

**RICHLAND HILLS CITY COUNCIL
STATE OF THE CITY
FEBRUARY 20, 2025
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
GW Estep, Place 5
Roland Goveas, Place 6

Council absent

Staff present

Candice Edmondson, City Manager
Lindsay Rawlinson, City Secretary

CITY COUNCIL STATE OF THE CITY– 6:34 P.M.

1. Introduction – City Manager Candice Edmondson

City Manager Candice Edmondson welcomed everyone to the third 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 Curtis Bergthold to speak.

2. State of the City – Mayor Curtis Bergthold

Mayor Bergthold provided a brief overview of the City's tax revenues, including property tax and sales tax, over the previous 10-year period. He spoke about the 2023 citizen survey conducted to provide a focus and direction for Council and staff actions. Mayor Bergthold advised that it is the City Council's goal to conduct a survey every two years and advised that the 2025 citizen survey is currently underway through the end of February and encouraged everyone in attendance to complete the survey.

Additionally, he briefly highlighted the accomplishments of each City department over the last year.

3. Strategic Priorities Update

- **Public Safety – Police Chief Kimberly Sylvester & Fire Chief Russell Shelley**

Fire Chief Russell Shelley presented the Fire Department update and provided a detailed explanation of the upcoming EMS transportation transition plan currently underway and expected to fully take affect July 1, 2025. Additionally, he advised of new programs in the Fire Department including the Community Paramedic, Fire Inspector, and Community Outreach programs.

Police Chief Kimberly Sylvester presented the Police Department update and provided an overview of the Department's activity performance measures, historical crime data, and Community Outreach programs. Additionally, she advised of the Department's accomplishments and community engagement.

- **Infrastructure – Public Works Director Kip Dernovich**

Director Kip of Public Works and Capital Projects Kip Dernovich presented the infrastructure update and advised of work completed including 877 pothole repairs, water line repairs, and approximately 11,500 feet of sewer line cleanout. He provided status updates on projects including construction of Phase II of Magnolia Park and the replacement of street signs throughout the City. Additionally, he advised of upcoming capital projects including the Glenview Drive Corridor Project and the Big Fossil Creek Revitalization.

- **Economic Development – Planning & Development Services Director JP Ducay**

Director of Planning and Development Services JP Ducay presented the economic development update and advised of new residential developments as well as commercial developments. Additionally, he advised of the City's long-range plans for development by explaining the Comprehensive Plan update currently underway.

- **Community Engagement & Programs – Parks & Recreation Director Eric Valdez & Library Director Chantele Hancock**

Director of Parks and Recreation Eric Valdez presented the Parks Department update and advised of park improvement projects completed and those in various stages of completion including improvements at Kate Baker Park and Rosebud Park. Additionally, he advised of future improvements including the replacement of the gym floor at The Link and the installation of broadband Wi-Fi in the City's parks.

Library Director Chantele Hancock presented the Library update and advised of accomplishments including achieving state accreditation through the Texas State Library and discussed community programs offered at the Library. Additionally, she provided a brief update regarding the City's upcoming 75th Anniversary celebration and provided details of upcoming events related to the anniversary.

4. Breakout Question & Answer Session – City Council & City Leadership

City Manager Candice Edmondson expressed her appreciation for everyone in attendance and encouraged everyone to stay and participate in the breakout question and answer sessions with the City's department directors and City Council to ask any questions they may have had following the presentation.

5. Closing – Mayor Curtis Bergthold

Mayor Bergthold adjourned the State of the City at 8:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Lindsay Rawlinson, City Secretary

Curtis Bergthold, Mayor