

**RICHLAND HILLS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12, 2022
MINUTES**

Roll Call:

Council present

Edward Lopez, Mayor
Douglas Knowlton, Place 1
Travis Malone, Place 2
Javier Alvarez, Place 4
G.W. Estep, Place 5

Council absent

Curtis A. Bergthold, Mayor Pro Tem

Staff present

Candice Edmondson, City Manager
Lindsay Wells, City Secretary
James Donovan, 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. **Discuss items listed on tonight's City Council agenda. No action will be taken and each item will be considered during the Regular Session.**
- 4A. ***Approved Ordinance 1457-22 amending Chapter 58, "Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions" of the Richland Hills Code by adding a new Article VII, "Possession of Catalytic Converter".***

Police Chief Kimberly Sylvester presented the item to the City Council and advised that due to a surge in catalytic converter thefts in recent years, staff is requesting Council consider adopting an ordinance which will allow the Police Department to take enforcement action on those in possession of these undocumented precious metals.

On September 1, 2021, Texas H.B. 4110 was enacted to address this issue; however, the bill only addressed those attempting to sell or purchase catalytic converters. H.B. 4410 did not address the more recurring instance where law enforcement encounters those in possession of cut or un-bolted catalytic converters, being the most common method in removing the converters during the theft.

Discussion ensued regarding the maximum fine amount allowed per violation and if being in possession of multiple catalytic converters can be considered separate violations.

4B. *Approved Resolution 564-22 approving and authorizing the City Manager to accept, decline, modify, or cancel grant awards for the purchase of bullet-resistant shields for the Richland Hills Police Department.*

Police Chief Kimberly Sylvester advised that the Governor's Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division recently announced grant opportunities for the purchase of bullet-resistant shields. The Police Department recommends applying for this grant funding to purchase bullet-resistant shields for police vehicles and for the School Resource Officer to house inside the school(s). If approved, the Police Department will request grant funding for the purchase of 17 bullet-resistant shields.

4C. *Approved Resolution 565-22 approving and authorizing the City Manager to accept, decline, modify, or cancel grant awards for ALERRT Travel Assistance for the Richland Hills Police Department.*

Police Chief Kimberly Sylvester advised that the Governor's Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division recently announced grant opportunities to help offset agency-incurred travel costs for sending peace officers to the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) program. The Police Department recommends applying for this grant funding to cover expenses related to the continued training and development of Richland Hills police officers in active shooter response.

Mayor Lopez adjourned the work session at 6:54 p.m.

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE – Mayor Lopez

PRESENTATIONS

1A. 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

Police Chief Kimberly Sylvester

1B. Library Card Sign-Up Month Proclamation

Mayor Lopez read a proclamation declaring September 2022 as “Library Card Sign-Up Month” in Richland Hills and presented it to Library Director Chantele Hancock.

1C. Citizen Appearances/Public Comments

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

2A. Approve minutes from the August 22, 2022 City Council Regular Meeting.

2B. Approved renewal of Funding Interlocal Agreement with Tarrant County for Baker Boulevard Intersections.

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

Motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, MEETINGS, AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

3A. Approved and Adopted the Fiscal Year 2023 Crime Control and Prevention District (CCPD) Budget PUBLIC HEARING

City Manager Candice Edmondson presented the item to the City Council and advised that the Fiscal Year 2023 Crime Control and Prevention District (CCPD) Budget includes estimated revenues in the amount of \$1,801,555 and estimated expenses in the amount of \$1,569,137. The budget also includes implementation of the proposed FY 2023 STEP Plan for public safety personnel, \$12,200 for the Flock Grant Camera System (of which the grant reimburses the district \$9,760 for a net cost of \$2,400), \$31,942 in equipment for active threat/shooter incidents and \$50,000 in transfers for proposed improvements to the law enforcement center. At the end of Fiscal Year 2023, staff projects an ending fund balance of \$872,545. Additionally, the FY 2023 CCPD Budget was approved by the Crime Control and Prevention District at their August 22, 2022 meeting by a vote of 5-0.

Mayor Lopez opened the public hearing at 7:16 p.m. and asked to hear from any proponents followed by opponents of the budget.

Hearing none, Mayor Lopez closed the public hearing at 7:17 p.m.

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Malone and seconded by Councilmember Knowlton to approve the Fiscal Year 2023 Crime Control and Prevention District Budget.

Motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

3B. Fiscal Year 2023 Tax Rate PUBLIC HEARING

City Manager Candice Edmondson presented the item to the City Council and advised that at the August 8, 2022 Council meeting, she presented the proposed FY 2023 General Fund Budget that included a proposed ad valorem tax rate of \$0.538885 per hundred dollars of valuation. Additionally, the City Council approved the FY 2023 /Tax Year 2022 Certified Tax Roll and reviewed the 2022 Tax Rate Calculation Worksheet at the August 8, 2022 meeting. The calculated No-New-Revenue Rate (formerly known as the Effective Tax Rate) is \$0.517570/\$100.

The proposed FY 2023 ad valorem tax rate is lower than the current FY 2022 and previous FY 2021 ad valorem tax rate of \$0.558551 by \$0.019 cents. The FY 2023 allocation of the tax rate is \$0.413628 for Operations and Maintenance that funds General Fund operations and \$0.125257 for Interest and Sinking that funds debt service payments for a total ad valorem tax rate of \$0.538885.

Mayor Lopez opened the public hearing at 7:23 p.m. and asked to hear from any proponents followed by opponents of the budget.

Joyce Fiaccone, 3800 Labadie Drive, Richland Hills, discussed the decrease in the average ad valorem tax bill.

Mayor Lopez closed the public hearing at 7:27 p.m.

3C. Fiscal Year 2023 Budget and Multi-Year Capital Improvement Program PUBLIC HEARING

City Manager Candice Edmondson presented the item to the City Council and advised that the budget summarizes the plan of municipal operations and capital projects for the fiscal year that begins October 1, 2022. The proposed budget was presented to City Council during work sessions on August 8, 2022, and August 22, 2022. The proposed budget consists of several different funds. The FY 2023 Budget includes estimated revenues at \$27,460,571 and expenditures at \$29,036,218 which is a 39 percent increase in revenues and a 44 percent increase in expenditures over the FY 2022 Adopted Budget. The FY 2023 budget is based off a recommended tax rate of \$0.538885 which is \$0.19 cents lower than the previous three years.

Discussion ensued regarding funded and unfunded projects included in the budget and improvements to the Animal Services Center.

Mayor Lopez opened the public hearing at 7:48 p.m. and asked to hear from any proponents followed by opponents of the budget.

Joyce Fiaccone, 3800 Labadie Drive, Richland Hills, inquired if citizen input will be taken for park improvements and expressed concern regarding erosion in Creek Trail Park.

Jenny Clark, 6973 Hardisty Street, Richland Hills, expressed concern regarding flooding issues at the Animal Services Center and was pleased to see that facility as a high priority.

Mayor Lopez closed the public hearing at 7:57 p.m.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

- 4A. Approved Ordinance 1457-22 amending Chapter 58, “Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions” of the Richland Hills Code by adding a new Article VII, “Possession of Catalytic Converter”.**

This item was discussed during the worksession.

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Knowlton and seconded by Councilmember Malone to approve Ordinance 1457-22 amending Chapter 58, “Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions” of the Richland Hills Code by adding a new Article VII, “Possession of Catalytic Converter”.

Discussion ensued regarding including language making the possession of each catalytic converter considered a separate violation.

Motion: Motion was amended by Councilmember Knowlton and seconded by Councilmember Estep to approve Ordinance 1457-22 amending Chapter 58, “Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions” of the Richland Hills Code by adding a new Article VII, “Possession of Catalytic Converter” with the amendment that each individual catalytic converter unlawfully possessed by a person or entity shall constitute a separate and distinct violation.

Motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

- 4B. Approved Resolution 564-22 approving and authorizing the City Manager to accept, decline, modify, or cancel grant awards for the purchase of bullet-resistant shields for the Richland Hills Police Department.**

This item was discussed during the worksession.

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Estep and seconded by Councilmember Malone to approve Resolution 564-22 approving and authorizing the City Manager to accept, decline, modify, or cancel grant awards for the purchase of bullet-resistant shields for the Richland Hills Police Department.

Motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

4C. Approved Resolution 565-22 approving and authorizing the City Manager to accept, decline, modify, or cancel grant awards for ALERRT Travel Assistance for the Richland Hills Police Department.

This item was discussed during the worksession.

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Estep and seconded by Councilmember Knowlton to approve Resolution 565-22 approving and authorizing the City Manager to accept, decline, modify, or cancel grant awards for ALERRT Travel Assistance for the Richland Hills Police Department.

Motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, BID AWARDS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

5A. Approved Managed Services Agreement with TodoVerde, LLC for information technology services and authorized City Manager to sign agreement.

City Manager Candice Edmondson provided a brief overview of the proposed managed services agreement and stated in February, the City of Richland Hills hired Sciens, LLC to assess the City's current information technology environment and provide technology planning services. Based on the results of the assessment and employee feedback, it was determined that the City should consider a different vendor for information technology managed services. The City of Richland Hills has been under a managed services agreement with VersaTrust since 2014. Staff has not been satisfied with the level of service provided by VersaTrust for the past couple of years which prompted the hiring of Sciens to complete a formal assessment and action plan.

Based on the City's information technology needs, Sciens recommended the City consider TodoVerde, LLC as their next managed services provider. TodoVerde has over 25 years of experience in network and telecom services. The City of Richland Hills has previously worked with TodoVerde on several public safety projects as they are a key partner in maintaining the technology systems utilized by our shared services program.

TodoVerde is a member of the TIPS purchasing cooperative which offers competitively procured purchasing contracts that meet all state and local purchasing requirements. If approved, the Managed Services Agreement with TodoVerde will begin on October 1, 2022, for an initial 12 month term.

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Knowlton and seconded by Councilmember Estep to approve Managed Services Agreement with TodoVerde, LLC for information technology services and authorize City Manager to sign agreement.

Motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

6A. None.

REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS

7A. **Fiesta de Herencia.**

Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Brown presented an update regarding the upcoming second annual Fiesta de Herencia celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month event to be held Saturday, September 17, 2022, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. at The Link Plaza. He advised of several food vendors, entertainment options, and community partners. He is looking forward to another fun event.

COMMUNITY INTEREST ITEMS

8. Councilmember Estep advised of several upcoming events:

- Tuesday, September 13, 2022, Richland Hills Literary Society, Richland Hills Public Library, 6:30 p.m.;
- Saturday, September 17, 2022, Fiesta de Herencia, The Link Plaza, 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.;
- Thursday, September 22, 2022, surgery and shot clinic, Richland Hills Animal Shelter;
- Tuesday, October 4, 2022, Annual Texas Night Out, see the website for more details on hosting a block party
- Thursday, August 13, 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.;
- 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.

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 Malone and seconded by Councilmember Estep to adjourn.

Motion carried by a vote of 3-0.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Lopez declared the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Lindsay Wells, City Secretary

Edward Lopez, Mayor