

**RICHLAND HILLS CITY COUNCIL
BUDGET WORKSHOP
MARCH 22, 2025
MINUTES**

Roll Call:

Council present

Curtis A. 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
Kimberly Sylvester, Assistant City Manager/Police Chief
Russell Shelley, Fire Chief
JP Ducay, Director of Planning and Development Services
Kip Dernovich, Director of Public Works and Capital Projects
Eric Valdez, Director of Parks and Recreation
Erika McComis, Finance Director
Chantele Hancock, Library Director

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP– 9:00 AM

1. Call to order

Mayor Bergthold called the Workshop to order at 9:04 a.m.

2. Public Comments

None.

3. Discussion: FY 2025 Midyear Review

Finance Director Erika McComis gave a presentation on the FY 2025 Midyear Review. She provided historical data for governmental funds, including property tax, sales tax, and The Link Recreation Fund, as well as the Water and Wastewater Fund, over the previous 10 years.

4. Discussion: FY 2025 Citizen Survey Results

City Manager Candice Edmondson introduced Onpointe Insights CEO/Founder Ron Gailey and Marketing and Operations Manager Ryan Young who provided the results of the recently completed 2025 citizens survey. Mr. Gailey advised that this is the second survey conducted following the first one in 2023. The City's goal is to conduct a citizens survey every two years to gauge citizen priorities and satisfaction.

Mr. Gailey stated that 570 surveys were completed and overall, 63 percent of citizens feel the city is moving in the right direction while 37 percent feel the city is moving in the wrong direction. Citizens prioritized maintaining infrastructure and ensuring infrastructure keeps up with growth and attracting new restaurants. Additionally, the three highest rated departments within the city were found to be the Fire Department, the Public Library, and the Link Event and Recreation Center.

5. Discussion: City Strategic Plan

City Manager Candice Edmondson presented the City's adopted Strategic Plan and discussed the strategic goals including attracting and retaining a quality workforce.

Director of Planning and Development Services JP Ducay discussed the economic development strategic focus and advised of properties available for development, the success of the City's Building Improvement Grants, and the Comprehensive Plan update currently underway.

Discussion ensued regarding the replacement of Link exercise equipment, cleaning and maintaining City parks, volunteer opportunities, and potentially restarting the Historical Society.

6. Discussion: FY 2026 Capital Projects & Strategic Initiatives

City Manager Candice Edmondson presented the list of the next six streets that have been identified on the City's street improvement plan to begin the process of design and engineering with a proposed construction start date of FY 2027.

Additionally, she advised of legislation moving forward in the state legislature that could impact the City's ability to issue Certificates of Obligation for future street projects.

Discussion ensued regarding the Glenview Drive project specifically and the overall scope of the project to include street resurfacing or a full reconstruction with water and sewer utilities and drainage included.

Director of Parks and Recreation Eric Valdez presented the Parks Department update and discussed the previously approved park priority list. He advised of the status of projects at Kate Baker Park, Rosebud Park, and Windmill Park.

Director of Planning and Development Services JP Ducay provided an overview of economic development opportunities in the City.

7. Discussion: FY 2026 Budget Priorities

City Manager Candice Edmondson requested feedback on Council priorities.

Council discussed items such as drainage and infrastructure needs, flooding at Creek Trail, erosion control along Calloway Creek, additional street sweeping, median maintenance, increased funding for Building Improvement Grants, resident landfill access, and lighting along the hike and bike trail.

Additional discussion ensued regarding transitioning the City's EMS service to the City of Fort Worth and the overall cost and changes from the current EMS service.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Bergthold declared the meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Lindsay Rawlinson, City Secretary

Curtis Bergthold, Mayor