

**RICHLAND HILLS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 2024
MINUTES**

Roll Call:

Council present

Curtis Bergthold, Mayor
Douglas Knowlton, Mayor Pro Tem
Travis Malone, Place 2
Theresa Bledsoe, Place 3
John Skier, Place 4
G.W. Estep, Place 5

Council absent

Roland Goveas, Place 6

Staff present

Candice Edmondson, City Manager
Lindsay Rawlinson, City Secretary

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.

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.**
- 4A. ***Consider Resolution 602-24 supporting a statutory amendment to the Texas Local Government Code Chapter 394 regarding Housing Finance Corporations in municipalities and counties***

City Manager Candice Edmondson presented the item to the City Council and advised that the Texas Housing Finance Corporations Act (Texas Local Government Code Chapter 394) provides regulations for housing finance corporations which can be created by any local government. The purpose of the Act is to provide a means to finance the cost of residential ownership and development that will provide decent, safe and sanitary housing at affordable prices. All property owned by a housing finance corporation is exempt from all taxes imposed by the state or any political subdivision, including local property taxes.

The City recently became aware that the Cameron County Housing Finance Corporation, located in South Texas, owns properties throughout the State including the City of Euless. These properties are all tax exempt and the consent of the governing body of the local government was not requested during the process. This has created a reduction in anticipated ad valorem tax revenue for these municipalities and places a burden on the municipalities' ability to provide police and fire protection, code enforcement, parks and libraries and other governmental services.

Resolution 602-24 provides proposed amendments to the Texas Housing Finance Corporations Act that would limit a housing corporation's functions to the jurisdictional boundaries of the local government that has authorized, sponsored, or otherwise participated in the creation of the housing finance corporation, or as approved by the governing body of the municipality in which the corporation wishes to purchase property.

4B. Consider Resolution 603-24 casting the City of Richland Hills vote in the Texas Municipal League Region 8 Board of Director election

City Secretary Lindsay Rawlinson presented the item to the City Council and advised that the City of Richland Hills is a longtime member of the Texas Municipal League (TML). TML has 15 regions throughout the State of Texas and Richland Hills is located within Region 8. TML is governed by a Board of Directors in which each region has a seat on the Board and previously, elections for regional directors were held at regional meetings. After changes to the TML Constitution were approved last year, these elections are now administered by TML centrally.

During even-numbered years, the even-numbered regions are up for election. Terms are two years, and new terms will begin on October 11, 2024, upon adjournment of the TML Annual Conference and end on November 13, 2026, upon adjournment of the TML Annual Conference.

Resolution 603-24 provides the City Council the opportunity to cast the City's vote for the Region 8 regional director of the Board of Directors.

Discussion ensued regarding the four candidates presented and focused on incumbent Jon McKenzie, Councilmember, Hurst, and Troy Dunn, Councilmember, Haltom City.

7A. Fiesta de Herencia

Director of Parks and Recreation Eric Valdez presented an overview of the upcoming Fiesta de Herencia event scheduled to be held Friday, September 20, 2024, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at The Link Plaza. He advised of activities including live music, games, arts and crafts, and food trucks.

Mayor Bergthold adjourned the work session at 6:53 p.m.

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE – Mayor Pro Tem Knowlton

PRESENTATIONS

1A. 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

Fire Engineer Michael Stephens

10 Years of Service

Library Administrative Assistant Michelle Cottrell

1B. National Emergency Preparedness Month Proclamation

Mayor Bergthold read a proclamation declaring September 2024 as “National Preparedness Month” in Richland Hills and presented it to Fire Chief Russell Shelley.

1C. Citizen Appearances/Public Comments

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Malone and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Knowlton to move Agenda Item 4A to the Consent Agenda.

Motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

2A. Approved minutes from the August 26, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting

2B. Approved an update to the Authorized Representatives at the Federal Reserve Bank for City deposits at JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A.

2C. Approved Resolution 600-24 authorizing the change of authorized representatives for the Texas Local Government Investment Pool (TexPool)

2D. Approved Resolution 601-24 authorizing the change of authorized representatives for the Texas Short Term Asset Reserve Program (TexSTAR)

- 2E. Approved Resolution 599-24 approving a negotiated settlement between the Atmos Cities Steering Committee (ACSC) and Atmos Energy Corp., Mid-Tex Division regarding the Company's 2024 Rate Review Mechanism Filing**
- 2F. Approved water main repair on Rufe Snow Drive from Allena Lane to Lavon Drive by Excel 4 Construction LLC in the amount of \$84,915**
- 4A. Approved Resolution 602-24 supporting a statutory amendment to the Texas Local Government Code Chapter 394 regarding Housing Finance Corporations in municipalities and counties**

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

Motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, MEETINGS, AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

3A. Approved and adopted the Fiscal Year 2025 Crime Control and Prevention District Budget PUBLIC HEARING

City Manager Candice Edmondson presented the item to the City Council and advised that the Fiscal Year 2025 Crime Control and Prevention District (CCPD) Budget includes estimated revenues in the amount of \$2,052,000 and estimated expenses in the amount of \$2,201,481. The budget also includes a market salary adjustment for sworn police personnel totaling \$48,738, a \$114,640 increase for the shared services program and a \$150,000 carryover for the roof screening project that was approved in the FY 2024 CCPD Budget. At the end of Fiscal Year 2025, staff projects an ending fund balance of \$940,114. Additionally, the FY 2025 CCPD Budget was approved by the Crime Control and Prevention District at their August 26, 2024 meeting by a vote of 7-0.

Mayor Bergthold opened the public hearing at 7:13 p.m. and asked to hear from any proponents followed by opponents of the case.

Hearing none, Mayor Bergthold closed the public hearing at 7:13 p.m.

Motion: Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Knowlton and seconded by Councilmember Skier to approve and adopt the Fiscal Year 2025 Crime Control and Prevention District Budget.

Motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

**3B. Fiscal Year 2025 Budget and Multi-Year Capital Improvement Program
PUBLIC HEARING**

City Manager Candice Edmondson presented the item to the City Council and advised that the budget summarizes the plan of municipal operations and capital projects for the fiscal year that begins October 1, 2024. The proposed budget was presented to City Council during work sessions on August 12, 2024, and August 26, 2024. The proposed budget consists of 19 different funds. The FY 2025 Budget includes estimated revenues at \$25,650,591 and expenditures at \$29,311,414 which is a 0.04 percent increase in revenues and a 3.63 percent increase in expenditures over the FY 2024 Adopted Budget. The FY 2025 budget is based off a recommended tax rate of \$0.518879 which is \$0.00381 cents lower than the current tax rate.

Mayor Bergthold opened the public hearing at 8:03 p.m. and asked to hear from any proponents followed by opponents of the case.

Hearing none, Mayor Bergthold closed the public hearing at 8:03 p.m.

3C. Fiscal Year 2025 Tax Rate PUBLIC HEARING

City Manager Candice Edmondson presented the item to the City Council and advised that at the August 12, 2024 Council meeting, she presented the proposed FY 2025 General Fund Budget that included a proposed ad valorem tax rate of \$0.518879 per hundred dollars of valuation. Additionally, the City Council approved the FY 2025 /Tax Year 2024 Certified Tax Roll and reviewed the 2024 Tax Rate Calculation Worksheet at the August 12, 2024 meeting. The calculated No-New-Revenue Rate (formerly known as the Effective Tax Rate) is \$0.514251/\$100.

The proposed FY 2025 ad valorem tax rate is lower than the current FY 2024 ad valorem tax rate of \$0.522689 by \$0.00381 cents. The FY 2025 allocation of the tax rate is \$0.361643 for Operations and Maintenance that funds General Fund operations, and \$0.157236 for Interest and Sinking that funds debt service payments, for a total ad valorem tax rate of \$0.518879.

Mayor Bergthold opened the public hearing at 8:08 p.m. and asked to hear from any proponents followed by opponents of the case.

Hearing none, Mayor Bergthold closed the public hearing at 8:08 p.m.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

- 4A. Approved Resolution 602-24 supporting a statutory amendment to the Texas Local Government Code Chapter 394 regarding Housing Finance Corporations in municipalities and counties**

This item was discussed during the work session.

This item was removed from its original sequence on the agenda and approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

- 4B. Approved Resolution 603-24 casting the City of Richland Hills vote in the Texas Municipal League Region 8 Board of Director election**

This item was discussed during the work session.

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Estep and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Knowlton to approve Resolution 603-24 casting the City of Richland Hills vote for Haltom City Councilmember Troy Dunn in the election of the Texas Municipal League Region 8 Director of the Board of Directors.

Motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, BID AWARDS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

- 5. None.**

OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 6. None.**

REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS

- 7A. Fiesta de Herencia**

This item was discussed during the work session.

COMMUNITY INTEREST ITEMS

- 8. Councilmember Estep advised of several upcoming events:**

- Wednesday, September 11, 2024, 9/11 Memorial Ceremony, City Hall;
- Thursday, September 12, 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.;

- Tuesday, September 17, 2024, Comprehensive Plan Workshop, The Link, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.;
- Friday, September 20, 2024, Fiesta de Herencia, The Link Plaza, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.;
- Friday, September 27, 2024, Yarn Gnome Craft, Public Library, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.;
- Tuesday, October 1, 2024, Texas Night Out;
- Tuesday, October 15, 2024, Richland Hills Literary Club, Public Library, 6:30 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. There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Bergthold declared the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Lindsay Rawlinson, City Secretary

Curtis Bergthold, Mayor