

**RICHLAND HILLS CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP
MARCH 26, 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

Staff present

Candice Edmondson, City Manager
Cathy Bourg, City Secretary
Logan Thatcher, Assistant to the City Manager
Scott Mitchell, Director of Neighborhood Services
Jason Brown, Director of Parks and Recreation
Chantele Hancock, Library Director
Kim Sylvester, Police Chief
Russell Shelley, Fire Chief

The City Council Workshop 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 workshop to email your comment to City Secretary Cathy Bourg at cbourg@richlandhills.com by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 25th. Your comment will be read aloud during Item 2 *Public Comments*.

Some members of the City Council may be unable to attend and will be participating by video conference or phone. If you would like to join and participate in the workshop 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 819 8163 9993 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 819 8163 9993 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 WORKSHOP– 9:00 AM

1. Call to order

Mayor Lopez called the Workshop to order at 9:04 a.m.

2. Public Comments

This is the public's opportunity to address the City Council on any matter listed or not listed on the Workshop agenda. Citizen comments emailed to Cathy Bourg (cbourg@richlandhills.com) on an item either listed or not listed on the Workshop agenda will be heard at this time.

Stacy Reddy, 7012 Hardisty Street spoke against budgeting for the Aquatics Facility Program. She would like to see the focus on FY 2022 Budget Priorities which should be first and foremost an engineering master plan for streets that will create a comprehensive plan to get streets done instead of band-aiding one or two at a time based on a 2018 survey of the worst streets in the city. Ms. Reddy would also like to see the city invest in IT and spoke about the importance of cyber security protection for the city. Her final comment was to see the city focusing on the basics and upgrading our well pumps and infrastructure, so that we are not reliant on the City of Fort Worth for water.

3. Discussion: FY 2021 Midyear Review

Candice Edmondson, City Manager gave a presentation on the FY 2021 Midyear Review. She discussed the YTD actuals, available budget and percentage of YTD total budget spent being around 32%. There was discussion regarding the budget and staff answered questions from Council.

Cindy Gillard, 3709 Norton Drive spoke regarding street conditions and employee healthcare.

City Manager Edmondson highlighted the following:

Accomplishments

- Police Station Project
- Branding & Marketing RFP
- Amended TIF Plan
- Nixle Communication System
- Hike & Bike Trail
- Creek Trail Park Playground
- Hotel Occupancy Tax Legislation

On the Horizon

- Street Improvement Projects
- Animal Shelter Improvements
- Electronic Message Sign
- Rufe Snow Signal Improvements
- Water System Improvements
- Website Improvements
- Facade & Sign Improvements Grants
- American Relief Plan

Sherry Hopson, 2800 Faye Drive spoke regarding past street repairs on Matthews sinking and asked how this will be prevented in the future.

Stacy Reddy, 7012 Hardisty Street asked for clarification on whether the City has an engineering master plan for streets or not.

Council and staff answered questions from citizens regarding street and underground utility repairs and provided clarification on an engineering master plan for streets.

Cindy at 3709 Norton Drive asked about minutes for the meeting and staff directed her to the City's website to view the video and minutes of the workshop and all other meetings.

4. Discussion: Financial Indicators

Candice Edmondson, City Manager gave a presentation on the Financial Trend Monitoring System developed by the International City/County Management Association. She presented the following indicators that she would like to propose Richland Hills consider utilizing as part of a financial wellness checks:

Financial Factors

- Revenues per capita
- Restricted revenues
- One time revenues
- Tax revenues
- Uncollected property taxes
- User charge coverage
- Expenditures per capita
- Expenditures by function
- Fixed costs
- Operating deficit/surplus
- Enterprise operating position
- Fund balances
- Liquidity
- Current liabilities
- Long term debt
- Debt service
- Maintenance effort
- Capital outlay

Environmental Factors

- Population
- Population under 18 and over 64
- Property value
- Vacancy rates
- Crime rates
- Mandated activities
- Restrictions on fiscal powers

City Manager Edmonson will create suggested policy statements for each indicator that the Council could adopt and include as part of the City's Financial Policy. These indicators would be used to help monitor the city's financial condition and guide future budgetary decisions and allocations.

Council provided positive feedback regarding implementing the financial trend monitoring system and policy statements for financial indicators.

Stacy Reddy, 7012 Hardisty Street spoke in favor of the financial trend monitoring system.

5. Discussion: Economic Development

Candice Edmondson, City Manager gave a presentation on Economic Development and the current Comprehensive Plan adopted May 2014 and discussed a full review and update.

Council discussed having joint meetings with the Planning and Zoning Commission and review the Comprehensive Plan. Council suggested going section by section instead of a full review.

Council discussed possible new businesses to the Entertainment District (ED).

G.W. Estep, 6868 Hardisty Street would like to see the City consider something like a miniature Texas Live in the ED area.

Stacy Reddy, 7012 Hardisty Street spoke regarding updating the City's liquor sales.

City Manager Edmondson discussed alcohol sales currently allowed in Richland Hills and the possibility of a package store.

6. Discussion: Aquatics Facility Program Options & Funding

Candice Edmondson, City Manager gave a presentation on the Aquatics Facility Program Options & Funding.

Council discussed the feasibility study and feedback received from the community survey. The online survey received 254 total responses. While 35% of the respondents are current members of The Link, over 90% of the total respondents indicated an aquatic center (indoor or outdoor) would increase their likelihood of joining The Link.

Councilman-Hunsaker developed four conceptual program options – two indoor-only options, one indoor/outdoor option and one outdoor-only option. The options for an addition and the project cost have been studied that include the following:

- Indoor Lap + Program \$6.84M
- Indoor Lap + Leisure \$7.50M
- Indoor Lap + Outdoor Leisure \$7.48M
- Outdoor Lap + Leisure \$4.68M

Stacy Redding, 7012 Hardisty Street spoke regarding investment in an entertainment center, negotiating with NRH and Hurst to get discounted membership for citizens and the unknown factor of insurance.

Cindy Gillard, 3709 Norton Drive spoke regarding insurance for the pool.

Mayor called for a break at 10:50 a.m.

Mayor called to order at 10:56 a.m.

John Skier, 7016 Park Place Drive spoke regarding having an indoor facility for education, exercise and sports with six lanes for tournament use and adding an outdoor pool in the future.

Stacy Redding, 7012 Hardisty Street asked about other Olympic pools in the area and an advertising budget.

G.W. Estep, 6868 Hardisty Street asked what BISD is paying Grapevine to use their pool.

Jason Brown, Director of Parks and Recreation answered questions from citizens and council.

Council and staff continued the discussion that included revenue and funding options.

7. Discussion: FY 2022 Budget Priorities

Logan Thatcher, Assistant to the City Manager presented the results of the Budget Survey. The survey that was posted on the website and social media received just under 300 responses. The questions and results are as follows:

1. Based on the City's service areas, which area do you think meets the needs of the community the best? Animal Services received the highest response with 78% and Code Enforcement received the lowest with 9%
2. Based on the City's service areas, which area do you think needs the most improvement? Streets/Drainage received the highest response with 184% and Animal Services and Fire Services received the lowest with 5%
3. What is the one thing the City of Richland Hills could do to improve the quality of life? Top common responses: Streets, Water/Wastewater, Police Patrol, Economic Development and Code Enforcement
4. Age of Respondents: 18-24 (7), 25-34 (56), 35-54 (57), 45-54 (51), 55-64 (69) and 65+ (65)
5. How many years have you lived in Richland Hills? 0-5 (83), 5-10 (56), 10-20 (73), 20-30 (35), 30-40 (24), 40-50 (17) and 50+ (17)

Council discussed FY 2022 budget priorities and highlighted the following items:

- Public Works Buildings
- Fire Department Staff
- K-9 Unit
- Quiet Zones for Trains
- Sound Walls along 121
- Commercial Incentives
- Zip Code

G.W. Estep, 6868 Hardisty Street spoke in favor of the City having its own zip code.

Stacy Redding, 7012 Hardisty Street spoke in favor of generators in the well upgrade.

8. Tour of Fire Station and Police Station

Mayor and City Council departed to tour the Fire Station and Police Station at 11:52 a.m.

Councilmember Alvarez left the Workshop/Tour at 12:34 p.m.

9. Adjournment

Mayor Lopez adjourned the Workshop at 1:04 p.m.

ATTEST

APPROVED

Cathy Bourg, City Secretary

Edward Lopez, Mayor