

**RICHLAND HILLS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 5, 2016
MINUTES**

Roll Call:

Council present:

Bill Agan, Mayor
Roland Goveas, Place 1
Allison Barrette, Place 2
Robert DeSoto, Place 3
Beverly Williams, Place 4
Edward Lopez, Mayor pro-tem

Council Absent:

Staff

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

WORK SESSION – Mayor Bill Agan 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 Barrette, and seconded by Councilmember DeSoto to convene into executive session. Time: 6:01 p.m.

Motion carried by a vote of 4-0. Councilmember Williams not present in Chamber.

Mayor Agan reconvened into open session. Time: 6:45 p.m.

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

Eric Strong, City Manager gave the following presentation on the FY 2016-2017 Budget.

Tonight's Objectives

- Review significant changes
- Review new requests
- Answer specific council questions
- Review current problem with street funding

Property Tax - 2015 Property Tax Rates

<u>City</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>
Eules	0.47
Lake Worth	0.482083
Bedford	0.4948303
Saginaw	0.51
Richland Hills Current Rate	0.528094
Watauga	0.591216
Hurst	0.6084978
NRH	0.61
Arlington	0.648
Benbrook	0.6575
Azle	0.6595
Crowley	0.696829
Haltom City	0.69999
Sansom Park	0.733655
Kennedale	0.7475
River Oaks	0.850351
Ft. Worth	0.855
Everman	1.255205

Property Tax Comparison

<u>City</u>	<u>Actual Rate</u>	<u>1/2 cent sales tax equivalent tax rate</u>
Richland Hills	0.528094	0.528094
NRH	0.61	0.737484941
Watauga	0.591216	0.74766196
Hurst	0.6084978	0.796043137
Fort Worth	0.855	0.855
Haltom City	0.69999	0.885060775

Per Capita FWTA Sales Tax Collections

<u>City</u>	<u>Per Capita Sales Tax</u>
Richland Hills	\$170
Fort Worth	\$84
Blue Mound	\$40

Per Household FWTA Equivalent Contribution

- Richland Hills Averages 3.03 residents per household. This means each household contributes the equivalent average of \$515 to the FWTA annually. The services have previously been provided included:
 - Door to Door Route 41 Service
 - Door to Door Mobility Impaired Transportation Service
 - Airporter
 - 15% Rebate for Street Improvements

Property Taxes

- Richland Hills average home value is \$93,494. An average value home in Richland Hills pays approximately \$503 per year for city services through property tax, which includes:
 - Fire
 - Police
 - Library
 - Animal Services
 - Code Enforcement
 - Permitting
 - Administration Services
 - Street Maintenance (not reconstruction)
 - Municipal Court
 - Parks

Why the Comparison

- When the budget was built, we had not yet been informed that funding for street improvements for this year and all future years has been removed from us by the FWTA. As such, we still have line items in this budget showing the completion of some street reconstruction projects. However, at our current tax rate and with our current needs, staff is recommending all street improvements be ceased until more stable funding options are identified.

Property Taxes

- In order to recover the \$200,000 that The FWTA has removed from our budget, we would need to increase the property tax rate by approximately 5 cents. However, this would still not address our immediate short- term and ongoing long-term needs for street improvements, which total approximately \$8,200,000.

REGULAR SESSION – Mayor Agan Called to Order – Time 7:03 p.m.

Invocation – Mayor Agan

Pledge of Allegiance – Led by Councilmember Goveas

PRESENTATIONS

1A. Citizen Appearances/Public Comments

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

1B. Presentation on FY 2016-2017 Budget

The following department budgets were presented:

- Municipal Court – Alicia St. Cyr, Court Administrator
- Administration – Eric Strong, City Manager
- Police Department – Barbara Childress, Police Chief
- Fire Department – Russell Shelley, Fire Chief
- Streets – Scott Mitchell, Director of Neighborhood Services
- Recreation – Jason Moore, Assistant to the City Manager
- Community Development – Scott Mitchell, Director of Neighborhood Services
- Code Enforcement – Scott Mitchell, Director of Neighborhood Services
- Animal Services – Scott Mitchell, Director of Neighborhood Services I
- Legislative – Eric Strong, City Manager
- Economic Development – Eric Strong, City Manager

CONSENT AGENDA

2A. Approval of Resolution 468-16, authorizing continued membership in the Atmos Cities Steering Committee.

2B. Approval of minutes from the June 21, 2016 Regular City Council meeting.

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Lopez, and seconded by Councilmember DeSoto to approve all consent agenda items.

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0. Councilmember Goveas abstained from item 2B.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, MEETINGS, AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

3A. None at this time.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

4A. None at this time.

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, BID AWARDS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

5A. Consideration of Interlocal Agreement with Tarrant County for the reconstruction of Popplewell.

Eric Strong, City Manager presented the following information regarding an Interlocal Agreement with Tarrant County for the reconstruction of Popplewell.

The Texas Government Code (791.001 – 791.029) allows counties and cities to enter into shared cost agreements for the rehabilitation of primary and secondary feeder roads for the benefit of the public.

This agreement stipulates the County will provide labor and equipment needed to assist the City in completing the project. The City will furnish and pay for actual cost of materials as well as half of the fuel used to construct the project. The City also agrees to adjust all utilities, manholes and valve boxes for the project. Engineering, survey and any laboratory testing is also the responsibility of the city.

While staff had originally hoped to be able to recommend that Council approve this Interlocal Agreement, the current circumstances dictate that staff must recommend that Council deny the Interlocal Agreement.

This project was scheduled to be completed using sales tax funds that the Fort Worth Transportation Authority (FWTA) collects in Richland Hills and rebates to the City for street repairs. When residents voted to join the FWTA in 1992, ½ cent of our sales tax began being directed to the FWTA. Since that time, the FWTA has rebated 15% of their collections from Richland Hills back to the City for street repairs. This was done in part because FWTA buses have a significant impact on the degradation of our streets due to their weight and traffic patterns.

The City was recently notified that the FWTA has decided they will no longer be providing the 15% rebate to Richland Hills. Over the past 12 months, the FWTA has collected approximately \$1,400,000 from Richland Hills, which means that this year's rebate would have been approximately \$210,000. That would have been enough to complete the Popplewell project with some funds to spare that we could have used on another project.

With these funding sources removed from our budget by the FWTA, staff must recommend postponing these street improvements indefinitely. If council would like to consider cuts in services in other areas in order to attempt to fund this project, staff will continue to search for appropriate service reductions in order to cover for the decision of the FWTA to eliminate our street repair funding. However, I would like to point out that staff has already begun to evaluate this, and the amount being cut by the FWTA is significant enough that there are no easy budget cuts to be made in order to make this amount up. Any cuts would be severe and have an impact to city staff and the services we are able to provide. It is important to note that the amount FWTA has rebated to us

has historically represented the entirety of our annual street repair budget, so there are no other street repair funds that we can pull from in order to complete this project.

If Council does decide to reject this Interlocal Agreement, I will take it upon myself to personally contact our County Commissioner and apologize. He had graciously committed County Staff and Resources to assist in this project, and they had blocked out time from their schedule to help us. Unfortunately, we were given no notice by the FWTA about this change, and so we will be cancelling on the County last minute, and this will likely create some problems for them as well since they now have staff and resources that they will need to find other projects for. I sincerely hope this does not damage our continued relationship with the County, but given the lack of notice or warning from the FWTA, I see no other option for the City at this time.

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Goveas, and seconded by Councilmember Lopez to Deny.

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

6A. None at this time.

REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS

7A. Update on potential bamboo ordinance

Eric Strong, City Manager gave an update on a potential bamboo ordinance. As requested, the city attorney has researched potential ordinances that would ban bamboo. In their research, they have only located one other city in Texas that has passed such an ordinance, and it is attached to this memo. The purpose of the ordinance does not appear to be to strictly ban bamboo, but rather it is part of a more comprehensive landscaping ordinance which bans certain types of invasive plants.

We do have a landscaping ordinance; however our ordinance does not ban any invasive plants. Rather, it outlines the types of plants that may be used for any required landscaping. Also, the attached ordinance prohibits planting these invasive plants, but it does not do anything to prohibit what is already in existence.

There was general discussion among Council and their recommendation to staff was to not draft a bamboo ordinance.

7B. Update on Fort Worth Transportation Authority service changes.

Eric Strong, City Manager presented information regarding potential changes to services and funding that are being made by the Fort Worth Transportation Authority. The proposed changes include:

- Eliminating door to door service on Route 41 and going to a bus stop service. Riders will still have to call in and arrange to be picked up at a certain bus stop. Stops will consist of a pole and a sign, no benches or covered areas. Poles will be placed in city right of ways in front of houses and businesses.
- Eliminating the airporter service entirely.
- The School Bus trips will now be handled through pick up and drip off at bus stations/stops. Students will need to find the stop closest to their house and closest to the school to board and exit the bus.
- Elimination of the 15% street rebate. The City was informed that this decision has already been made.

There was discussion regarding the possibility of facilitating a Town Hall meeting and invite the FWTA to answer questions and provide information to Richland Hills citizens.

City Manager Strong went over the presentation he presented on the FY2016-2017 budget during the work session.

8. COMMUNITY INTEREST ITEMS

- July 4th Parade and Celebration was a success
- Lunch Bunch – Thursday, July 14th

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 Lopez, and seconded by Councilmember DeSoto to adjourn. Motion passed 5-0.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Agan declared the meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

ATTEST

APPROVED

Cathy Bourg, City Secretary

Bill Agan, Mayor