

**RICHLAND HILLS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 13, 2023
MINUTES**

Roll Call:

Council present

Edward Lopez, Mayor
G.W. Estep, Mayor Pro Tem
Douglas Knowlton, Place 1
Travis Malone, Place 2
Theresa Bledsoe, Place 3
Javier Alvarez, Place 4
Roland Goveas, Place 6

Council absent

Staff present

Candice Edmondson, City Manager
Lindsay Rawlinson, 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.

1. Section 551.071: Consultation with Attorney

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Knowlton and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Estep to adjourn into Executive Session at 6:02 p.m.

Motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Mayor Lopez reconvened into open session at 6:15 p.m.

2. Discuss proposed water tank maintenance program

Director of Public Works and Capital Projects Kip Dernovich advised that in FY 2023, Public Works staff were notified of some repairs and maintenance that would be required for the Rena Water Tank. Quotes were requested and an estimate of \$300,000 was established. This amount was placed in the FY 2024 Utility Fund budget for full rehabilitation of the water tank.

In September 2023, Maguire Iron Incorporated presented a proposal to staff for a 10 year, turn-key water tank maintenance service plan. The plan would provide annual preventive maintenance to all water towers and tanks within the City's water system (paint, protective coatings, chemical washes, inspections, etc.) The City's water system is made up of two elevated water towers and five above ground storage tanks.

Mr. Dernovich introduced Maguire Iron, Inc. Southern Region Sales Manager Jack Powell who provided an overview of the maintenance program.

Mr. Dernovich next introduced Sales Representative Roxana Bagwell who provided statistics regarding Maguire Iron, Inc and their tank maintenance division.

3. Introduction of Mental Health Coordinator Candace Hadnot

Police Chief Kimberly Sylvester introduced Candace Hadnot, who joined the cities of Richland Hills, Haltom City, and Watauga as the team's Mental Health Coordinator on September 11, 2023.

Ms. Hadnot provided a brief overview of her background including with Child Protective Services and the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office and discussed the programs and services available to the community.

4. Discuss items listed on tonight's City Council agenda. No action will be taken and each item will be considered during the Regular Session.

None.

Mayor Lopez adjourned the work session at 6:43 p.m.

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE – Councilmember Knowlton

PRESENTATIONS

1A. Citizen Appearances/Public Comments

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

2A. Approved minutes from the October 23, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting

2B. Approved Interlocal Agreement with Tarrant County Public Health for food establishment and public swimming pool and spa inspection program services

- 2C. Approved Resolution 585-23 adopting Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Special Specification 6505 “LED Internally Lighted Street Name Signs” policy and guidelines**
- 2D. Approved renewal of Managed Services Agreement with TodoVerde, LLC for information technology services and authorize City Manager to sign agreement**

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Malone and seconded by Councilmember Goveas to approve the consent agenda.

Motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, MEETINGS, AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

- 3. None**

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

- 4A. Approved Ordinance 1490-23 appointing the Judge and Associate Judges of the Richland Hills Municipal Court**

City Manager Candice Edmondson introduced the item to the City Council and advised that the Municipal Court Judge and Associate Judges serve two-year terms and their current terms will expire December 31, 2023. Municipal Court Judge J. Stewart Bass and Associate Judge Lorraine Irby have both expressed their desire to be reappointed to their positions and Associate Judge Wendy Cooper submitted her resignation from her position. Bonnie Wolf is seeking appointment as Associate Judge to replace Judge Cooper.

Judge J. Stewart Bass expressed his appreciation to the City Council for their support and consideration and confirmed his support of Bonnie Wolf as Associate Judge. He stated that he is pleased to work with the staff in Richland Hills.

Motion: Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Estep and seconded by Councilmember Goveas to approve Ordinance 1490-23 reappointing J. Stewart Bass as Municipal Court Judge and Lorraine Irby as Associate Municipal Court Judge for two-year terms to expire December 31, 2025, and to appoint Bonnie Wolf, Associate Municipal Court Judge, for a two-year term to expire December 31, 2025.

Motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

4B. Approved Resolution 586-23 casting the City of Richland Hills' allocated votes in the election of the Tarrant Appraisal District Board of Directors

City Manager Candice Edmondson introduced the item to the City Council and advised that the current two-year terms of the five voting members of the Tarrant Appraisal District Board of Directors will expire on December 31, 2023. All taxing units in the County are allotted a certain number of votes based on the population that they represent. The City of Richland Hills has up to four votes to cast. These votes may be cast in any way the City Council deems appropriate.

Daniel Bennett, 408 Pemberton Street, White Settlement, Texas, expressed his support for candidate Gary Losada and encouraged the City Council to dedicate the City's votes to Mr. Losada.

Discussion ensued regarding the candidates presented and Council agreed to allocate one vote each to four separate candidates: Alan Blaylock, Rich DeOtte, Gary Losada, and Vince Puente, Sr.

Motion: Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Estep and seconded by Councilmember Knowlton to approve Resolution 586-23 casting the City of Richland Hills' allocated votes in the election of the Tarrant Appraisal District Board of Directors with one vote each for Alan Blaylock, Rich DeOtte, Gary Losada, and Vince Puente, Sr.

Motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, BID AWARDS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS**5A. Tabled agreement with Cary Services for HVAC improvements at the Law Enforcement Center and authorize City Manager to sign agreement**

Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Brown introduced the item to the City Council and advised that during the recent renovation at the Law Enforcement Center, changes were made to the existing HVAC system as a part of general improvements to the building. Some of the changes included removing one RTU and replacing another RTU. It also included new duct work designed to move air to different parts of the building. The new HVAC has not performed as intended and issues include significant condensation on the ceiling tiles and an extreme imbalance in temperatures throughout the building.

Cary Services has provided a proposal to reconfigure the HVAC system and provided a cost estimate of \$87,465. \$81,288 in funding was included in the FY2024 Crime Control and Prevention District (CCPD) for the project as well as \$6,272 remaining in tax notes used for the Law Enforcement Center renovation that can be utilized.

Discussion ensued regarding the history of upgrades to the building, the need to test the system during summertime when the unit is working at its greatest capacity, and previously expended repair funds.

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Malone and seconded by Councilmember Goveas to table consideration of an agreement with Cary Services for HVAC improvements at the Law Enforcement Center in the amount of \$87,465 until the November 20, 2023 Special Called City Council meeting.

Motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

5B. Approved insurance benefit renewal with United Healthcare for annual Group Medical Insurance and MetLife for annual Life, Voluntary Life and Disability Insurance and consider new insurance benefits with Guardian for Dental and Vision Insurance for calendar year 2024

City Manager Candice Edmondson provided a brief overview of bids received for medical insurance renewal beginning January 1, 2024. Following negotiations, United Healthcare (UHC), the City's current provider, was selected and is a 0.06 percent decrease compared to current medical benefits. Ms. Edmondson advised that the City will move to Guardian for dental benefits and will remain with MetLife for basic life, voluntary life, and disability insurance. The total estimated cost to the City for providing the UHC group medical insurance, Guardian dental and MetLife life and disability insurance is \$709,764. This includes paying the employee only portion for medical and dental benefits and contributing 50 percent towards dependent medical coverage. Vision insurance would continue to be a voluntary benefit paid by the employee.

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Goveas and seconded by Councilmember Knowlton to approve insurance benefit renewal with United Healthcare for annual Group Medical Insurance and MetLife for annual Life, Voluntary Life and Disability Insurance and approve new insurance benefits with Guardian for Dental and Vision Insurance for calendar year 2024.

Motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

6A. Accepted resignation of Judge Wendy Cooper from the Teen Court Advisory Board and consider appointment of Judge Bonnie Wolf to the Teen Court Advisory Board

City Secretary Lindsay Rawlinson advised that the City of Richland Hills is a member of the Northeast Tarrant Teen Court (NETTC) along with the cities of North Richland Hills and Watauga. Richland Hills dissolved the City's Teen Court Advisory Board in October 2013 and joined the regional Teen Court program administered through North Richland

Hills. An Interlocal Agreement to formally join the NETTC was entered into on October 1, 2017, and part of the Agreement requires Richland Hills to provide a Teen Court Board Member and Teen Court Judge to serve.

Judge Wendy Cooper has served as a Teen Court Advisory Board Member and Teen Court Judge continually since June 14, 2005, first as a member of the Richland Hills Teen Court Advisory Board and later for the Northeast Tarrant Teen Court as the City's representative. Judge Cooper submitted her letter of resignation on August 31, 2023.

Judge Bonnie Wolf has agreed to serve on the Northeast Tarrant Teen Court Board as the City's representative and Teen Court Judge.

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Goveas and seconded by Councilmember Knowlton to accept the resignation of Judge Wendy Cooper from the Teen Court Advisory Board and appointment Judge Bonnie Wolf to the Teen Court Advisory Board.

Motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS

7A. Trailer parking on public streets

City Manager Candice Edmondson introduced the item and advised that Councilmembers have expressed concern regarding trailers parked on public streets.

Discussion ensued regarding low visibility of certain trailers, narrow streets, recreational vehicles, and residents utilizing trailers for work.

Chief Kimberly Sylvester and Captain Scott Russell provided background information on current zoning regulations.

COMMUNITY INTEREST ITEMS

8. Mayor Pro Tem Estep advised of several upcoming events:

- November 1 through 30, Veterans Wall of Honor, The Link;
- Tuesday, November 14, 2023,
 - State of the City meeting, The Link, 6:00 p.m.;
 - Richland Hills Literary Club, Public Library, 6:30 p.m.; and
- Thursday, November 16, 2023, NANOWRIMO Write-In, Public Library, 5:00 p.m.
- Friday, December 1, 2023, Christmas Tree Lighting, The Link Plaza, 6:00 p.m.;
- Thursday, December 14, 2023,
 - Senior Lunch Bunch and Bingo, The Link, 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.;
 - Tarrant County Food Pantry, The Link parking lot, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.;
- Every Thursday, Coffee Talk, Public Library, 10:00 to 11:30 a.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 Mayor Pro Tem Estep to adjourn.

Motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Lopez declared the meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Lindsay Rawlinson, City Secretary

Edward Lopez, Mayor