

**RICHLAND HILLS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 22, 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 – 6:00 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. Budget Overview: Special Revenue and Debt Service Funds

City Manager Candice Edmondson presented an overview of the Special Revenue and Debt Service Funds FY 2023 proposed budgets. She advised that the proposed budget is based on an ad valorem tax rate of \$0.538885, which is a 3.5 percent reduction from FY 2022, and includes a proposed five percent pay increase for civilian personnel and a 2 STEP (six percent total) pay increase for public safety personnel. Debt Service is supported by ad valorem taxes.

FY 2023 Debt Service Summary:

Revenues:	\$1,001,117
Expenditures:	\$948,844
Ending Fund Balance:	\$618,794

Ms. Edmondson also provided a listing of Special Revenue Funds including the Court Security Fund, Court Technology Fund, Crime Control and Prevention District Fund,

Richland Hills Development Corporation Fund, Oil and Gas Fund, Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund, Capital Improvement Projects Fund, Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Fund, Street Improvement Fund, Vehicle Replacement Fund, Keep Richland Hills Beautiful Fund, Link Replacement Fund, American Rescue Plan Fund, Emergency Management Fund, and the Strategic Initiative Fund. She advised of the purpose of each fund and projects within the funds included for FY 2023

Discussion ensued regarding several projects including utilizing the TIF Fund for backlit street signs along Baker Boulevard, drainage repairs at the Animal Services Center, and road projects throughout the City.

3. 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 6:57 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION – Mayor Lopez Called to Order – Time 7:02 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE – Council Member Knowlton

PRESENTATIONS

1A. 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.

John Skier, 7016 Park Place Drive, Richland Hills, expressed his appreciation to the City Council and staff for recently completed drainage projects that performed as designed during recent severe storms that saw several inches of rain fall in a short amount of time.

CONSENT AGENDA

2A. Approve minutes from the August 8, 2022 City Council Regular Meeting.

2B. Approved Resolution 563-22, approving a negotiated settlement between the Atmos Cities Steering Committee (ACSC) and Atmos Energy Corp., Mid-Tex Division regarding the Company's 2022 Rate Review Mechanism Filing.

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

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, MEETINGS, AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

3A. None.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

4A. Approved Ordinance 1456-22, amending the Municipal Fee Schedule.

City Manager Candice Edmondson presented the item to the City Council and advised that Ordinance 1456-22 amends the City's Municipal Fee Schedule and reviewed the proposed changes. She advised that The Link has been in operation for five years and the associated fees have not been updated in that time. Room rental fees and monthly and annual membership fees would increase. The Link will also be increasing services to members including a new indoor playground, eSports and gaming opportunities, and inclusive group exercise classes. The fee changes would not go into effect until the New Year's sale.

Discussion ensued regarding comparisons between the amenities and features available at The Link compared to other municipal recreation centers and private gyms.

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Malone and seconded by Councilmember Estep to approve Ordinance 1456-22, amending the Municipal Fee Schedule.

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, BID AWARDS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

5A. None.

OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

6A. Approved and adopted the proposed FY 2023 Public Safety Step Plan

City Manager Candice Edmondson presented the proposed new pay plan and Step plan for public safety employees and stated that on August 23, 2021, the City Council adopted an Employee Compensation Plan and corresponding pay plans for civilian and public safety personnel. The Plan positions the City of Richland Hills at 90 percent (40th percentile) of the labor market average with a goal of targeting 100 percent (50th percentile) of the market average over time.

As public safety personnel pay increases across the metroplex, the City's current salary schedules for public safety classifications would be trending 20 percent or more below

the market. Staff is recommending that City Council consider increasing pay across all public safety classifications to keep the City within 90 percent of the labor market average. Funding will be split among two funds with \$260,376 from the General Fund and \$68,334 from the Crime Control and Prevention District Fund. This funding for public safety pay increases has already been included in proposed FY 2023 Budget.

Motion: Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bergthold and seconded by Councilmember Estep to approve and adopt the FY 2023 Public Safety Step Plan.

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS

7A. Street Improvement Projects.

Director of Neighborhood Services Scott Mitchell provided an update on street improvement projects and advised that the south bound lanes of Rufe Snow Drive and Baker Boulevard will be completed soon with work shifting to the north bound lanes shortly after. He also advised of asphalt and concrete repairs throughout the City.

7B. Gumwood Park Drive Update

City Manager Candice Edmondson provided an update on Gumwood Park Drive and advised that a gate that closed off the intersection of Gumwood Park and Handley Ederville Road was damaged and removed in late 2019. The gate had been installed sometime around 2000 but was done without a proper traffic study. A traffic study was completed in 2019 and the results indicated that the access point should not be closed. Residents have continued to express concerns about the traffic on Gumwood especially neighbors adjacent to the Handley Ederville intersection.

The City Engineer responded to questions from Council regarding use of a six-inch curb and newly installed Do Not Enter signs on Gumwood Park Drive.

7C. July Department Reports

Assistant to the City Manager Logan Thatcher presented the Community Development update and advised that City staff has approved the grading plans for the Baker Landing project.

Director of Neighborhood Services Scott Mitchell presented the Public Works update and provided an update on the severe thunderstorms and flooding the City experienced earlier today stating that there were 20 locations that public works crews were dispatched to during the storm. Staff was able to secure sandbags and barricades to help keep citizens and drivers safe.

Library Director Chantele Hancock presented the library update including on the Birdville Reads summer reading event and advised that it was a collaborative program between

Birdville Independent School District, and the cities of Hurst, Watauga, Haltom City, North Richland Hills, and Richland Hills public libraries with 600 participants this year. She also presented information and pictures from several events including Wild Things Zoofari, Professor Brainius, Richland Hills Literary Society, and Shark in the Dark.

Budget Overview: Special Revenue and Debt Service Funds

Discussion resumed from the Worksession.

Discussion ensued regarding road construction projects and any projects that could be ready to submit in the new fiscal year to Tarrant County for joint completion. The City Council agreed to focus on the design of Magnolia Park.

COMMUNITY INTEREST ITEMS

8. Mayor Pro Tem Bergthold advised of several upcoming events:
- Thursday, August 25, 2022, Surgery and Shot Clinic, Richland Hills Animal Shelter;
 - Thursday, September 8, 2022,
 - Senior Lunch Bunch and Bingo, The Link, 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.;
 - Tarrant County Food Pantry, The Link Parking Lot, 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.;
 - Tuesday, September 13, 2022, Richland Hills Literary Society, Richland Hills Public Library, 6:30 p.m.;
 - Friday, September 17, 2022, Fiesta de Herencia, The Link Plaza;
 - Every Thursday, Coffee Talk, Richland Hills Public Library, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.;
 - 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, Storytime at the library, 6:30 p.m.;
 - August 2022, National Clear the Shelter Event, free adoptions and free registrations for cats and dogs, Richland Hills Animal Shelter; and
 - Tuesday, October 4, 2022, Annual Texas Night Out, see the website for more details on hosting a block party.

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 8:40 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Lindsay Wells, City Secretary

Edward Lopez, Mayor