

**RICHLAND HILLS CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 9, 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

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

**WORK SESSION – Mayor Lopez Called to Order – Time 6:34 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 Barger, and seconded by Councilmember Knowlton to convene into executive session. Time: 6:34 p.m.

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

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

None

**REGULAR SESSION – Mayor Lopez Called to Order – Time 7:09 p.m.**

**Invocation** – Mayor Lopez

**Pledge of Allegiance**

## **1A. Employee Service Award**

Mayor Lopez presented a 5 year service award to Clint Heizer, Marshal for the Richland Hills Municipal Court.

## **1B. Recognition of City Manager**

Mayor Edward Lopez and Members of the City Council recognized Eric Strong, City Manager for his service with the City of Richland Hills. Mr. Strong has accepted a position with another City and will be leaving the first of January 2020.

Mayor and Council highlighted the City's many achievements accomplishments during Eric Strong's tenure as City Manager (2014-2019).

### Infrastructure Improvements

- Completion of Safe-Routes-to School sidewalk projects providing pedestrian access to all 3 Richland Hills schools
- Completion of multiple storm water drainage improvements throughout the city reducing residential flooding issues
- Installation of wastewater main system and new lift station
- Completion of street reconstruction projections throughout the city including replacement of several thousand feet of curb and gutter
- Completion of street, median and landscape improvements along Baker Boulevard
- Installation of new sidewalks along Baker Boulevard
- Completion of street, water and wastewater system analysis and development of prioritization program for future improvements

### Quality of Life Enhancements

- Construction of The Link Recreation & Event Center
- Construction of the City Plaza
- Implementation of new Parks & Recreation programs including popular community events like the Tree Lighting, Easter Egg Hunt, July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration and Halloween Trick or Treat event
- Installation of new playground equipment at Kate Baker and Rosebud Parks
- Completion of a citywide Parks Master Plan
- Launched a new partnership with Real Time providing transportation services to qualified Richland Hills residents
- Completion of Veteran's Memorial
- Rehabilitation of almost 50 homes through the 6Stones Program

### Capital Investments

- Installation of new Library roof
- Purchased new ambulance and fire truck
- Initiated the design and development of a new Fire Station
- Installation of new Opticom system
- Initiated design of renovations to Police Station

### Community & Economic Development Enhancements

- Completion of City's Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance update
- Redevelopment of old Sam's building which now holds a taxable value of almost \$12M dollars
- Expansion of Advanced Glass
- Addition of Walmart, Buyers Barricades, Family Dollar, Smith Lawn & Tree, Advanced Auto Parts and many other new businesses throughout Richland Hills

### Financial Success

- Sales tax grew by approximately 75% during his tenure
- Reallocation of sales tax previously paid to the Fort Worth Transit Authority to fund needed street improvements and economic development initiatives including park development
- Renewed the Crime Control Prevention District sales tax
- Reallocation of drainage improvement funds to the utility fund for water/wastewater improvement projects

### **1C. Recognition of Employee Pickleball Tournament Winners**

Eric Strong, City Manager recognized Isaac Rios and Ronnie Miller with the Police Department for winning the Employee Pickleball Tournament.

### **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.)**

None

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**2A. Approval of minutes from the November 11, 2019 City Council Meeting**

**2B. Consider approval of Ordinance 1403-19, appointing J. Stewart Bass as Municipal Court Judge and Lorraine Irby and Wendy Cooper as Associate Municipal Court Judges for two-year terms to expire December 31, 2021**

**2C. Consider approval of an electronic message sign for Richland Hills Christian Church at 3908 Ruth Road**

**2D. Consider approval of Resolution 516-19 casting votes for Tarrant Appraisal District Board of Directors. That the City Council hereby cast its 5 votes for Richard W. DeOtte.**

**2E. Consider approval of Resolution 517-19 authorizing the change of authorized representatives for the Texas Local Government Investment Pool (TexPool) for the purpose of adding Candice Edmondson, as an authorized Representative.**

**Motion:** Motion was made by Councilmember Goveas, and seconded by Councilmember Knowlton 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 Resolution 515-19 adopting Vehicle Replacement Guidelines**

Eric Strong, City Manager presented Resolution 515-19 adopting Vehicle Replacement Guidelines. The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines on funding and maintaining Public Safety Patrol Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Fund (PS VEF) and Public Works Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Fund (PW VEF). This will ensure that vehicles and equipment are funded and replaced according to their anticipated lifecycle, reduce maintenance costs and eliminate reliance on the operating budget and large outlays for vehicle and equipment purchases. The objectives of this policy are as follows:

1. Provide a mechanism in which funding for vehicle and equipment replacements is available, in advance of the need, through the establishment of the PS VEF and PW VEF
2. Provide for the timely acquisition and disposal of vehicles, therefore maximizing the dollar resources available for meeting the fleet needs.

Vehicle replacement criteria are determined by anticipated useful service life and/or mileage. The City recognizes that age or mileage does not always determine reliability or condition of a vehicle, the following guidelines should be followed based on the type of vehicle to be replaced:

1. Patrol Units: Five years or 90,000 miles
2. Public Works Fleet: Five years or 100,000 miles (excluding heavy duty equipment).

The City may decide to retain a vehicle beyond the stated criteria after evaluation of anticipated usage, repairs and operating costs.

The consideration of early replacement of a vehicle often arises when major expenditures are necessary to restore it to a safe operating condition (e.g. major component failure or incident damage). However, replacement prior to the normal criteria for vehicles will result in an acceleration of the future replacement cost amortization in order to cover the unfunded portion of the cost of replacement. Major vehicle repairs should always be made, with two exceptions:

1. Major expenditures for repair should not be made when the cost of the repair plus the vehicle salvage in unrepaired condition exceeds its wholesale value in repaired condition.
2. Major deferrable expenditures should not be made when a vehicle is in its final year of its retention cycle. During this period, the accelerated cost for early replacement is small, and therefore the vehicle should be replaced rather than repaired.

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

Motion carried by a vote of 3-2. Councilmember Knowlton and Councilmember Campbell against.

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

**5A.** Consider purchase of park restroom and pavilion from Romtec

Eric Strong, City Manager presented the purchase of park restroom and pavilion from Romtec. The Richland Hills Development Corporation has considered this item and voted to deny and requested to bid out the project. There is no action necessary on this item at this time.

## **OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**6A.** None

## **REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS**

**7A.** Presentation of November Departmental Reports

The following reports were highlighted:

- Fire Department response times in September averaged 4 minutes 28 seconds from receipt of call in dispatch to the first fire unit arriving on scene to assist.
- Police Department passed the “Best Practices” assessment process with zero deficiencies. The formal ceremony will be forthcoming for the presentation by TPCA to our agency at a future council meeting.
- Animal Shelter had 25 adoptions.
- Code Enforcement had 38 new violations issued and 22 in compliance.

## **7B. Discussion regarding Parking on Popplewell**

Eric Strong, City Manager discussed the intermittent issues with people parking on the shoulder of Popplewell. Council discussed and requested to have a study completed. Staff will bring forward an item in January to discuss additional street issues.

## **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 Goveas, and seconded by Councilmember Barger to offer the City Manager position to Candice Edmondson under terms discussed in executive session.

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

## **COMMUNITY INTEREST ITEMS**

- Senior Lunch Bunch & Bingo - Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> 12 noon – 2 PM
- Texas Christkindle Market - Has been moved to December 11<sup>th</sup> 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM due to weather forecast for tomorrow – 3 seat left
- Chandor Gardens/Vintage Grill & Car Museum - December 19<sup>th</sup> 9 AM – 2:30 PM
- Pickleball Tournament – The Winter VClassic December 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> at The Link
- The Link Membership Sale - December 15<sup>th</sup> – January 15<sup>th</sup> Savings up to \$198 on the purchase of a new or extension of an existing annual membership. Sale is applicable to both resident and non-resident memberships.
- Christmas Tree Lighting was a success this year with an estimated 750 in attendance! Special thanks to our Holly Jolly Sponsor – Trinity Metro and our Sparkle Sponsors – Buyers Barricades, BISD, Faith Creek Church & Richland Hills Baptist Church. The event was a true city-wide effort with support from the Police, Fire, Public Works, Library, Code Enforcement, Animal Shelter and Parks and Recreation Departments!
- Basketball Camps - December 26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> or December 30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>
- RYA Basketball League - Registration ends December 5<sup>th</sup>
- Community - Tarrant County Food Pantry December 12<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm  
Free food for any Tarrant County resident, come to Link parking lot
- Holiday Hours – Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Years Day
- Animal Shelter Paw Prints – Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 11 am to 3 pm
- Vax Shack – Call due to holiday schedule
- Council wished Citizens and Staff a Merry Christmas
- Trash collection will be posted on City Website and Nextdoor

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 8:06 p.m.

**ATTEST**

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Cathy Bourg, City Secretary

**APPROVED**

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Edward Lopez, Mayor