

**RICHLAND HILLS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 8, 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
James Donovan, City Attorney

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION – 6:31 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. Richland Hills Police Department 2022 Crime Review

Police Chief Kimberly Sylvester advised that the Police Department will hold a Town Hall meeting on Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at The Link to present the 2022 Crime Review to the community and introduced the Police Department command staff to provide additional information.

Captain Scott Russell presented the 2022 Activity Performance Measures including arrests, citations issued, and citation violations.

Lieutenant Ronnie Miller presented the Community Services Areas and an update regarding Animal Services

Lieutenant Christian Guytan presented the Victim Assistance Program and Criminal Investigations Unit.

Chief Sylvester provided additional details regarding data collected and 2022 accomplishments including the Citizens Police Academy, community programs, successful hiring and recruiting efforts, and Animal Shelter improvements.

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 Lopez adjourned the work session at 7:00 p.m.

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE – Mayor Pro Tem Bergthold

PRESENTATIONS

1A. Recognition of outgoing Mayor Pro Tem Curtis Bergthold

Mayor Lopez, City Council members, and City staff expressed their appreciation for outgoing Mayor Pro Tem Curtis Bergthold. City Manager Candice Edmondson highlighted Mayor Pro Tem Bergthold’s accomplishments during his Council tenure.

1B. Recognition and proclamation for Earl Whitley

Mayor Lopez read a proclamation declaring May 8, 2023 as “Earl Whitley Day” in Richland Hills and recognized Mr. Whitley as a longtime resident and former police officer for the City of Richland Hills.

1C. Fire Department Badge Pinning

Fire Chief Russell Shelley introduced Firefighter/EMT Anthony Dryer and his girlfriend, Angelia Bugarin.

City Secretary Lindsay Rawlinson administered the Oath of Office to Firefighter/EMT Anthony Dryer.

1D. National Police Week Proclamation

Mayor Lopez read a proclamation declaring May 14 – 20, 2023, as “National Police Week” in Richland Hills and presented it to Police Chief Kimberly Sylvester.

Chief Sylvester advised of several events the Police Department will be holding during National Police Week including:

- Monday, May 15, 2023, Flag Lowering Ceremony, 5:00 p.m., Police Department;
- Tuesday, May 16, 2023, Carnival with Cops, 5:00 p.m., The Link parking lot; and
- Saturday, May 20, 2023, Coffee with Cops, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., McDonalds.

1E. Citizen Appearances/Public Comments

Athena Campbell, 2802 Elm Park Street, Richland Hills, expressed her appreciation to Mayor Pro Tem Bergthold for his service on City Council. She stated that they began their tenure on City Council together and she appreciated his municipal experience.

CONSENT AGENDA

2A. Approved minutes from the April 24, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting

2B. Reapproved award of bid to Excel 4 Construction, LLC for sewer system improvements in the 2800 to 3000 blocks of Elm Park Drive as part of the 48th Year Community Development Block Grant Program

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

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, MEETINGS, AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

3A. Approved Ordinance 1471-23 adopting the 2023 Standards of Care for youth programs provided by The Link Event & Recreation Center. PUBLIC HEARING

Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Brown presented the item to the City Council and advised that Ordinance No. 1471-23 is an annual requirement of the Texas Human Resources Code for all municipalities who operate youth programs in the form of day camps and after-school programs. Mr. Brown provided an overview of the Standards of Care and minor changes made to the annual ordinance including title and duty changes for staff, and language.

Mayor Lopez opened the public hearing at 7:39 p.m. and asked to hear from any proponents followed by opponents of the items.

Hearing none, Mayor Lopez closed the public hearing at 7:40 p.m.

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Knowlton and seconded by Councilmember Estep to approve Ordinance 1471-23, adopting the 2023 Standards of Care for youth programs provided by The Link Event and Recreation Center.

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS**4A. Approved Resolution 573-23 recognizing World Migratory Bird Day and local efforts to pursue the Bird City Texas designation by Texas Parks and Wildlife**

Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Brown presented the item to the City Council and advised that Resolution No. 573-23 acknowledges the importance of migratory birds and their continued successful breeding and population growth. This statement further acknowledges the City's responsibility to find ways to be a part of the solution through information, education and sustainability.

Motion: Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bergthold and seconded by Councilmember Malone to approve Resolution 573-23 recognizing World Migratory Bird Day and local efforts to pursue the Bird City Texas designation by Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

4B. Approved Resolution 575-23 an Advanced Funding Agreement with TxDOT for the 2023 Baker Boulevard Green Ribbon Project

Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Brown presented the item to the City Council and advised that Resolution No. 575-23 endorses an Advanced Funding Agreement with TxDOT for the 2023 Baker Boulevard Green Ribbon Project at an estimated cost of \$540,153. The city is responsible for \$85,000, which covers design, engineering and mandatory environmental study. Half Associates will provide those services.

The City of Richland Hills has been awarded its fifth Green Ribbon project grant since 2014. The original project included the installation of irrigation and landscaping at the east and west monument signs, as well as along Baker Boulevard. The 2023 grant will continue implementation of the new palette in the medians located from Handley-Ederville to Rufe Snow. Once completed, all medians on Baker Boulevard will consist of the same landscape palette.

Motion: Motion was made by Councilmember Estep and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bergthold to approve Resolution 575-23 an Advanced Funding Agreement with TxDOT for the 2023 Baker Boulevard Green Ribbon Project.

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, BID AWARDS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS

5. None.

OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

6. None.

REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS**7. Richland Hills Police Department 2022 Crime Review**

Item was discussed during the work session.

Police Chief Kimberly Sylvester and the command staff of the Police Department answered follow up questions from the work session regarding the 2022 Crime Review.

Discussion ensued regarding crime victims assistance, sex offenders, and weapons seizure.

COMMUNITY INTEREST ITEMS

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

- April 15 through May 15, Pick a Perk Link Membership Sale;
- Tuesday, May 9, 2023, Richland Hills Literary Society, Library, 6:30 p.m.;
- Thursday, May 11, 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.;
 - Police Department Town Hall, The Link, 6:00 p.m.;
- Saturday, May 13, 2023, Push-In Ceremony, Fire Station, 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.;
- Monday, May 15, 2023, Flag Lowering Ceremony, Police Department;
- Tuesday, May 16, 2023,
 - Carnival with the Cops, The Link, 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.;
 - Succulent Garden Make & Take, Library, 6:30 p.m.;
- Saturday, May 20, 2023, Coffee with Cops, McDonalds, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.;
- Thursday, May 25, 2023, Vax Shack, Animal Services Center, 10:00 to 1:00 p.m.
- Thursday, June 1, 2023, Summer Reading Kick-Off, Library, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.;
- Tuesday, July 4, 2023, Red, White & YOU, Baker Boulevard, 9:00 a.m.;
- Every Thursday, Coffee Talk, Library, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.;
- 1st, 3rd, and 5th Thursday of the month, Storytime at the library, 6:30 p.m.; and
- 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, Arts and Crafts, 6:30 p.m.

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 8:06 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Lindsay Rawlinson, City Secretary

Edward Lopez, Mayor