

**RICHLAND HILLS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2021
MINUTES**

Roll Call:

Council present

Edward Lopez, Mayor
Douglas Knowlton, Place 1
Stacey L. Morse, Place 2
Curtis A Bergthold, Mayor Pro Tem
Javier Alvarez, Place 4
Athena Campbell, Place 5

Council absent

Staff present

Candice Edmondson, City Manager
Cathy Bourg, City Secretary

Staff present via Zoom

Betsy Elam, City Attorney

The Regular Session is open to the public and citizens are welcome to attend. However, due to the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in our area and in an effort to abide by social distancing recommendations, we encourage citizens wishing to participate in the meeting to email your comment to City Secretary Cathy Bourg at cbourg@richlandhills.com by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 11th. Your comment will be read aloud during Item 1A *Citizen Appearances/Public Comments*. If you would like to join and participate in the meeting by video conference or phone, you may do so via the following options:

- **Online via Zoom:** Go to zoom.us, Join a Meeting, and enter Meeting ID 852 6553 1234 and the host will allow you to enter the virtual meeting. The host will ask you what item you would like to speak on, and you will be called upon when that item is presented to address the City Council.
- **By Phone:** Please call (346) 248-7799 and enter Meeting ID 852 6553 1234 and provide your name and address. The host will ask you what item you would like to speak on, and you will be called upon when that item is presented to address the City Council.

REGULAR SESSION – Mayor Lopez Called to Order – Time 6:00 p.m.

Invocation – Mayor Lopez

1. PRESENTATIONS

A. Citizen Appearances/Public Comments

Citizen comments emailed to Cathy Bourg (cbourg@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 December 14, 2020 City Council Regular Meeting

2B. Approve Resolution 531-21 authorizing participation in the 791 Purchasing Cooperative offered by the Region 15 Education Service Center

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Campbell 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. FY 2022 Budget Public Forum

Candice Edmondson, City Manager presented information regarding the FY 2022 Budget Public Form. The City Charter states the following: "In January, the City Council will hold a Public Forum for the express purpose of obtaining citizen comments on items they would like to see included or considered in the budget for the upcoming year."

Mayor Lopez opened the floor to anyone wishing to speak in the Public Forum. There were no speakers.

City Council discussed the following budget items:

- Purchasing limit report
- Animal Shelter
- Sales Tax Revenue
- CARES Funds
- COVID-19 ongoing cost and tracking
- Hiring/Staffing needs for Police, Fire and Public Works
- Vehicle Purchases
- Budget Work Session in March
- Street Fund

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

4A. None

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, BID AWARDS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

5A. None

OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

6A. None

REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS

7A. New Integrated Library System and Consortium

Chantel Hancock, Library Director gave a report on the new Integrated Library System and Consortium.

For over 20 years, the MetrOPAC has functioned as a consortium ultimately consisting of the public libraries of Benbrook, Burleson, Fort Worth, Haltom City, Keller, Richland Hills and Watauga. In FY 2020, Manya Shorr, Fort Worth Public Library Director, announced the MetrOPAC contract required changes to reflect a service provider model rather than a true consortium. All participating libraries would be required to match their lending policies (check out times and limits, fees, reserves, etc.) with Fort Worth policies, the courier schedule would be determined by Fort Worth, and the cost for administration and maintenance of the ILS and courier fees most likely would increase. In essence, the Richland Hills Public Library and any other libraries remaining in the MetrOPAC would lose their autonomy and function as a branch of FWPL. Benbrook withdrew from the MetrOPAC effective November 2020. For the above reasons, the five (5) remaining libraries asked for additional time to research possible alternatives to remaining in the MetrOPAC. A one-year agreement extension was signed to allow the libraries time to vet possible options.

After extensive research and discussion, the libraries ultimately decided to go with creating a new consortium without Fort Worth and with the addition of the Forest Hill Public Library using Koha. Koha is one of the fastest growing ILS systems in Texas, which will make partnering with more libraries easier and less expensive. There are several public libraries in the area that use Koha, and a few have expressed interest in this new consortium. Also, it is easier to use, can be customized differently for each library and has a reputation for great customer service. Of the other four (4) ILSs examined, Polaris and TLC are much more expensive. Apollo and Evergreen are similar in price to Koha but did not meet the individual libraries' needs as well. Additionally, the North Richland Hills

Library recently made a change from Evergreen to Koha. They have expressed an interest in eventually joining this new consortium and that possibility makes Koha the most attractive option especially for Richland Hills, Haltom City and Watauga.

8. COMMUNITY INTEREST ITEMS

- Link Membership Sale - Purchase your discounted Link membership thru January 15 to begin the new year with a new you! You can get savings up to \$198 on an annual paid in full membership.
- Senior Lunch Bunch Curbside - Thursday, January 14; 12 noon – 1 PM; The Link Parking Lot. Free for seniors 55 and older. Advanced registration is required, and spots are limited. Times are 12 noon to 12:30 PM or 12:30 PM to 1PM.
- Tarrant County Food Pantry - Thursday, January 14; 5:30 PM – 7PM; The Link Parking Lot, free groceries for any Tarrant County resident provided curbside at The Link's parking lot. Sponsored by Trinity Point Church.
- Nailed It Baking Challenge - To participate stop by the library Jan. 12th-15th to pick up your materials (picture, cake mix, icing, decorating supplies and pans). Then go home and bake! Take a picture of your cake that you've re-created and upload it to Facebook or Instagram and tag us @richlandhillspubliclibrary by Jan. 19th at 8PM. The winner will be chosen on Jan. 26th!
- Weekly Library Video Schedule - Wednesday: Youtube Storytime @ 11am; Friday: Youtube Activity Time @ 10am; Friday: Facebook Live Craft Time @ 4pm
- AARP Free Tax Help - We are currently taking appointments. More info will be provided from the AARP closer to the appointment date regarding in-person or curbside service.
- Free Craft Kits for kids - New kits every week with different themes. Stop by the library and pick one up. Tuesday – Friday 9a -8p
- Free Home Delivery - We offer free porch drop of library items to Richland Hills residents in the city limits. Call the library and ask for Anne or Chantele to schedule.
- Vax Shack at the Animal Shelter – 4th Thursday of each month
- Tarrant County Public Health COVID-19 Vaccination Efforts – The Hurst Conference Center will open as a vaccination site on Tuesday, January 12th and will provide vaccines to approximately 2,000 per day. Individuals must register for vaccination through the county and meet the county's criteria. (First Responders, Health Care Workers, be 65 years or older, be 16 years or older with underlying health issues). Arlington will also be opening a distribution site.

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

10. A motion was made by Councilmember Morse and seconded by Councilmember Bergthold 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 6:30 p.m.

ATTEST

Cathy Bourg, City Secretary

APPROVED

Edward Lopez, Mayor