

**RICHLAND HILLS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 8, 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

Council absent

Athena Campbell, Place 5

Staff present

Candice Edmondson, City Manager
Cathy Bourg, City Secretary

Staff present via Zoom

Betsy Elam, City Attorney

The Work Session and 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, February 8th. 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 875 3155 5537 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 875 3155 5537 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.

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION – 6:00 PM

1. **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). Refer to posted list attached hereto and incorporated herein.**

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Knowlton and seconded by Councilmember Bergthold to convene into executive session. Time: 6:01 p.m.

Motion carried by a vote of 4-0. Councilmember Campbell absent

2. Discuss items and presentations listed on tonight's City Council Agenda.

None

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

Stacy Reddy, 7012 Hardisty Street introduced herself and announced she is running for City Council Place 1.

CONSENT AGENDA

2A. Approve minutes from the January 25, 2020 City Council Regular Meeting

2B. Resolution 532-21 calling the May 1, 2021 General Election for City Council Place 1, Place 3 and Place 5.

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

Motion carried by a vote of 4-0. Councilmember Campbell absent

PUBLIC HEARINGS, MEETINGS, AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

3A. None

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

4A. None

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, BID AWARDS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

5A. None

OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

6A. Consider approval of electronic sign request for the 7-Eleven located at 2625 Handley Ederville Road

Candice Edmondson, City Manager presented the approval of an approval of electronic sign request for the 7-Eleven located at 2625 Handley Ederville Road. The new 7-Eleven currently under construction and scheduled to open at the end of May has submitted a request for a digital price sign. The proposed sign is a freestanding ground sign measuring 25" OAH by 9'6 1/2" wide. The fuel price sign is approximately 8' x 8' with 20" digits to display fuel pricing. Price changes push to the price sign at the same time they change at the pump, eliminating any price discrepancies. The digits are SMD (surface mounted) and are flatter than the typical LED bulb. They provide a greater viewing angle and are dimmable.

As required in Chapter 62, Sec. 173 of the City's Code of Ordinances, electronic signs must be approved by the City Council. Staff has reviewed the proposal and confirmed the sign meets all city ordinance requirements.

Travis Malone, 2641 Mimosa Park Drive spoke in favor of the request.

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Alvarez and seconded by Councilmember Knowlton to approve the electronic sign request for the 7-Eleven located at 2625 Handley Ederville Road.

Motion carried by a vote of 4-0. Councilmember Campbell absent

REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS

7A. Richland Hills Police Department 2020 Racial Profiling Report

Kim Sylvester, Police Chief present the Richland Hills Police Department 2020 Racial Profiling Report. The Department contracts with Dr. Alex del Carmen who analyzes, reviews, conducts quarterly audits throughout the year and prepares the annual racial profiling report. He is an expert in the field and trains across the country.

The 2020 report indicated that the Richland Hills Police Department is in compliance with all mandated requirements of the law and there were no reported concerns of the data analyzed that resulted from motor vehicle stops in 2020.

7B. City of Richland Hills 2020 ISO Evaluation

Russel Shelley, Fire Chief presented the City of Richland Hills 2020 ISO Evaluation. The City received its initial notice of fire protection rating change in early November, followed by official documentation from ISO in late November. After staff reviewed the findings of the evaluation, they were accepted as accurate and correct for all areas reviewed. Final notice of ISO protection class improvement was received on December 18, 2020 from the Texas Department of Insurance and the State Fire Marshal's Office. The fire protection classification for the City has improved from a Class 4 to a Class 2. This is the second-best rating a community can receive from the ISO. The new rating will go into effect on May 1, 2021.

A fire protection rating of Class 2 could result in a reduction in the fire insurance portion of a Richland Hills resident's homeowner's insurance at their next renewal. This potential reduction in insurance costs does not apply to our business property owners. A Class 1 rating is required for similar reductions to potentially be available to our business owners. As a Class 2 fire department, Richland Hills FD will be in the top 343 fire departments of the 2,849 in Texas that currently hold an ISO rating. Richland Hills was only 6.5 points away from a Class 1 ISO rating. ISO identified areas where improvements could be made in order for the department to receive a Class 1 rating in the future.

7C. Legislative Update

Candice Edmondson, City Manager presented the legislative update. On December 14, 2020 the City Council approved Resolution 530-20 supporting passage of legislation during the 87th Texas Legislature to allow for the expenditure of municipal hotel occupancy tax revenue to construct improvements in municipal parks. Since that time, staff has been working with the City Attorney on a draft bill to present to the Legislature. The draft bill has been presented to Senator Kelly Hancock and Representative Stephanie Klick in hopes that they will support the passage of the bill.

Staff has met with Sanjiv Melwani, owner of the La Quinta and Fairfield Inn & Suites in Richland Hills, to discuss the proposed bill. He is very supportive of any efforts the City plans to take to increase visitors and tourism, including the construction of sports and entertainment venues in Creek Trail Park.

If the proposed bill was approved by the Texas Legislature, hotel occupancy tax revenue collected by the City could be used to construct, operate and maintain multiuse sports and entertainment venues in a City park.

Betsy Elam, City Attorney explained the next steps for the process.

7D. City Council Budget Workshop Dates

Candice Edmondson, City Manager presented potential dates for a City Council Workshop which will kick-off the Fiscal Year 2022 budget process. The intent of the workshop is to identify and discuss Council priorities for the next fiscal year. Staff would

recommend considering dates outside of a normal Council meeting to allow dedicated time for this discussion. The workshop could be held during the day or in the evening and would be conducted as a public meeting.

Council discussed the proposed dates and recommended having the Workshop on Saturday, March 27th. Council made suggestions on ways to provide the public with information about the Workshop.

COMMUNITY INTEREST ITEMS

- Senior Lunch Bunch Curbside - Thursday, February 11; 12 noon – 1 PM; The Link Parking Lot
 - Beep Beep Bingo - Cancelled this Thursday, February 11th due to inclement weather
 - Tarrant County Food Pantry - Thursday, February 11; 5:30 PM – 7PM; The Link Parking Lot
 - Hippy Hop Car Stop - Saturday, March 27, 9 AM – 11:30 AM; The Link Parking Lot. Resident registration is now open. Advanced registration is required and spaces are limited. Registration is free. Registration opens for non-residents this Saturday.
 - Vax Shack at the Animal Shelter – 4th Thursday of each month
 - May 2021 General Election – Early Voting begins April 19th and shall continue until April 27th. Early voting by personal appearance shall be held at Tarrant County Vote Centers. Election Day is May 1st and will be held at the Richland Hills City Hall and at any Tarrant County Vote Center from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
8. **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

9. **A motion was made by Councilmember Morse and seconded by Councilmember Bergthold to adjourn.**

Motion carried by a vote of 4-0. Councilmember Campbell absent

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Lopez declared the meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

ATTEST

Cathy Bourg, City Secretary

APPROVED

Edward Lopez, Mayor