

**RICHLAND HILLS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 10, 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
G.W. Estep, Place 5
Roland Goveas, Place 6

Council absent

Staff present

Candice Edmondson, City Manager
Lindsay Rawlinson, City Secretary
Elizabeth Yelverton, City Attorney

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION – 6:30 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. **75th Anniversary Committee Update**

75th Anniversary Committee member Jennifer Hartzke provided a brief overview of the upcoming quarterly events related to the City's 75th Anniversary including the Mayor's Bike Tour scheduled to be held Saturday, March 15, 2025, a City Scavenger Hunt taking place March 16 through March 23, 2025, and the Birdville Cemetery Tour that will be held Saturday, May 10, 2025. The objective of the events is to celebrate and shine a light on the history, community and people of Richland Hills and the culminating celebration will be held September 27, 2025.

3. **Popplewell Speed Study**

City Engineer David Burkett introduced Stephen Moore with Halff who presented the results of a speed study conducted along Popplewell Street between State Highway 26

(Boulevard 26) and State Highway 183 (Baker Boulevard.) Halff collected 24-hour traffic volume and speed data at three locations along Popplewell Street on Wednesday and Thursday, November 13 and 14, 2024. Halff collected speed data at the three study locations manually, using a radar gun, on Tuesday, December 3, and Thursday, December 5, 2024.

Mr. Moore advised that the intersection of Popplewell Street and Hovenkamp Avenue meets the criteria to allow additional traffic calming measures and recommended additional speed limit signs, striping pedestrian sidewalk crossings, and the installation of new stop signs.

Mike Witt, 7200 Hovenkamp Avenue, Richland Hills, advised that he lives at this intersection and asked why the study was not conducted during peak traffic times.

Mr. Moore stated that the goal of the study was to measure how fast vehicles travel and not the number of vehicles traveling this corridor.

4. 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 Bergthold adjourned the work session at 6:47 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION – Mayor Bergthold Called to Order – Time 7:01 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE – Mayor Curtis Bergthold

PRESENTATIONS

1A. 2024 Employee Awards Recognition

City Manager Candice Edmondson announced the recipients of the 2024 Employee Awards based on the City's core values.

<u>Service</u>	Alicia Johnson Senior Administrative Assistant
<u>Teamwork</u>	Stephanie Garcia Customer Service Specialist
<u>Respect</u>	Gene Arnold Public Works Technician
<u>Integrity</u>	Adison Turner Police Officer

Vision

Eliza Margenau
Municipal Court Supervisor

Empowerment

Alexis Hernandez
Recreation Coordinator

Mayor's Award

Kay Fisk
Community Compliance Manager

1B. Employee Service Award

Mayor Bergthold announced the employee service award and expressed congratulations to the following employee on reaching an employment milestone with the City of Richland Hills:

5 Years of Service

Library Assistant Sharon Morris

1C. Government Finance Professionals Week Proclamation

Mayor Bergthold read a proclamation declaring March 17 – 21, 2025, as “Government Finance Professionals Week” in Richland Hills. He presented the proclamation to Finance Director Erika McComis.

1D. Citizen Appearances/Public Comments

Mary Sullivan, 2724 Spruce Park Drive, Richland Hills, expressed concern regarding the Glenview Corridor project and the debt required for the project.

CONSENT AGENDA

2A. Approved minutes from the February 20, 2025 City Council State of the City Meeting and the February 24, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting

2B. Approved Resolution 610-25 participating in the National Wildlife Federation's Mayor's Monarch Pledge

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

Motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, MEETINGS, AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS**3A. Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Public Forum**

City Manager Candace Edmondson advised that the FY 2026 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 beautification and landscaping along Baker Boulevard, The Link, and near SH 121 to provide a greater entrance to the City.

Jenny Clark, 6973 Hardisty, Richland Hills, inquired about several issues including the need for greater residential lighting, installing a sound barrier along SH 121, moving utility lines along Glenview Drive, and parking issues along Dreeben.

Joyce Fiaccone, 3800 Labadie Drive, Richland Hills, expressed concern regarding flooding issues in Creek Trail Park, installing lighting along the Hike and Bike Trail, and expressed her preference to keep ambulance services in the City.

Vicki Hamilton, 7905 Leslie Drive, Richland Hills, expressed concern regarding cleaning the creek in Creek Trail Park and expressed her preference to keep ambulance services in the City.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS**4. None.****CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, BID AWARDS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS****5A. Approved award of bid for parking lot and site improvements at Rosebud Park to C. Green Scaping, LP in the amount of \$293,599**

Director of Parks and Recreation Eric Valdez presented the item to the City Council and advised that as part of the Fiscal Year 2024 budget process, the Richland Hills Development Corporation (RHDC) and City Council approved funding for a new parking lot and a restroom/pavilion structure at both Kate Baker Park and Rosebud Park. While most improvements at Kate Baker Park were completed in Fall 2024, the restroom/pavilion structure remains unfinished.

The restroom/pavilion structures for both parks were purchased from Romtec in 2023 and are currently stored at the City's Public Works yard. At the time of purchase, the City paid half of the total cost, with the remaining funds carried forward into the Fiscal Year 2025 budget to complete the installations. City staff is now coordinating with Romtec

representatives to schedule simultaneous construction of both restroom/pavilion structures.

Parkhill completed design and engineering of the parking lot and site improvements at Rosebud Park in December 2024. A Request for Bids was issued on January 10, 2025 and bid proposals were opened on February 21, 2025. Six responsive bids were received with C. Green Scaping, LP submitting the lowest responsive bid in the amount of \$266,908.10.

The FY 2025 RHDC Budget includes \$618,442 for improvements at Rosebud Park including the parking lot and site enhancements under C. Green Scaping's contract, and the installation and final payment for the Romtec restroom/pavilion structure.

Staff also recommends a 10 percent owner's contingency fee of \$26,690.90 be added to the contract to cover unforeseen construction costs. Any unused contingency funds will be returned to the RHDC Budget.

Discussion ensued regarding new parking spaces and the need for the contingency funds.

Mary Sullivan, 2724 Spruce Park Drive, Richland Hills, expressed concern regarding homelessness in the area and the need for the new bathrooms to be monitored.

Mr. Valdez advised that the Parks and Public Works Departments will monitor the bathrooms to help ensure they are safe.

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Skier and seconded by Councilmember Malone to approve the bid award to C. Green Scaping, LP for parking lot and site improvements at Rosebud Park, in the amount of \$266,908.10, with an owner's contingency fee of \$26,690.90, for a total project cost of \$293,599.

The vote was as follows:

For: Mayor Bergthold, Mayor Pro Tem Knowlton, Councilmembers
Malone, Skier, Estep and Goveas
Against: Councilmember Bledsoe

Motion carried by a vote of 6-1.

OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

6. None.

REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS**7A. Business Survey Results**

Director of Planning and Development Services JP Ducay presented the results of the business survey conducted between September 4, 2024 and December 18, 2024. A total of 56 responses were collected and 47 surveys were completed from a population of 228 businesses which is a nearly 25 percent response rate.

Mr. Ducay advised that Richland Hills business owners tend to agree that the city is heading in the right direction (84%), although 16% feel it's going the wrong direction. Additionally, most people feel the city has either stayed the same (45%) or improved (50%) in the past 3 years.

Discussion ensued regarding the progress made in the last five years and how the City is working with the business community.

COMMUNITY INTEREST ITEMS**8. Councilmember Estep advised of several upcoming events:**

- Now through August 2025, Summer Camp Connect Registration, The Link;
- Tuesday, March 11, 2025, Richland Hills Literary Club, Public Library, 6:30 p.m.;
- Thursday, March 13, 2025,
 - Senior Lunch Bunch and Bingo, The Link, 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.;
 - Tarrant County Food Pantry, Richland Hills Baptist Church, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.;
- Saturday, March 15, 2025, Mayor's Bike Ride;
- Sunday, March 16 through Sunday, March 23, 2025, Citywide Scavenger Hunt;
- Monday, March 17 through Friday, March 21, 2025, Spring Break Camp, The Link;
- Saturday, March 22, 2025, Budget Workshop, Council Chambers, 9:00 a.m.;
- Monday, April 7, 2025, City Council meeting normally would be held on April 14, 2025 will be held one week earlier;
- Saturday, April 12, 2025,
 - Easter Celebration, The Link Plaza, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.;
 - 75th Anniversary Community Photo, The Link Plaza, 11:00 a.m.;
- Every Thursday, Coffee Talk, Public Library, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.;
- Richland Hills Oral History project, Public Library

Councilmember Malone advised that Birdville Independent School District schools will be on Spring Break March 17 through 21, 2025.

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 8:19 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Lindsay Rawlinson, City Secretary

Curtis Bergthold, Mayor