

**RICHLAND HILLS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 27, 2020
MINUTES**

Roll Call:

Council present:

Edward Lopez, Mayor
Douglas Knowlton, Place 1
Allison Barger, Mayor Pro Tem
Curtis A Bergthold, Place 3

Council Absent:

Roland Goveas, Place 4

Athena Campbell, Place 5

Staff

Candice Edmondson, City Manager
Cathy Bourg, City Secretary
Betsy Elam, City Attorney

WORK SESSION – Mayor Lopez Called to Order – Time 6:29 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).**

None

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

Scott Mitchell, Director of Neighborhood Services presented item 5A, an Interlocal Agreement with Tarrant County for shared re-construction costs of Midway Road from the bridge at Big Fossil Creek to Handley Ederville Road.

This section of Midway Road has experienced multiple failures of the roadbed and road surface due to heavy traffic that far exceeds the original design of the road. Increased truck traffic from the neighboring businesses and vehicles avoiding the TXDOT construction project at SH 121 and Handley Ederville Road has exacerbated the already existing failures.

Under this agreement, the City provides the materials, engineering and traffic control. Tarrant County provides the machinery and labor to do the reconstruction. Estimated cost for the entire project is approximately \$250,000. Approval of this Interlocal Agreement with Tarrant County will allow this project to move forward, with a targeted start date of May 14, 2020.

Mayor Lopez called for a break at 6:49 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 5-year Service Award to Shelby Brock, Fire Captain with the Richland Hills Fire Department.

1B. Presentation to the Richland Hills Police Department as being a “Recognized Agency” for Best Practices in Law Enforcement Standards

Chief Bryan Sylvester, City of Sachse Police Department and North Texas Police Chief Association Board Member gave a presentation and presented a certificate to the Richland Hills Police Department as being a “Recognized Agency” for Best Practices in Law Enforcement Standards

Chief Kim Sylvester, City of Richland Hills Police Department gave a presentation regarding the program.

The Texas Police Chief’s Law Enforcement Recognition Program is designed to provide recognition to Texas Law Enforcement Agencies who meet best practices in law enforcement management and operations. The program requires agencies to prove their compliance with 168 best practices in law enforcement to independent assessors. The best practices are a compilation of practices which address the twelve critical areas of law enforcement that form the basis of legal action against police. Compliance with these best practices reduces risk and associated costs, improves management and overall operations and improves protection of citizens and officer safety.

The twelve critical issues are:

- Use of force
- Emergency vehicle operations and pursuits
- Search, seizure and arrest
- Care, custody and restraint of prisoners
- Domestic violence and agency employee domestic misconduct
- Off-duty conduct
- Selection and hiring
- Sexual harassment
- Complaint and internal affairs management

- Narcotics, SWAT and high-risk warrant service
- Dealing with the mentally ill and developmentally disabled
- Property and evidence

In early 2019, the Police Department began working through the Texas Police Chief's Association (TPCA) Best Practices Recognition Program and submitted compliance documents for the 168 required standards.

In November, TPCA sent two assessors to the Department who spent two days onsite where they visually evaluated all 168 standards that had previously been submitted for compliance verification.

The Police Department passed the assessment process with zero deficiencies and was recommended to the TPCA committee who voted to approve said recommendation.

The Richland Hills Police Department became the 163rd agency to be Recognized.

The Department will now be required to submit annual reports to the program and will undergo the compliance process again in four years to maintain the Recognized status.

The Police Department will also be recognized at the Texas Police Chief's Association Annual Conference in April.

The employees of the Police Department worked diligently this past year to achieve this status and are proud to raise our policing standards to better serve our community. We also believe this program assists us with achieving the City of Richland Hills Core Values of Service~Teamwork~Integrity~Respect.

1C. 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.)

Travis Malone, 2641 Mimosa Park spoke against outgoing councilmembers being replaced by a family member.

CONSENT AGENDA

2A. Approval of minutes from the January 13, 2020 City Council Meeting

2B. Consider approval of Resolution 519-20 adopting the HART InterCivic Verity Voting Systems Version 2.3.1 for Richland Hills Elections

2C. Consider approval of Resolution 520-20 calling the May 2, 2020 General Election for Mayor and Council Places 2 and 4

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

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS, MEETINGS, AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

3A. None

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

4A. None

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, BID AWARDS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

5A. Consider an Interlocal Agreement with Tarrant County for Shared Re-Construction of Midway Road

Item was discussed during the Work Session under item 2.

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Knowlton and seconded by Councilmember Bergthold to approve and agree to close the road until construction is complete.

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

OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

6A. None

REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS

7A. Presentation of December Departmental Reports

City Manager Edmondson highlighted the following reports:

- Police Department - Best Practices recognition and complemented the overall great service they provide to the community
- Planning & Development – DPR contracting firm on Baker Blvd. finished their remodel
- Financial – Increase in revenue for the month due to BISD permit fees for Richland Middle School

Councilmember Campbell highlighted the following reports:

- Fire Station – new fire station project has entered the schematic design phase after the floor plan was finalized and accepted by staff

- Police Department - Sergeant Gaytan and Officer Tunson attended the Texas Violent Gang Task Force training and the department completed active shooting training
- Code Enforcement – Issued 50 notices of violation with 23 in compliance
- Animal Shelter – Dr. Skidmore provides affordable spay/neuter and vaccinations and microchipping. There were also 31 animals adopted in December.

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).

None at this time

COMMUNITY INTEREST ITEMS

- Senior Lunch Bunch & Bingo – Thursday, February 13th 12 noon – 2:00 p.m.
- Upcoming Senior Trips – Amazon Fulfillment Center on Thursday, January 30th 8:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. and Nokona American Ballglove Factory on Monday, February 10th 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- The Link Membership Sale - Extended to January 31st
- Easter Celebration – Saturday, April 4th 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon
- City of Richland Hills 70th Anniversary Celebration – Saturday, April 25th 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Tarrant County Food Pantry – February 13th at 6:30 p.m. The Link parking lot

9. A motion was made by Councilmember Bergthold and seconded by Councilmember Campbell to adjourn. Motion passed 4-0.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Lopez declared the meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

ATTEST

APPROVED

Cathy Bourg, City Secretary

Edward Lopez, Mayor