

**RICHLAND HILLS CITY COUNCIL
STATE OF THE CITY
NOVEMBER 15, 2022
MINUTES**

Roll Call:

Council present

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

Council absent

Javier Alvarez, Place 4

Staff present

Candice Edmondson, City Manager
Lindsay Wells, City Secretary

CITY COUNCIL STATE OF THE CITY– 6:21 P.M.

1. Introduction – City Manager Candice Edmondson

City Manager Candice Edmondson welcomed everyone to the first State of the City event held in Richland Hills. She explained that the purpose was to provide an update to the citizens regarding the City's financial strength, upcoming projects and improvements, and community engagement.

Ms. Edmondson introduced the City Council and invited Mayor Edward Lopez to speak.

2. State of the City – Mayor Edward Lopez

Mayor Lopez provided a brief overview of the City's tax revenues, including property tax and sales tax, over the previous 10-year period. He also highlighted the Police and Fire Departments, The Link Recreation Center, and the Public Works Department.

3. FY 2023 Update – Mayor Pro Tem Curtis Bergthold

Mayor Pro Tem Bergthold presented the FY 2023 budget update including the approved tax rate of \$0.538885, which is a 3.5 percent decrease, FY 2023 focus areas of infrastructure improvements, capital investments, economic development, and community engagement. Additionally, he discussed the Comprehensive Plan and the plan to update that document in FY 2023.

Discussion ensued regarding the Comprehensive Plan overview.

4. Infrastructure Improvements – Councilmember Douglas Knowlton

Councilmember Knowlton provided the infrastructure improvement update and advised of completed street reconstruction projects over the previous three years and upcoming FY 2023 street projects. He also advised of water system improvements planned for FY 2023.

Discussion ensued regarding new water meters, ability for citizens to shut off water, and any drainage issues included in the budget.

5. Capital Investments – Councilmember Travis Malone

Councilmember Malone provided an overview of the City’s capital investments including recently completed projects such as The Link Recreation Center, the Fire Station and Law Enforcement Center, and park playgrounds. He also advised of upcoming FY 2023 capital investments including broadband expansion, City Hall improvements, and park development.

Discussion ensued regarding flooding in parks and The Link funding.

6. Economic Development Initiatives – Mayor Pro Tem Curtis Bergthold

Mayor Pro Tem Bergthold provided highlights of the City’s economic development including a 20 percent growth in sales tax in FY 2022 and 58 new businesses have opened in Richland Hills since October 2021. He advised of upcoming developments including the Baker Landing Townhome Development, Richland Crossing Townhome Development, City Market & Café, as well as the Glenview Drive corridor master plan and a building improvement grant program.

Discussion ensued regarding park and median beautification and a business directory.

7. Community Engagement – Councilmember GW Estep

Councilmember Estep unveiled the new branding for the City and the process by how the new brand identity was created. Additionally, he unveiled the City’s newly designed website corresponding with the new branding and announced that it will be launched Thursday, November 17, 2022.

8. Closing – City Manager Candice Edmondson

Mayor Lopez adjourned the State of the City at 8:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Lindsay Wells, City Secretary

Edward Lopez, Mayor