

**RICHLAND HILLS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 24, 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 – 5:30 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.

1. Section 551.071 Consultation with the City Attorney

Motion: Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Knowlton and seconded by Councilmember Skier to adjourn into Executive Session at 5:30 p.m.

Motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Mayor Bergthold reconvened into open session at 5:54 p.m.

2. Glenview Drive Project Update

On March 22, 2021, the City Council approved Resolution No. 536-21, requesting that Tarrant County include "Reconstruction of Glenview Drive from east city limit with Hurst to Boulevard 26 to include pavement reconstruction, new curb and gutter, drainage improvements and new signalization" as part of the 2021 Transportation Bond Program. As a condition of the City's participation in the Transportation Bond Program, the City Council agreed that funds have been designated for the 50 percent local funding

match required from Richland Hills in order to fund the Glenview Drive project. The City Council further confirmed that construction can begin on this project within five years from the date the Transportation Bond Program is approved by the voters. The Transportation Bond Program was approved by Tarrant County voters on November 3, 2021, which provides a \$5.32 million match to improve Glenview Drive and the surrounding infrastructure.

On November 11, 2024, the City Council approved a professional services agreement with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for preliminary engineering and planning services for the Glenview Drive project. The agreement included completion of a traffic impact study, preparation of conceptual layout options, and feasibility and cost estimates for reconstructing the roadway to meet the City's long-term goals for the corridor.

Prior to beginning the presentation, Mayor Bergthold referenced a letter circulating among residents regarding the Glenview Drive Project and clarified that statements contained in the letter including that the City plans to rezone the area along the Glenview Corridor to allow for an entertainment district and force citizens from their homes are false.

City Manager Candice Edmondson introduced Engineer Misty Christian, Project Manager with Kimley-Horn. Ms. Christian introduced Deputy Project Manager Trenton Tidwell and Transportation Planner Jeff Whitacre. Ms. Christian provided an overview of Glenview Drive Project and advised that Kimley-Horn was tasked with several items including a traffic analysis, receiving public input, deciding on a roadway type, and providing a conceptual layout.

Ms. Christian began by discussing the traffic analysis conducted for both existing road conditions along Glenview Drive as well as an analysis of proposed conditions to gauge how best to redevelop the Glenview Corridor. The Corridor was evaluated from State Highway (SH) 26 to Interstate Highway (IH) 820. In December 2024, a traffic analysis was conducted in several different ways including during peak traffic times, a 24-hour count, and utilizing cell phone data. Their analysis found that traffic volumes have decreased in the period studied from 2009 to 2024. Additionally, they found traffic volumes were far less in the segment between SH 26 and Booth Calloway than the segment between Booth Calloway Road and IH 820. They noted that there have been 52 crashes between 2020 and 2024.

Ms. Christian advised that the following conditions were considered for the proposed analysis:

Although they noted an overall reduction in traffic between 2009 and 2024, the proposed analysis evaluation assumed a two percent growth in traffic which will reflect a redeveloped corridor (20-year planning horizon), a three-lane roadway in the segment between SH 26 to Booth Calloway Road, and a four-lane roadway in the segment between Booth Calloway Road to IH 820. The consultants confirmed that travel times between the three and four-lane options is estimated to be about a one minute difference.

Next, Ms. Christian advised that Kimley-Horn sought public input from the businesses and residents within the corridor. She stated that they received four emailed responses from 39 sent, met with four business owners having stopped at 21 businesses, and spoke to three business owners over the phone. Overall responses were neutral to supportive for reconstruction and enhancements, and they did not favor a 'raised median' concept. Top considerations were safety impacts to businesses during construction and the long-term concerns were limited parking as well as drainage issues.

As a summary of the analysis, Ms. Christian advised that the consultants removed a two-lane option as a consideration due to a raised median and reduction in capacity, a final decision on type of roadway needs to consider the existing and future redevelopment of the corridor, a three-lane option seemed to address priorities for the corridor (safety, redevelopment), and a four-lane option provided more capacity for traffic but limited opportunities in parkway for sidewalks and streetlights without the need to acquire additional rights of way.

Additionally, she provided a feasibility comparison between a paving surface restoration project and a full reconstruction of the corridor and advised that, according to records found, utilities were originally installed in the 1980's, and the road was last rehabilitated in the 1990s. Pavement life for asphalt is generally approximately 20 years and concrete pavement life is generally approximately 30 years. Due to the aging infrastructure, it is recommended to reconstruct the below ground utilities with a roadway reconstruction – especially if the choice is made to utilize concrete in reconstruction.

Ms. Christian also provided probable construction costs and stated that a three-lane option with sidewalks is estimated to cost approximately \$12,900,000, a four-lane option with sidewalks is estimated to cost approximately \$13,400,000, and a mill and overlay option is estimated to cost approximately \$5,000,000. These proposed costs do not include obtaining rights of way, franchise utility relocation costs, special aesthetics, hard scaping, amenities, or major drainage crossing at creek.

Mayor Bergthold advised that citizen comments regarding this agenda item will be heard during the regular session.

3. 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 6:57 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION – Mayor Bergthold Called to Order – Time 7:02 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE – Mayor Pro Tem Douglas Knowlton

PRESENTATIONS**1A. Business Spotlight: Holistic Candles**

Director of Planning and Development Services JP Ducay advised that a representative from Holistic Candles was unable to attend the meeting and a business spotlight for Holistic Candles will be rescheduled to a future meeting date.

1B. Community Newsletter Naming Recognition

Mayor Bergthold announced that the City of Richland Hills recently held a contest from December 9 through 23, 2024, inviting residents to submit creative ideas for naming the City's official community newsletter. After reviewing numerous thoughtful entries, the City was proud to announce Athena Campbell's entry, Richland Hills Hometown Highlights, as the contest winner. Her winning name will now be featured on the quarterly newsletter, which keeps residents informed about important updates, events and local news.

Mayor Bergthold expressed his appreciation to Athena Campbell for her winning entry.

1C. Employee Service Awards

Mayor Bergthold announced 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 Anthony Dryer

Firefighter/Paramedic Cory Graham

1D. Fire Department Badge Pinning

Fire Chief Russell Shelley introduced Fire Captain Ricardo "Rocky" Martinez and provided a brief background.

City Secretary Lindsay Rawlinson administered the Oath of Office to Fire Captain Ricardo "Rocky" Martinez.

1E. Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation

Mayor Bergthold read a proclamation declaring April 2025, as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" in Richland Hills and presented the proclamation to Emma Garcia and Victoria Davison with Alliance for Children.

1F. Citizen Appearances/Public Comments

None.

2. Glenview Drive Project Update

Mayor Bergthold reopened worksession agenda item #2 related to the Glenview Drive Project Update and advised that citizen comments will now be heard.

Stephanie Terry, 2910 Spruce Park Drive, Richland Hills, asked several questions regarding the overall project including a bidding process, measures and controls within the project, and upcoming contracts.

City Manager Candice Edmondson advised that there was a bidding process and Kimley-Horn was the winning bidder for this phase of the project. She confirmed that there are contingencies built into the project contract related to the vendors and contracts for all aspects of the project.

Athena Campbell, 2802 Elm Park Drive, Richland Hills, expressed that she felt the overall project was too expensive and disagrees with the use of street improvement sales tax dollars for this project.

Diane Barrette, 7123 Dover Lane, Richland Hills, expressed her appreciation to the Mayor and City Council for addressing misinformation and expressed her desire to beautify the corridor and address flooding and stormwater issues.

Mary Sullivan, 2724 Spruce Park Drive, Richland Hills, expressed concern regarding the traffic at the intersection of Glenview Drive and SH 26 and suggested a double left turn lane.

Joyce Fiaccone, 3800 Labadie Drive, Richland Hills, expressed her preference to fix the surface of the roadway and beautify the corridor.

Robby Sullivan, 7605 Brooks Avenue, Richland Hills, expressed his opposition to the project and would prefer the road only be restriped until flooding is addressed.

Keith Albee, 6908 Danele Court, Richland Hills, acknowledged that there is a financial aspect and emotional aspect to the project and would like to see the financial aspect organized and presented to the public prior to any decisions being made.

Allison Barger, 7241 Richlynn Terrace, Richland Hills, requested information regarding the overall timeline and funding sources. She is in favor of the project due to the matching funds from Tarrant County.

City Manager Candice Edmondson advised that, in order to comply with the requirements of the 2021 Transportation Bond Program, construction must begin by November 2026 and the City Council must make a final determination by July 2025 in order to meet that timeline. She provided additional information regarding funding sources including the street maintenance fund and explained how the City is able to issue Certificates of Obligation to fund other street projects.

Vicki Hamilton, 7905 Leslie Drive, Richland Hills, advised that she has lived in Richland Hills for 48 years and expressed concern regarding the consultant's view of more business and more housing but less traffic. She stated that the road has long had flooding issues.

John Garza, 7900 Leslie Drive, Richland Hills, expressed his support for the project in order to utilize the matching funds from the County and encouraged the City Council to follow the will of the people. He additionally mentioned economic development opportunities in other parts of the city.

Mike Witt, 7200 Hovenkamp Avenue, Richland Hills, expressed his appreciation to the City Council and staff for their efforts in bringing this project to the City. He acknowledged that the recent citizens survey showed that infrastructure needs are the most important issue for residents and asked Council to pause this project until more information is received.

Linda Hines, 7928 Leslie Drive, Richland Hills, inquired if the presentation and information will be available online for review.

City Manager Candice Edmondson advised that there is a page on the City's website dedicated to this project and tonight's presentation will be online tomorrow. Additionally, the City will send out information via Everbridge as well.

Toby Wright, 6901 Glen Hills Drive, Richland Hills, inquired if the City of North Richland Hills is contributing or involved in this project.

Ms. Edmondson stated that no, the City of North Richland Hills is not participating monetarily or otherwise.

Discussion ensued regarding the importance of utilizing money dedicated from Tarrant County, a double left turn lane, and the three-lane option.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 2A. Approved minutes from the March 10, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting**
- 2B. Approved agreement with Texadia Systems for audio-visual upgrades at The Link Event & Recreation Center in the amount of \$83,328 and authorize City Manager to sign agreement**
- 2C. Approved Interlocal Agreement with Tarrant County to resurface Oak Park Drive from Ash Park Drive to Elm Park and authorize City Manager to sign agreement**

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Goveas and seconded by Councilmember Malone 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. Accepted Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for Fiscal Year ended September 30, 2024

Finance Director Erika McComis introduced Daniel Hungerford, representing the accounting firm, George, Morgan & Sneed, P.C., who advised that the auditors issued an unmodified, or clean, opinion, and the auditor was able to perform the required work on the statements provided by management, and has no reservations with respect to these financial statements.

The City Council thanked Mr. Hungerford and his accounting firm for their work.

Motion: Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Knowlton and seconded by Councilmember Estep to approve and accept the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for Fiscal Year ended September 30, 2024.

Motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS

7A. Street Improvement Projects

Director of Public Works and Capital Projects Kip Dernovich provided the street improvement projects update and advised of the status of the Magnolia Park project, the FY2025 County Street project, and the illuminated street signs.

7B. February Department Reports

Director of Public Works and Capital Projects Kip Dernovich presented the Public Works Department update and advised that in February 2025, 34 potholes were repaired, 72 signs were installed throughout the City, and homeless camps were cleared.

Police Chief Kimberly Sylvester presented the Police Department update and advised of topics including service calls, criminal investigations, and accomplishments.

Fire Chief Russell Shelley presented the Fire Department update and discussed the Community Paramedic position, Medstar response times, and the fire inspection program.

Mayor Pro Tem Knowlton clarified that the ambulance transportation is transitioning to the City of Fort Worth but EMS service will remain in Richland Hills.

COMMUNITY INTEREST ITEMS

8. Councilmember Estep advised of several upcoming events:

- Now through August 2025, Summer Camp Connect Registration, The Link;
- Monday, April 7, 2025, City Council meeting normally would be held on April 14, 2025 will be held one week earlier;
- Tuesday, April 8, 2025, Richland Hills Literary Club, Public Library, 6:30 p.m.;
- Thursday, April 10, 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, 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

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).

1. Section 551.087: Deliberation regarding Economic Development Negotiations

Motion: Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Knowlton and seconded by Councilmember Skier to adjourn into Executive Session at 8:56 p.m.

Motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Mayor Bergthold reconvened into open session at 9:22 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

10. There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Bergthold declared the meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Lindsay Rawlinson, City Secretary

Curtis Bergthold, Mayor