

**RICHLAND HILLS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 8, 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
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 – 6:31 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.
 - a) Section 551.072: Deliberation regarding real property
2721 Handley Ederville Road, Richland Hills, TX
2525 Handley Ederville Road, Richland Hills, TX

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Knowlton and seconded by Councilmember Malone to adjourn into Executive Session at 6:31 p.m.

Motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Mayor Lopez reconvened into open session at 7:27 p.m.

A) 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 7:27 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION – Mayor Lopez Called to Order – Time 7:27 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE – Councilmember Knowlton

PRESENTATIONS

1A. Animal Control Appreciation Week Proclamation

Mayor Lopez read a proclamation declaring April 14-20, 2024, as “Animal Control Appreciation Week” in Richland Hills and presented the proclamation to Animal Control Officer Kay Fisk.

1B. National Library Week Proclamation

Mayor Lopez read a proclamation declaring April 7-13, 2024, as “National Library Week” in Richland Hills and presented the proclamation to Library Director Chantele Hancock.

1C. Employee Service Award

City Manager Candice Edmondson announced the employee service awards and expressed congratulations to the following employees on reaching an employment milestone with the City of Richland Hills:

5 Years of Service

Firefighter/Paramedic Bryan Brindley
Senior Accountant Bernadette Gendron
Youth Services Librarian Miranda Hawkins

10 Years of Service

Utility Billing Administrator Terri White

1D. Recognition of Richland High School Cross Country Team

Mayor Lopez read a proclamation declaring April 8, 2024, as “Richland High School Cross Country Team Day” in Richland Hills for their service and volunteerism at the Richland Hills Animal Shelter. Mayor Lopez presented the proclamation to Mark Ashley, Head Cross Country Coach, and the Richland High School Cross Country Team.

1E. Citizen Appearances/Public Comments

David White, 7008 Hovenkamp, Richland Hills, expressed concern about the need for a safety guardrail near the creek by his house and requested that the City clean the creek following flooding issues.

Joyce Fiaccone, 3800 Labadie, Richland Hills, read an email from her neighbor, Marlene Eisen, expressing frustration at issues Ms. Eisen is having with the City's trash provider, Republic Services.

CONSENT AGENDA

2A. Approved minutes from the March 25, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Malone and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Estep 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

4. None.

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, BID AWARDS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

5. None.

OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

6A. Approved funding request from Serving Our Seniors (SOS) for technology and building enhancements

City Manager Candice Edmondson presented the item to the City Council and advised that Serving Our Seniors (SOS) is a non-profit organization, located in Richland Hills, with a mission to provide help, hope, and healing to the City's resident seniors. SOS serves 11 cities in Northeast Tarrant County and focuses their efforts on three programs that aim to keep seniors independent and physically and mentally well, all free of charge. These services include transportation, home repairs and social outreach.

In 2023, SOS served 37 households in Richland Hills. Organization volunteers provided 53 hours assisting senior residents at a total cost (volunteer time, miles and materials) of \$25,474. SOS is trying to improve service and efficiency with an upgraded database system and eliminating some fixed building costs.

Ms. Edmondson advised that sales tax collections in the General Fund are up 17% year to date over the prior year and as a result, funding is available to provide \$10,000 to SOS for their technology and building enhancements.

Motion: Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Estep and seconded by Councilmember Knowlton to approve funding request from Serving Our Seniors for technology and building enhancements in the amount of \$10,000.

Motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS

7A. Water Meter Replacement Project Report

Director of Public Works and Capital Projects Kip Dernovich provided a final report on the recently completed Water Meter Replacement Project. He advised that the City Council approved the project and contract with Performance Services Inc. in early 2022. The program began on August 15, 2022, with meter replacement beginning on March 14, 2024, and pipe inventory on February 6, 2023.

Meter installation was completed on July 14, 2023, and the project reached substantial completion on August 1, 2023. To date, approximately 32 complaints have been received. Mr. Dernovich advised of the benefits of the new system including increased staff efficiency and the ability for water customers to see and track water usage in real time.

7B. Discuss Ordinance 1496-24 amending Article IV “Code of Ethics” of Chapter 2 “Administration” in its entirety to adopt a Code of Ethics applicable to all Elected and Appointed Officials of the City

City Manager Candice Edmondson presented a proposed update to the City’s current Code of Ethics previously adopted in Chapter 2, Article IV of the Code of Ordinances. The proposed changes include detailed language regarding an elected or appointed officer of the City holding a substantial interest in a business entity, disclosure of interests, and standards of conduct for City officers, advisory board members, or their spouses.

COMMUNITY INTEREST ITEMS

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

- 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.;
- Saturday, April 13, 2024, Carter Bloodcare Blood Drive, The Link Parking Lot, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.;
- April 15 – May 15, 2024, Pick A Perk Link Membership Sale, The Link;
- Monday, April 29, 2024, Clean, Green & Lean, City Parks and The Link, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.;
- Tuesday, April 30, 2024, Blooming Flowers, Public Library, 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.; and
- 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 Goveas 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 8:41 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Lindsay Rawlinson, City Secretary

Edward Lopez, Mayor