

**RICHLAND HILLS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 27, 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
Larry Collister, City Attorney

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION – 6:02 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.

None.

2. **7206 Latham Drive Development Update**

Property owner Dan Boykin provided an update regarding his property located at 7206 Latham Drive following a City Council approved zoning change in April 2021. He discussed plans to open a sporting goods store as well as providing space for food vendors with an open-air concept and an overall face lift to the property.

3. **Employee Recruitment and Retention Strategies**

City Manager Candice Edmondson advised that a long-term goal of the City Council was to attract and retain quality employees and discussed the measures that have already been implemented including a compensation strategy, enhanced medical coverage, and improved telework opportunities.

She advised that recently neighboring cities have begun looking into a compressed work schedule allowing employees a greater work-life balance with a four-day work week.

Beginning Monday, July 11, 2022, City departments at City Hall, Public Works, and Police Records will have a new compressed four-day work schedule. Code Compliance, Parks and Facilities Maintenance, Animal Services, and Link Administration will work alternating four-day schedules. This new schedule will be on a trial basis through the end of September and staff will report the results to City Council at the September 26, 2022 City Council meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding promoting and advertising the change to residents and customers and the success in neighboring cities.

4. 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.

Mayor Lopez adjourned the work session at 6:47 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION – Mayor Lopez Called to Order – Time 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE – Mayor Lopez

PRESENTATIONS

1A. Parks and Recreation Month Proclamation

Mayor Lopez read a proclamation declaring July 2022, as "Parks and Recreation Month" in Richland Hills and presented it to Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Brown.

1B. 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.

Thomas Nichols, 3537 Labadie Drive, Richland Hills, expressed concern regarding flooding issues near the intersection of Labadie Drive and Dover Lane during recent storms. He provided several proposed solutions to increase safety during storm and flooding events.

CONSENT AGENDA

2A. Approved minutes from the June 13, 2022 City Council Regular Meeting.

2B. Approved Resolution 555-22, suspending the August 1, 2022 effective date on Oncor Electric Delivery Company's requested rate change to permit the City time to study the request and to establish reasonable rates

2C. Approved Resolution 556-22, authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Wendy Burgess, Tarrant County Tax Assessor, and Tarrant County for the assessment and collection of ad valorem taxes

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Malone and seconded by Councilmember Estep to approve the consent agenda.

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, MEETINGS, AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

None.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

4A. Approved Resolution 557-22, authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with George, Morgan and Sneed for audit services for a period of five years

Finance Director Patricia Albrecht presented the item to the City Council and advised that George, Morgan, and Sneed (GMS) have been the City's auditing firm since 2016. The City's financial policy requires that the City rotate auditing firms every five years by publishing a request for proposals. On two different occasions, the City solicited via newspaper publication and direct email correspondence, requests for proposals for audit services. Requests for proposals were due on April 29, 2022 and May 31, 2022. The City did not receive any responses to either solicitation.

GMS did not submit a proposal since they have been providing audit services to the City for the past five years. However, they are interested in continuing their services for another five-year period for the fiscal years ending September 30, 2022 - September 30, 2026.

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Knowlton and seconded by Councilmember Estep to approve Resolution 557-22, authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with George, Morgan and Sneed for audit services for a period of five years.

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, BID AWARDS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

None.

OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

None.

REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS**7A. Red, White and YOU Celebration.**

Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Brown presented an update regarding the upcoming Red, White and YOU Celebration to be held Monday, July 4, 2022. He advised of the parade route along Baker Boulevard and as well as family friendly activities.

7B. Street Improvement Projects

Director of Community Services Scott Mitchell provided a brief update on street improvement projects and advised that utilities along Rufe Snow Drive have been completed and Reliable Paving is onsite. He provided updates of projects on Magnolia Park Drive, Rosebud, Gumwood, and Handley Ederville Road as well.

7C. Animal Services Center Improvements

Police Chief Kimberly Sylvester provided an update of the renovation project at the Animal Services Center including a recap of what was accomplished in the FY21 renovation and the planned improvements as part of the FY22 renovation. She advised that the shelter lobby will be closed to the public beginning Saturday, July 16 to Monday, July 25, 2022, for construction. All adoptions during that period will be by appointment only and the shelter will not accept any walk-ins or pet surrenders during that period.

7D. May Department Reports

Finance Director Patricia Albrecht presented the financial report for May 2022 and advised that sales tax revenue is strong.

Director of Neighborhood Services Scott Mitchel presented the Public Works report and advised that Public Works hosted a Household Hazardous Waste collection event on Saturday, May 14, 2022, for the first time in two years.

Assistant to the City Manager Logan Thatcher presented an update on the Branding Committee and the new website and advised that the new site is tentatively set to go live on November 17, 2022.

COMMUNITY INTEREST ITEMS

8. Mayor Pro Tem Bergthold advised of several upcoming events:
- Thursday, June 30, 2022, Wild Things Zoofari at The Link, 4:00 p.m.;
 - Monday, July 4, 2022, Red, White & YOU, The Link Plaza, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.;
 - Thursday, July 7, 2022,
 - Senior Lunch Bunch and Bingo, The Link, 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.;
 - Brett Roberts Bubble Show, The Link, 4:00 p.m.;
 - Tarrant County Food Pantry, The Link Parking Lot, 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.;
 - Thursday, July 14, 2022, Snake Encounters, The Link, 4:00 p.m.;
 - 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, Storytime at the library, 6:30 p.m.;
 - 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, Library Lab, 6:30 p.m.; and
 - Clear the Shelter for Summer with free adoptions during the month of June.

Additionally, he expressed his appreciation to the Police Department for their Vacation Watch program.

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 8:17 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Lindsay Wells, City Secretary

Edward Lopez, Mayor