

**RICHLAND HILLS CITY COUNCIL
STATE OF THE CITY
NOVEMBER 14, 2023
MINUTES**

Roll Call:

Council present

Edward Lopez, Mayor
GW 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

CITY COUNCIL STATE OF THE CITY– 6:09 P.M.

1. Introduction – City Manager Candice Edmondson

City Manager Candice Edmondson welcomed everyone to the second annual 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 accomplishments of each City department over the last year.

3. Policy Goals & Priorities – Mayor Pro Tem GW Estep

Mayor Pro Tem Estep presented the results of the citizens survey that was conducted in January 2023 which asked residents to prioritize City services and benefits they care about most as well as rating current services and benefits. He explained that the results of the survey helped form the City's newly adopted Strategic Plan by identifying the issues and values important to the citizens.

4. FY 2024 Update – Councilmember Roland Goveas

Councilmember Goveas presented the FY 2024 budget update including the approved tax rate of \$0.522689, which is a 1.6 cent decrease over FY 2023. FY 2024 focus areas of include quality workforce, infrastructure improvements, capital investments, economic development, and community engagement.

5. 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 2024 street projects. He also advised of water system improvements planned for FY 2023.

6. Development Projects – Councilmember Travis Malone

Councilmember Malone provided an overview of the City's projects in development including the Glenview Drive Corridor Master Plan, a Comprehensive Plan update, a Building Improvement Grant program, residential development and new commercial development such as City Market & Café and Q Car Wash.

7. Capital Investments – Councilmember Javier Alvarez

Councilmember Alvarez presented the City's Capital Investments that have been approved and are in various stages of work and completion including improvements at the Animal Services Center, installation of a restroom/pavilion and expanded parking at Kate Baker Park, a trailhead on the hike & bike trail, and a Council Chamber and Conference Room upgrade at City Hall.

8. Community Engagement – Councilmember Theresa Bledsoe

Councilmember Bledsoe expressed the importance of community engagement to the City and advised of several available community notification tools, volunteer opportunities in the City, and discussed the 75th Anniversary Committee that has begun discussions for a grand celebration in September 2025 celebrating Richland Hills' 75th birthday.

9. Closing – Mayor Edward Lopez

Mayor Lopez adjourned the State of the City at 7:56p.m.

ATTEST:**APPROVED:**

Lindsay Rawlinson, City Secretary

Edward Lopez, Mayor