursday, November 14th Noon at The Link
- Senior Trips – State Fair of Texas on Thursday, October 17th from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Fort Worth Aviation Museum on Wednesday, November 6th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon
- Tricky Treat Trail & Haunted Stacks – Friday, October 25th 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM at The Link Plaza and Library
- Richland Hills Veterans Photos Needed - In honor of Veterans Day, we would like to honor the veterans of Richland Hills by putting their photos & biographies on display at The Link. Please submit copies to The Link by October 31.

- Veterans Day Ceremony – Saturday, November 9th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Visit the Richland Hills Animal Shelter to Adopt!

8. 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 Barger, and seconded by Councilmember Campbell to convene into executive session. Time: 8:07 p.m.

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

9. A motion was made by Councilmember Knowlton, and seconded by Councilmember Campbell to adjourn. Motion passed 5-0.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Lopez declared the meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

ATTEST

APPROVED

Cathy Bourg, City Secretary

Edward Lopez, Mayor