

**RICHLAND HILLS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 25, 2024
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
Roland Goveas, Place 6

Council absent

Javier Alvarez, Place 4

Staff present

Candice Edmondson, City Manager
Lindsay Rawlinson, City Secretary
James Donovan, City Attorney

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION – 6:33 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.

None.

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

7C. February Department Reports

Director of Planning and Development Services JP Ducay presented the Development update and advised of items including the status of the Baker Landing and Richland Crossing developments.

Library Director Chantele Hancock provided the Library update and advised that public participation at the library including visitors, program attendance, and items checked out are nearing pre-Covid numbers.

Director of Public Works and Capital Projects Kip Dernovich presented the Public Works Department update and advised that 138 potholes were repaired in February 2024 and the Animal Shelter and Latham Drainage Channel project are nearing completion.

7A. Street Improvement Projects

Director of Public Works and Capital Projects Kip Dernovich provided the street improvement projects update and advised of progress on the Magnolia Park (Mimosa Park to Rosebud Lane) street improvements as well as the timeline for FY2024 Street Design proposed timeline.

Mayor Lopez adjourned the work session at 7:01 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION – Mayor Lopez Called to Order – Time 7:02 p.m.**INVOCATION AND PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE – Mayor Lopez****PRESENTATIONS****1A. Business Spotlight: Elite Roofing & Solar**

Director of Planning & Development Services JP Ducay introduced Eric Medina, owner of Elite Roofing & Solar located at 6821 Baker Blvd (Suite E). They received their Certificate of Occupancy on October 11, 2023.

1B. Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation

Mayor Lopez read a proclamation declaring April 2024, as “Child Abuse Prevention Month” in Richland Hills and presented the proclamation to Kristin Lockwood with Alliance for Children.

Ms. Lockwood expressed her appreciation to the City Council for the proclamation and spoke briefly about the mission and goals of Alliance for Children.

1C. Employee Service Award

Firefighter/Paramedic Bryan Brindley was unable to attend the meeting to receive his 5-year service award and will be rescheduled on a future agenda.

1D. Citizen Appearances/Public Comments

John Skier, 7016 Park Place, Richland Hills, expressed his preference for the gym equipment at The Link to be on a replacement schedule and inquired about the maintenance on the newly installed generators.

CONSENT AGENDA**2A. Approved minutes from the March 11, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting****2B. Approved Tarrant County Interlocal Agreement (Norton Drive)**

2C. Excused the absence of Councilmember Javier Alvarez from the March 25, 2024 regular City Council meeting

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

Motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, MEETINGS, AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

3A. Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Public Forum

City Manager Candace Edmondson advised that the FY 2025 budget process will begin in April and, before that process begins, City Council and staff are seeking citizen input on projects or initiatives that should be considered as budget priorities for the next fiscal year.

Mary Sullivan, 2724 Spruce Park Drive, Richland Hills, inquired about installing a welcome sign on the south side of the City to provide a greater entrance to the City.

Curtis Bergthold, 3641 Scruggs Drive, Richland Hills, discussed the City's monument signs and a desire to see the new City branding, expressed the need for a full time inspector, striping of thoroughfares, a pavement sealing program, utility pipe bursting, and a grant writer.

Discussion ensued regarding funding additional fire personnel, adding the City branding to utility boxes and street signs, and public art.

Jenny Clark, 6973 Hardisty, Richland Hills, expressed the need for greater residential lighting and stated that she loves the newly painted Rena water tank.

Discussion ensued regarding lighting the water towers and changing street lights to LEDs.

Glen Terry, 2910 Spruce Park Drive, Richland Hills, expressed a preference for street sweeping to be more thorough.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

4. None.

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, BID AWARDS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

5. None.

OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

6. None.

REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS**7A. Street Improvement Projects**

Item was discussed during worksession.

7B. Calloway Creek Discussion

Director of Public Works and Capital Projects Kip Dernovich presented the item to the City Council and advised that Calloway Creek is a natural stormwater drainage channel located in the Northeast corner of Richland Hills. The portion of the creek within city limits runs from the Glenview Road/Airline Road vehicle bridge to just prior to Alley Cats Entertainment in Hurst. The upstream communities of Keller and North Richland Hills discharge stormwater into the creek, as well as the downstream community of Hurst. The Army Corps of Engineers has Federal oversight of the channel, and the City of Richland Hills has maintenance responsibility for this portion of the creek.

Mr. Dernovich introduced City Engineer David Burkett who provided a presentation on the Calloway Branch system, surrounding FEMA floodplain, historical and localized flood events, and annual channel maintenance.

John Garza, 7900 Leslie Drive, Richland Hills, expressed frustration at the discussion and advised that he has spoken with the Army Corps of Engineers.

Monica Nash, 7916 Leslie Drive, Richland Hills, advised that in flooding events she cannot get to her home as the streets are impassible and wondered if retaining walls would be effective.

Vicki Hamilton, 7905 Leslie Drive, Richland Hills, presented several historical documents including a survey of the area from 1971 that showed it was not a flood zone and then an updated survey from 1985 in which the area was made part of the flood zone. Additionally, she presented a copy of a petition from 2001 in which residents requested the City to clean the creek.

Discussion ensued regarding what a clean out entails.

Keith Albee, 6908 Danele Court, Richland Hills, advised that he would like to see low cost solutions.

7C. February Department Reports

Item was discussed during worksession.

John Skier, 7016 Park Place, Richland Hills, expressed his appreciation for the Richland Hills Library and feels it is one of the best services the City provides. He would like to see additional staffing to continue to provide services.

COMMUNITY INTEREST ITEMS

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

- Monday, April 8, 2024, Total Solar Eclipse Viewing Party, The Link Plaza, 12:00 to 2:30 p.m.
- Thursday, April 11, 2024,
 - 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 Knowlton and seconded by Councilmember Malone to adjourn.

Motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Lopez declared the meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Lindsay Rawlinson, City Secretary

Edward Lopez, Mayor