

**RICHLAND HILLS CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 27, 2023  
MINUTES**

Roll Call:

Council present

Edward Lopez, Mayor  
Curtis A. Bergthold, Mayor Pro Tem  
Douglas Knowlton, Place 1  
Travis Malone, Place 2  
Javier Alvarez, Place 4  
G.W. Estep, Place 5

Council absent

Staff present

Candice Edmondson, City Manager  
Lindsay Rawlinson, City Secretary

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

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE – Mayor Lopez**

**PRESENTATIONS**

**1A. Business Spotlight: Construction Best Builders**

Assistant to the City Manager Logan Thatcher provided a brief introduction for Construction Best Builders located at 7336 Dogwood Park, Suite A.

**1B. National Library Week Proclamation**

Mayor Lopez read a proclamation declaring April 23-29, 2023, as “National Library Week” in Richland Hills and presented the proclamation to Library Director Chantele Hancock.

**1C. Animal Control Appreciation Week Proclamation**

Mayor Lopez read a proclamation declaring April 10-16, 2023, as “Animal Control Appreciation Week” in Richland Hills and presented the proclamation to Animal Control Officer Kay Fisk.

**1D. Telecommunicator Appreciation Week Proclamation**

Mayor Lopez read a proclamation declaring April 10-16, 2023, as “Telecommunicator Appreciation Week” in Richland Hills and presented the proclamation to Dispatcher Ariel Paramo, Supervisor Chassidy Osman, and Telecommunications Specialist Brandy Kidwell.

**1E. Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation**

Mayor Lopez read a proclamation declaring April 2023, as “Child Abuse Prevention Month” in Richland Hills and presented the proclamation to Alexis Lagazo with Alliance for Children.

Ms. Lagazo expressed her appreciation to the City Council for the proclamation and spoke briefly about the mission and goals of Alliance for Children.

**1F. Citizen Appearances/Public Comments**

Athena Campbell, 2802 Elm Park, expressed her appreciation and admiration for the Richland Hills Police Department. She advised that she participated in the Citizens Police Academy and was impressed with the Department’s community involvement.

Jenny Clark, 6973 Hardisty Street, expressed appreciation to the City for the renovations to the Animal Shelter and encouraged everyone to volunteer at the shelter if they are able to help the animals.

Mayor Lopez recessed the regular session at 7:21 p.m. due to technical issues and reconvened the regular session at 7:32 p.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**2A. Approve minutes from the March 13, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting.**

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

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

**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**

6. None.

**REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS****7A. Traffic Unit Pilot Program**

Captain Scott Russell presented the item to the City Council and advised that, in response to citizen traffic-related concerns from speeding, running stop signs, parking violations, school zone safety, among other traffic issues, the police department will implement a traffic unit pilot program beginning in April that will be evaluated over the next six months.

Captain Russell advised that the goal of traffic enforcement is to reduce traffic collisions and gain compliance with traffic-related laws. The most effective way to address these concerns is by assigning dedicated personnel to traffic enforcement and conducting preventive patrols to address unlawful driving behavior. The Richland Hills Police Department has completed a cost-benefit analysis on implementing a Traffic Unit and believes that having a dedicated officer in the traffic enforcement role will have a significant impact on reducing traffic violations.

Discussion ensued regarding potential increase to fleet costs, locations of violations, and the differences between a standard patrol vehicle versus a motorcycle officer.

**7B. Street Improvement Projects**

City Manager Candice Edmondson presented the Street Improvement Projects update and provided details regarding Dover Lane, Magnolia Park, and Norton Drive.

**7C. Budget Workshop**

City Manager Candice Edmondson advised that the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting on Monday, April 10, 2023 will be dedicated to a budget workshop giving the City Council the opportunity to discuss the budget priorities for Fiscal Year 2024. Additionally, the Council will receive updates on the midyear financial outlook, progress on capital projects, and the City's debt obligations and capacity.

**7D. Easter Celebration**

Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Brown presented information regarding the upcoming Easter Celebration event to be held Saturday, April 1, 2023, at Rosebud Park from 10:00 a.m. to noon and advised of issues including offsite parking and road closures.

**7E. February Department Reports**

Fire Chief Russell Shelley provided the Fire Department update and advised that the new ambulance is nearly complete and the next Citizens Fire Academy class begins Thursday, April 6, 2023.

City Manager Candice Edmondson provided the Public Works update and advised that the department was able to repair 68 potholes in the month of February.

Library Director Chantele Hancock provided the Library update and advised that the Adult Spelling Bee held February 23, 2023, had three teams compete and the winning team, the Richland Hills Literary Club, will compete against other area library Bee winners in Fort Worth in May.

### **COMMUNITY INTEREST ITEMS**

8. Mayor Pro Tem Bergthold advised of several upcoming events:

- Saturday, April 1, 2023, Easter Celebration, Rosebud Park, 10:00 a.m. to noon;
- Saturday, April 8, 2023, Second Saturday Seminar – Backyard Bird Feeding, The Link, 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.;
- Tuesday, April 11, 2023, Richland Hills Literary Society, Richland Hills Public Library, 6:30 p.m.;
- Thursday, April 13, 2023,
  - Senior Lunch Bunch and Bingo, The Link, 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.;
  - Tarrant County Food Pantry, The Link parking lot, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.;
- Saturday, April 29, 2023, Clean Green & Lean, City Parks and The Link, 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.
- Every Thursday, Coffee Talk, Richland Hills Public Library, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.;
- 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month, Storytime at the library, 6:30 p.m.; and
- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month, Arts and Crafts, 6:30 p.m.

Councilmember Estep advised that the City Council held a Strategic Planning workshop on Friday, March 24, 2023 and Saturday, March 25, 2023, and was pleased with the discussion and ideas that came from the workshop.

Mayor Lopez agreed that the workshop was successful and looked forward to hearing the results from the consultant.

City Manager Candice Edmondson expressed her appreciation to the City Council and staff for the time and attention given to the Strategic Planning workshop.

### **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. A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bergthold and seconded by Councilmember Knowlton to adjourn.

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Lopez declared the meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

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Lindsay Rawlinson, City Secretary

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Edward Lopez, Mayor