

**RICHLAND HILLS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 18, 2025
MINUTES**

Roll Call:

Council present

Curtis Bergthold, Mayor
John Skier, Mayor Pro Tem
Mike Witt, Place 1
Travis Malone, Place 2
G.W. Estep, Place 5

Council absent

Theresa Bledsoe, Place 3
Roland Goveas, Place 6

Staff present

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

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE – Councilmember Travis Malone

PRESENTATIONS

1A. Citizen Appearances/Public Comments

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, MEETINGS, AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

3A. Approved Ordinance 1530-25 approving and adopting an amended budget for Fiscal Year 2025 PUBLIC HEARING

City Manager Candice Edmondson advised that on September 23, 2024, the City Council adopted the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (FY 2025) Budget. During FY 2025, there were revenue and expenditure items that occurred that necessitate an amendment to the total budgeted Oil & Gas Fund, Capital Projects Fund, Crime Control and Prevention District Fund, ARPA Fund, and Strategic Initiative Fund. This budget amendment is due to expenditures that are a carryover to FY 2026 or deferred. The Exhibit in Ordinance 1530-25 details every amendment.

Mayor Bergthold opened the public hearing at 7:05 p.m. and asked to hear from any proponents followed by opponents of the budget.

Hearing none, Mayor Bergthold closed the public hearing at 7:06 p.m.

Motion: Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Skier and seconded by Councilmember Malone to approve Ordinance 1530-25 approving and adopting an amended budget for Fiscal Year 2025.

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

3B. Approved and adopted the Fiscal Year 2026 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 2026 Crime Control and Prevention District (CCPD) Budget includes estimated revenues of \$1,862,000 and estimated expenditures of \$2,019,914, representing a 9.3 percent decrease in revenue and an 8.2 percent decrease in expenditures compared to the current fiscal year. The budget also includes a three percent STEP salary adjustment for sworn police personnel and a \$19,601 increase for the Shared Services Program to support operations of the joint detention and dispatch centers. At the end of Fiscal Year 2026, staff projects an ending fund balance of \$1,111,391. Additionally, the FY 2026 CCPD Budget was approved by the Crime Control and Prevention District at their August 18, 2025 meeting by a vote of 5-0.

Mayor Bergthold opened the public hearing at 7:08 p.m. and asked to hear from any proponents followed by opponents of the case.

Hearing none, Mayor Bergthold closed the public hearing at 7:08 p.m.

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Estep and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Skier to approve and adopt the Fiscal Year 2026 Crime Control and Prevention District Budget.

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

3C. Fiscal Year 2026 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, 2025. The proposed budget was presented to City Council during the work session on August 11, 2025. The proposed budget consists of 19 different funds. The FY 2026 Budget includes estimated revenues of \$25,010,984 and expenditures of \$29,870,724, representing a 2.5 percent decrease in revenues and a 1.9 percent increase in expenditures compared to the FY 2025 Adopted Budget. The FY 2026

Budget is based on a recommended tax rate of \$0.504796, which is \$0.01408 (2.7 percent) lower than the current tax rate.

Included in the proposed expenditures is a \$2,000,000 transfer from General Fund cash reserves to the Strategic Initiative Fund for the future construction of the Safe Routes to School project. Excluding this transfer, total expenditures for FY 2026 are \$27,870,724, a five percent decrease from the FY 2025 Adopted Budget.

The proposed budget including a projected 10 percent decrease in sales tax due to current collection trends and the potential vacancy of one of the City's top sales tax contributors as well as a three percent STEP increase for sworn public safety personnel and a two percent cost-of-living adjustment for general government personnel

Discussion ensued regarding tracking funding and expenditures between the de minimis and voter approval ad valorem tax rates in the new fiscal year.

Council expressed their appreciation to City staff for proactively identifying budget reductions in anticipation of lower tax collections, while also emphasizing the importance of including staff pay increases.

Mayor Bergthold opened the public hearing at 7:35 p.m. and asked to hear from any proponents followed by opponents of the case.

Doug Knowlton, 2749 Spruce Park Drive, Richland Hills, expressed concern regarding expenditures exceeding revenues in the proposed budget.

Mayor Bergthold closed the public hearing at 7:37 p.m.

City Council will consider approval and adoption of the FY 2026 Budget and Multi-Year Capital Improvement Program on August 25, 2025.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

4. None.

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, BID AWARDS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

5. None.

OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

6. None.

REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS**7A. Discussed proposed amendments to the Fiscal Year 2026 Municipal Fee Schedule**

City Manager Candice Edmondson advised that as part of the annual budget process, staff reviews the City's Municipal Fee Schedule and identifies amendments for Council consideration. She reviewed proposed changes to animal-related fees including adoption fees, sterilization fees, and vaccines. Proposed Library fees include changes to poster printing for teachers, and The Link staff has proposed changes to Link membership and room rental fees.

Additionally, City staff has received a request to look at different drainage fee options for church properties. Finance Director Sean Smith advised that the City of Richland Hills currently charges an impervious fee of \$0.00500 per square foot on church properties and presented what the neighboring cities of Colleyville, Euless, and North Richland Hills charge for their impervious fees and the change to collections if the City adopted these rates.

Discussion ensued regarding lowering the impervious fees for church properties. The consensus of Council was to lower the City's impervious fees to the average of the three cities discussed for a new rate of \$0.0036708 per square foot.

COMMUNITY INTEREST ITEMS

8. None.

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 9:02 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Lindsay Rawlinson, City Secretary

Curtis Bergthold, Mayor