

**RICHLAND HILLS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 9, 2017
MINUTES**

Roll Call:

Council present:

Bill Agan, Mayor
Travis Malone, Place 1
Allison Barger, Mayor Pro Tem
Curtis A Bergthold, Place 3
Place 4, Vacant
Athena Campbell, Place 5

Council Absent:

Staff

Eric Strong, City Manager
Cathy Bourg, City Secretary
James Donovan, City Attorney

WORK SESSION – Mayor 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 Barger, and seconded by Councilmember Campbell to convene into executive session. Time: 6:01 p.m.

Motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

Mayor Agan reconvened into open session. Time: 6:25 p.m.

- 2. Discussion of preferred funding mechanisms for paying for Police and Fire pay increases if residents vote to approve measure in November.**

Eric Strong, City Manager presented to Council information regarding preferred funding mechanisms for paying for Police and Fire pay increases if residents vote to approve measure in November.

On the November 7th, 2017 ballot for Richland Hills residents is the following measure:

“Shall the City of Richland Hills require by ordinance that all police officers and firefighters be paid no less than the average of all salary and benefits paid to equivalent positions in the Cities of Fort Worth, North Richland Hills, Hurst and Haltom City?”

Voting “against” will keep things as they are. Voting “for” will require us to pay our public safety personnel the average of the four mentioned cities, which will cost us an estimated additional \$1,000,000 per year. We do not have that amount set aside and available. Mr. Strong provided several options for how to come up with the necessary funding should the proposition pass. Many of the items listed below would represent significant changes to the services we are currently able to provide. It is important to note that any or all of the options can be combined.

Option 1: Tax Increase - In order to generate the required level of new revenue to pay for this, we would need to raise property taxes by at least 20 cents. A 20 cent tax increase would generate approximately \$1,000,000. However, it is important to note that this exceeds our rollback rate. The amount we will be able to increase taxes before being subject to the rollback rate is approximately 4 cents.

Option 2: Take it from Other Departments - If you look at this as a mandate to increase spending in Police and Fire, you have the option of taking the funding from all the other departments. In order to accomplish this you would need to remove \$1,000,000 out of approximately \$4,300,000 (the general fund minus police and fire budgets).

Option 3: Take it from Police and Fire - The entire \$1,000,000 would come from the Police and Fire budgets. In essence, what that means is that through the budget process, you continue to give them the same amount of money that they have always received. We will then need to figure out how to operate within that budget. The only way they will be able to accomplish that is through a reduction in force. It would mean fewer police officers on the street, and fewer firefighters/paramedics on duty. This would lead to slower response times, increased dependence on mutual aid, and in the Fire Department potentially using volunteer firefighters to supplement the paid staff that would remain.

Option 4: Contract out the services - If this measure is approved it requires us to pay our employees the equivalent salary of our neighboring cities. It does not prevent the City Council from eliminating, or drastically reducing the services, and contracting it out to other agencies. We have not yet discussed this with other agencies, so we do not know who would be willing or what it would cost. But we could talk to other communities near us and/or the County to see if they would have an interest in handling these services.

3. Discussion of items and presentations listed on tonight’s City Council Agenda

Eric Strong, City Manager presented the following items for discussion:

- 6A. Consideration of Nominations for Tarrant Appraisal District Board of Directors.
- 7A. Discussion regarding proposals for solid waste collections and recycling.

Mayor Agan adjourned the work session at 7:04 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION – Mayor Bill Agan Called to Order – Time 7:04 p.m.

Invocation – Mayor Agan

Pledge of Allegiance

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 Speaker

CONSENT AGENDA

- 2A. Approval of minutes from the September 25, 2017 City Council Meetings.**
- 2B. Approval of the Joint Election Agreement and Contract for Election Services with Tarrant County Elections for the November 7th, 2017 Special Elections**

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

Motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, MEETINGS, AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

- 3A. Public Hearing and Consideration of a final plat, Lot 1, Block 1, Averitt Addition, to the City of Richland Hills, Tarrant County, Texas.**

Jason Moore, Assistant City Manager presented a final plat. Lot 1, Block 1, Averitt Addition, City of Richland Hills, Tarrant County, Texas.

Mayor Agan Opened the Public Hearing: Time 7:08 p.m.

Earnest Hedgecoth, the Engineer for the project spoke regarding the final plat.

Mayor Agan Closed the Public Hearing: Time 7:10 p.m.

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

Motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

3B. Public Hearing and Consideration of Ordinance 1339-17 granting a Specific Use Permit (SUP-2017-603) to permit operation of a Pet Care and Grooming, Indoor business for property zoned Mixed Use (MX) and located at 7273 Glenview Drive.

Jason Moore, Assistant City Manager presented an ordinance granting a Specific Use Permit (SUP-2017-603) to permit operation of a Pet Care and Grooming, Indoor business for property zoned Mixed Use (MX) and located at 7273 Glenview Drive.

Terry Baltzell, the applicant for Luv-a-Dog spoke to Council regarding green space and parking.

Ricky Head, spoke to Council regarding the Planning and Zoning Commissions discussions and decision.

Ernest Hedgecoth, the Engineer for the project spoke to Council regarding the parking design at the location.

David Averitt, the property owner spoke to Council regarding the parking spaces.

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Bergthold, and seconded by Councilmember Campbell to approve Ordinance 1339-17 with two parallel parking spaces at the rear of the building, two parallel parking spaces on the east side of the building, leave the parking spaces in the front, have green space on the back side of where the parallel parking is.

Motion carried by a vote of 3-2. Councilmember Barger and Councilmember Malone against. Mayor Agan broke the tie, by voting For.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

4A. None at this time.

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, BID AWARDS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

5A. None at this time.

OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

6A. Consideration of Nominations for Tarrant Appraisal District Board of Directors.

No Action Taken

REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS

7A. Discussion regarding proposals for solid waste collections and recycling.

Eric Strong, City Manager clarified Council's direction from the discussion during the work session. Staff will reach out to two lowest bidders, Republic Services and Waste Connections to negotiate a contract to bring back to Council for consideration. The contract will include two times a week hand pickup at the curb with no carts and a 64 gallon recycling bin pickup services.

Jeri Harwell, Municipal Services Manager with Republic Services answered questions regarding trash pickup and recycling services.

7B. Presentation of Monthly Department Reports.

No discussion

8. COMMUNITY INTEREST ITEMS

- Lunch Bunch – Thursday, October 12th at noon
- Bulk Waste Collection – October 16th
- Tricky Treat Trail – October 27th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Take Back Meds Day – October 28th 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Inaugural Veterans Day Ceremony – November 11th at 11:00 a.m.
- Thanksgiving Holiday – November 24th – 25th City Offices Closed
- TxDOT Public Hearing – October 20th 6:00 p.m. at The Link – State Highway 121 & Interstate Highway 820 project
- Website Redesign Survey – Please check website for information
- Proposition A Information – There will be two meetings regarding this issue. They will be held at the following times and locations:
 - Tuesday, October 17th at The Link from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
 - Monday, October 23rd at City Hall at 6:00 p.m.
- 6Stones – October 20th and 21st

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 Campbell, and seconded by Councilmember Barger to adjourn. Motion passed 4-0.**

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Agan declared the meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

ATTEST

APPROVED

Cathy Bourg, City Secretary

Bill Agan, Mayor