

**RICHLAND HILLS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 23, 2022
MINUTES**

Roll Call:

Council present

Edward Lopez, Mayor
Curtis A. Bergthold, Mayor Pro Tem
Douglas Knowlton, Place 1
Travis Malone, Place 2
Javier Alvarez, Place 4
G.W. Estep, Place 5

Council absent

Staff present

Candice Edmondson, City Manager
Lindsay Wells, City Secretary
James Donovan, City Attorney

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION – 6:30 PM

1. **Executive Session:** Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, Sections 551.071, 551.072, 551.073, 551.074, 551.076, 551.087, 418.183(f) and 418.106(d) & (e). Executive Session may be held, under these exceptions, at any time during the meeting that a need arises for the City Council to seek advice from the City Attorney as to the posted subject matter of this City Council meeting.

Motion: Motion was made Councilmember Knowlton to adjourn into Executive Session and seconded by Councilmember Estep at 6:30 p.m.

Motion carried by a vote of 4-0. (Councilmember Malone was not in Chambers)

Mayor Lopez reconvened the Work Session at 7:01 p.m.

2. **Discuss items listed on tonight's City Council agenda. No action will be taken and each item will be considered during the Regular Session.**

None.

REGULAR SESSION – Mayor Lopez Called to Order – Time 7:01 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE – Mayor Lopez

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE AND PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION

City Secretary Lindsay Wells administered the Oath of Office to Edward Lopez, Mayor, Travis Malone, Councilmember, Place 2, and Javier Alvarez, Councilmember, Place 4.

SELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM

Motion: Motion was made Councilmember Malone and seconded by Councilmember Knowlton to elect Councilmember Bergthold as Mayor Pro Tem.

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

PRESENTATIONS

1A. Business Spotlight: Guinco Enterprise Corporation

Jeff Guinn, introduced his business, Guinco Enterprise Corporation, located at 7231 Baker Boulevard, and expressed excitement at his business' recent opening in Richland Hills.

1B. Library Summer Reading Program Proclamation

Mayor Lopez read a proclamation declaring June and July 2022, as "Summer Reading Months" in Richland Hills and presented it to Library Director Chantele Hancock.

1C. Employee Service Awards

City Manager Candice Edmondson announced the employee service awards and expressed congratulations to the following employee on reaching an employment milestone with the City of Richland Hills:

5 Years of Service

Fire Captain John Daniel

1D. Life Saving Award – Fire Department, B Shift

Mayor Lopez and Fire Marshal Shelby Brock presented Life Saving Awards to Fire Department B Shift personnel for an incident involving an elderly woman on February 11, 2022. Personnel on duty and assisting on the call included:

Captain John Daniel
Engineer Mike Stephens
Firefighter/EMT Steve Deane
Firefighter/EMT Anthony Dryer
Firefighter/Paramedic Bryan Brindley
Firefighter/Paramedic Mickey Hanes

1E. Citizen's Fire Academy – Recognition of Participants

Fire Captain Michael Irizarry provided a brief overview of the Citizen's Fire Academy and advised that the participants completed seven weeks of instruction and demonstration of all facets of fire department operations including the background of the organization, fire hose and fire streams, vehicle extrication, CPR and EMS operations, and several other topics. 2022 program graduates included John Skier, Lisa Skier, Peggy Bidwell, Michelle Lada, Albert Navarro, and Georgene Farrill.

1F. Citizen Appearances/Public Comments

Citizen comments emailed to Lindsay Wells (lwells@richlandhills.com) on an item either listed on this agenda or not listed on this agenda will be heard at this time. Citizens in attendance at the meeting who have signed a card to speak to the City Council will also 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. Approve minutes from the May 9, 2022 City Council Regular Meeting and the May 18, 2022 Special Called Meeting.**

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Knowlton and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bergthold to approve the consent agenda.

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, MEETINGS, AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS**3A. Approved Resolution No. 554-22 to participate in Round 3 of the 2022 Community Development Block Grant – Care's Act (CDBG-CV) Program
PUBLIC HEARING**

Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Brown presented the item to the City Council and advised that Resolution No. 554-22 would approve the City's participation in the 2022 Community Development Block Grant – Care's Act (CDBG-CV) program. Tarrant County recently opened their third round of requests for proposals for CDBG-CV grant funds. Eligible projects included public facilities or infrastructure projects that serve low-to-moderate-income residents and prepare, prevent or respond to the Coronavirus. All projects and programs must be completed before May 31, 2023. The City of Richland Hills submitted a proposal to improve the restrooms and increase ADA accessibility at the Library in the amount of \$280,000 in grant funding. Specifically, the project proposed to

transform the existing men's and women's restrooms into family-style facilities with one toilet instead of two for full accessibility to the sink, toilet and changing station. Improvements also included the addition of touchless faucets, soap dispensers and paper towel holders. The proposal also recommended replacement of the exterior ADA ramp for a seamless, fully accessible route to the Library front doors.

Mayor Lopez opened the public hearing at 7:34 p.m. and asked to hear from any proponents followed by opponents of the items.

Jason Butz, 2712 Willow Park Street, Richland Hills, inquired if Tarrant County pays any overages in cost due to inflation.

Mr. Brown advised that Tarrant County would pay overages in construction costs and the City would be responsible for any additional design features not initially included in the proposal.

Virginia Edwards, 3117 Crites Street, Richland Hills, expressed support for the project but expressed concern for the noise level of the hand dryers.

Library Director Chantele Hancock advised that noise has been a consideration in design plans since the library is a small facility.

Mayor Lopez closed the public hearing at 7:38 p.m.

Councilmember Malone stated that CDBG projects are wonderful for ADA accessibility projects.

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Knowlton and seconded by Councilmember Malone to approve Resolution No. 554-22, to participate in Round 3 of the 2022 Community Development Block Grant – Care's Act (CDBG-CV) Program

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

4A. None.

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, BID AWARDS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

5A. Approved Work Order Authorization Agreement with Halff Associates, Inc. for design, engineering and construction administration services for the 2022 Baker Boulevard Green Ribbon Project.

City Manager Candice Edmondson introduced the item and advised that on April 11, 2022 City Council approved an Advanced Funding Agreement (AFA) with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for the 2022 Baker Boulevard Green Ribbon Project. The project expands median improvements made in the corridor in 2019 and

consists of constructing mow strips; planting ornamental trees, shrubs, grasses, and perennials; installing mulch, crushed granite and irrigation in existing SH183 medians (East of Dreeben Drive to Rufe Snow Drive, Norton Drive to North Booth Calloway Road).

The City of Richland Hills was awarded Green Ribbon funds in the amount of \$350,000 for continuation of median improvements along Baker Boulevard. Grant funds cover the costs for construction and installation of new landscape and irrigation in the medians. The City is responsible for costs associated with design, engineering and construction administration/inspection. Halff Associates, Inc. has provided a cost estimate for these services in the amount of \$87,000.

Mayor Pro Tem Bergthold advised that he met with the City Engineer regarding the overall project and feels it is a good deal for the City.

Motion: Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bergthold and seconded by Councilmember Knowlton to approve a Work Order Authorization Agreement with Halff Associates, Inc. for design, engineering and construction administration services for the 2022 Baker Boulevard Green Ribbon Project.

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

None.

REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS

7A. Street Improvement Projects Update

Director of Neighborhood Services Scott Mitchell provided a brief update on street improvement projects and advised that all FY21 projects have been completed and Public Works can focus solely on the FY22 street improvement projects.

Discussion ensued regarding filling potholes and patching roads.

7B. April Department Reports

Assistant to the City Manager Logan Thatcher presented the Community Development update including new permits and Certificates of Occupancy issued.

Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Brown presented an update on The Link operations and revenues. Additionally, he advised that the splash pad should be open Memorial Day weekend.

COMMUNITY INTEREST ITEMS

8. Mayor Pro Tem Bergthold advised of several upcoming events:
- Through May 31, 2022, Pick Your Perk Membership Sale at The Link;
 - Tuesday, May 10, 2022, Richland Hills Literary Club, Richland Hills Public Library, 6:30 p.m.;
 - June 1 – August 12, 2022, Summer Camp Connect, The Link, 7:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.;
 - Saturday, June 4, 2022, Birdville Reads summer reading event, Richland Middle School, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.;
 - June 7, 2022, Indoor Camping, The Link, 6:00 p.m.;
 - Thursday, June 9, 2022,
 - Senior Lunch Bunch, The Link, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.;
 - Tarrant County Food Pantry, The Link Parking Lot, 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.;
 - Tuesday, June 14, 2022, Richland Hills Literary Club, 6:30 p.m.;
 - 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, Storytime at the library, 6:30 p.m.; and
 - 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, Library Lab, 6:30 p.m.

Councilmember Malone advised that the Primary runoff Election Day is Tuesday, May 24, 2022, and The Link will serve as an Election Day polling place.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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.

ADJOURNMENT

10. A motion was made by Councilmember Knowlton and seconded by Councilmember Malone to adjourn.

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Lopez declared the meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Lindsay Wells, City Secretary

Edward Lopez, Mayor