

**RICHLAND HILLS CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 24, 2023  
MINUTES**

Roll Call:

Council present

Edward Lopez, Mayor  
G.W. Estep, Mayor Pro Tem  
Douglas Knowlton, Place 1  
Travis Malone, Place 2  
Theresa Bledsoe, Place 3  
Javier Alvarez, Place 4  
Roland Goveas, Place 6

Council absent

Staff present

Candice Edmondson, City Manager  
Lindsay Rawlinson, City Secretary  
James Donovan, City Attorney

**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION – 6:30 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.

None.

- 2. 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session Update**

Assistant to the City Manager Logan Thatcher provided a detailed overview of legislative changes made during the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session including House Bill (HB) 1750 and HB 2308 related to agriculture, HB 1819 prohibiting juvenile curfews, HB 2127 related to city preemptions, and Senate Bill (SB) 543 related to Chapter 380 agreements.

City Attorney James Donovan provided additional details specifically related to HB 2127.

Additionally, Mr. Thatcher presented a brief overview of bills that were approved by the Legislature but ultimately vetoed by Governor Abbott.

**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.**

**2B. *Approved Resolution 579-23 denying Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Application to Amend its Distribution Cost Recovery Factor and Update its Mobile Generation Riders to increase distribution rates***

City Manager Candice Edmondson advised that on June 29, 2023, Oncor Electric Delivery Company, LLC filed an Application to Amend its Distribution Cost Recovery Factor ("DCRF") and update its Mobile Generation Riders to increase distribution rates within each of the cities in its service area. In the filing, the Company asserts it is seeking an increase in distribution revenues of approximately \$152.78 million. The Company is also seeking to update its Rider Mobile Generation and Rider Wholesale Mobile Generation to recover revenue related to mobile generation unit leasing and operation. The Rider would recover approximately \$1.07 million.

The City of Richland Hills is a member of the 169-city coalition known as the Steering Committee of Cities Served by Oncor (OCSC). Resolution 579-23 authorizes the City to join with the OCSC to evaluate the filing, determine whether the filing complies with law, and if lawful, to determine what further strategy, including settlement, to pursue. The Public Utility Commission's rules allow cities 60 days to act on a DCRF application.

**7A. *Street Improvement Update***

Director of Public Works and Capital Projects Kip Dernovich presented the Street Improvement Projects update and provided details regarding Dover Lane, Magnolia Park, and Norton Drive as well as the Animal Shelter/Latham Drive drainage project.

**7B. *Q3 Investment Report***

City Manager Candice Edmondson presented the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Investment Report and advised that the City is in a favorable financial position.

**7C. *June Department Reports***

Fire Chief Russell Shelley presented the Fire Department update and responded to questions regarding Priority 1 calls with Medstar and overall response times.

Mayor Lopez adjourned the work session at 6:50 p.m.

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

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

**PRESENTATIONS****1A. Business Spotlight: Rice House Express**

Assistant to the City Manager Logan Thatcher provided a brief introduction for Rice House Express located at 7012 Boulevard 26.

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

Joyce Fiaccone, 3800 Labadie, Richland Hills, inquired about increasing the size of the City's boards and commissions to allow greater numbers of residents to participate.

**CONSENT AGENDA****2A. Approved minutes from the July 10, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting****2B. Approved Resolution 579-23 denying Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Application to Amend its Distribution Cost Recovery Factor and Update its Mobile Generation Riders to increase distribution rates**

*This item was discussed during the worksession.*

**Motion:** Motion was made by Councilmember Malone and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Estep 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****4A. Approved Resolution 578-23 ordering a special election to be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, to allow voters to consider voting for or against the following proposition: the legal sale of all alcoholic beverages for off-premise consumption only**

City Secretary Lindsay Rawlinson advised that the City of Richland Hills received a petition meeting the requirements of Chapter 501 of the Texas Election Code related to local option elections on July 3, 2023. In accordance with Section 501.032, the number of required signatures on a petition is equal to or greater than 35 percent of the registered voters in the political subdivision who voted for governor in the most recent gubernatorial election (as indicated by the official returns for that election.) Based on this requirement, the minimum number of valid signatures required to call a local option election in Richland Hills was 903.

The City Secretary performed the petition signature verification using a statistical sampling method pursuant to Section 501.031(a) of the Texas Election Code and confirmed approximately 910 valid petition signatures.

Joyce Fiaccone, 3800 Labadie, Richland Hills, inquired about the City's ability to dictate zoning related to package stores.

Ms. Rawlinson advised that the election and zoning are two separate issues and the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code governs most requirements related to package stores and where they may be located in a city.

Discussion ensued regarding types of establishments that would be allowed if the proposition were to pass.

**Motion:** Motion was made by Councilmember Knowlton and seconded by Councilmember Malone to approve Resolution 578-23 ordering a special election to be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, to allow voters to consider voting for or against the following proposition: the legal sale of all alcoholic beverages for off-premise consumption only.

Motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

## **CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, BID AWARDS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS**

5. None.

## **OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **6A. City of Richland Hills Strategic Plan**

City Manager Candice Edmondson advised that on March 24 and 25, 2023, the City Council participated in a strategic planning workshop. Beginning with the results of the recent citizen survey, City Council worked to develop a vision, mission, core values, and strategic goals and objectives for the City. On June 29, 2023, the City's executive staff met to review and refine the strategic plan created by City Council.

Ms. Edmondson presented the strategies, goals, and values in the City of Richland Hills Strategic Plan. The Values are Service, Teamwork, Respect, Integrity, Vision, and Empowerment.

The City's Vision Statement is:

*A positive and closely connected community, we are forward looking, focused on progress and united by shared values, in pursuit of excellence.*

The City's Mission Statement is:

*Richland Hills is dedicated to the responsible use of public resources and progressive delivery of community focused services, while valuing our small-town quality of life.*

The Council expressed their satisfaction with the proposed Plan and expressed their appreciation to City Manager Candice Edmondson and city staff for their efforts.

**Motion:** Motion was made by Councilmember Knowlton and seconded by Councilmember Bledsoe to adopt the City of Richland Hills Strategic Plan.

The vote was as follows:

For: Mayor Lopez, Mayor Pro Tem Estep, and Councilmembers Knowlton, Bledsoe, Alvarez, and Goveas

Against: Councilmember Malone

Motion carried by a vote of 6-1.

## **REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS**

### **7A. Street Improvement Update**

*This item was discussed during the worksession.*

### **7B. Q3 Investment Report**

*This item was discussed during the worksession.*

### **7C. June Department Reports**

*This item was discussed during the worksession.*

City Manager Candice Edmondson presented the Finance Department update and advised that the City is in a positive financial position.

Police Chief Kimberly Sylvester presented the Police Department update and provided an update on the success of the Traffic Unit pilot program, officer training, and a fundraiser on Thursday, July 27, 2023 at Texas Roadhouse.

Director of Public Works and Capital Projects Kip Dernovich presented the Public Works Department update and advised of projects along Dover Lane and at Kate Baker Park.

**COMMUNITY INTEREST ITEMS**

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

- Thursday, July 27, 2023,
  - Covid-19 Booster Clinic, The Link, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.;
  - Summer Reading Finale, Public Library, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 8, 2023, Richland Hills Literary Club, Public Library, 6:30 p.m.;
- Thursday, August 10, 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.; and
- Every Thursday, Coffee Talk, Public Library, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.;

Councilmember Malone advised that when Mullendore Elementary School opens soon to staff and students the traffic pattern previously in place will remain the same.

**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 Estep and seconded by Councilmember Knowlton to adjourn.

Motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Lopez declared the meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

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Lindsay Rawlinson, City Secretary

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Edward Lopez, Mayor