MINUTES
RICHARDSON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

- **Call to Order**
  Mayor Omar called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following Council members present:

Amir Omar	Mayor
Ken Hutchenrider	Mayor Pro Tem
Curtis Dorian	Councilmember
Jennifer Justice	Councilmember
Dan Barrios	Councilmember
Joe Corcoran	Councilmember
Arefin Shamsul	Councilmember

The following staff members were also present:

Don Magner	City Manager
Kent Pfeil	Chief Operating Officer
Charles Goff	Assistant City Manager
Michaela Dollar	Assistant City Manager
Dannette Garcia	Assistant City Manager
Aimee Nemer	City Secretary
Riley Thomason	Assistant to the City Manager
Bob Clymire	Budget Officer
Todd Gastorf	Director of Finance
Kayla Johnson	Placemaking Manager

COUNCIL MEETING – 6:00 PM, MULTIPURPOSE ROOM #CH 157

1. INVOCATION – CURTIS DORIAN

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: U.S. AND TEXAS FLAGS – CURTIS DORIAN

3. MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2025 MEETING

Council Action
Mayor Pro Tem Hutchenrider moved to approve the Minutes as presented. Councilmember Shamsul seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed, 7-0.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS AND VISITORS FORUM
There were no public comments submitted.

PUBLIC HEARING ITEM:

5. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FY 2025-2026 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET.

Public Hearing
After a briefing from City Manager Don Magner on the proposed FY 2025-2026 budget, Mayor Omar opened the Public Hearing. With no public comments submitted, Mayor Pro Tem

Hutchenrider moved to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Councilmember Shamsul and approved unanimously.

BUDGET ACTION ITEMS:

6. CONSIDER ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2025 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2026.

Council Action

Motion 1 by Full Council
Mayor Pro Tem Hutchenrider moved to approve and adopt a budget by ordinance for all city services except wellness services, immunizations, employee shots, and Methodist Richardson Medical Center Foundation event sponsorship/advertising for the year beginning October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026. Councilmember Shamsul seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed, with Mayor Omar, Mayor Pro Tem Hutchenrider, Councilmember Dorian, Councilmember Justice, Councilmember Barrios, Councilmember Corcoran, and Councilmember Shamsul voting in favor. No members were opposed.

Conflict of Interest
Mayor Pro Tem Hutchenrider announced that due to a Conflict of Interest on file with the City Secretary, he will abstain from this discussion and vote. Mayor Pro Tem Hutchenrider stepped out of the room.

Motion 2 by Council w/ Councilmember Hutchenrider Abstaining
Councilmember Dorian moved to approve and adopt a budget for wellness services, immunizations, employee shots, and Methodist Richardson Medical Center Foundation event sponsorship/advertising for the year beginning October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026. Councilmember Corcoran seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed with Councilmember Dorian, Councilmember Justice, Councilmember Barrios, Councilmember Corcoran, and Councilmember Shamsul voting in favor. No members were opposed. Mayor Pro Tem Hutchenrider abstained due to a conflict of interest on file with the City Secretary.

7. CONSIDER ORDINANCE LEVYING THE AD VALOREM TAXES FOR THE YEAR 2025 (FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026) AT A RATE OF \$0.54218 PER ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100) ASSESSED VALUATION ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF RICHARDSON AS OF JANUARY 1, 2025.

Council Action
Councilmember Shamsul moved that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.54218, which is effectively a 2.54 percent increase in the tax rate. Councilmember Corcoran seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed, with Mayor Omar, Mayor Pro Tem Hutchenrider, Councilmember Dorian, Councilmember Justice, Councilmember Barrios, Councilmember Corcoran, and Councilmember Shamsul voting in favor. No members were opposed.

8. CONSIDER RATIFYING THE PROPERTY TAX INCREASE REFLECTED IN THE ADOPTED BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2025 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2026.

Council Action
Councilmember Corcoran moved to ratify the property tax increase reflected in the budget adopted for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026. Councilmember Shamsul seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed, with Mayor Omar, Mayor Pro Tem Hutchenrider, Councilmember Dorian, Councilmember Justice, Councilmember Barrios, Councilmember Corcoran, and Councilmember Shamsul voting in favor. No members were opposed.

9. BUDGET CONSENT AGENDA:

A. CONSIDER ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF RICHARDSON, TEXAS, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RICHARDSON, TEXAS, BY AMENDING CHAPTER 1 "GENERAL PROVISIONS" BY AMENDING SECTION 1-2. – "DEFINITIONS AND RULES OF CONSTRUCTION." TO ADD A DEFINITION FOR "MASTER FEE SCHEDULE"; BY AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE THAT RATES FOR WATER AND SEWER SERVICE, DRAINAGE SYSTEM CHARGES, INSPECTION AND PERMIT FEES, SERVICE CHARGES AND OTHER COSTS AND CHARGES ARE SET FORTH IN THE MASTER FEE SCHEDULE, APPENDIX B TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES AND RELATED CONFORMING CHANGES; BY ESTABLISHING THE RATES FOR WATER AND SEWER SERVICE, DRAINAGE SYSTEM CHARGES, INSPECTION AND PERMIT FEES, SERVICE CHARGES AND OTHER COSTS AND CHARGES IMPOSED AND TO BE PAID TO THE CITY; BY AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ADOPT APPENDIX B MASTER FEE SCHEDULE.

Council Action
Councilmember Justice moved to approve the Budget Consent Agenda as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Hutchenrider seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed, 7-0.

10. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS:

1. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICULAR CITY OFFICERS TO DECLARE EXPECTATION TO REIMBURSE EXPENDITURES WITH PROCEEDS OF FUTURE DEBT.**

2. **RESOLUTION APPROVING A FRIENDSHIP CITY AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF KEELUNG, TAIWAN.**

Council Action
Councilmember Corcoran moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilmember Justice seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed, 7-0.

11. REVIEW AND DISCUSS THE CORE DISTRICT ART DROP
Kayla Johnson, Placemaking Manager, reviewed this item for Council.

- Art Drop Day

- Scavenger hunt for art
- National movement
- Aligns with Master Plan

- Culture in the CORE
  - November 8, 2025

- Shop Small Saturday
  - November 29, 2025

12. REVIEW AND DISCUSS COUNCIL TACTICS FOR THE 2025-2027 COUNCIL TERM
City Manager Magner reviewed recommended Council tactics for Council.

Promote economic development that benefits the whole city
- Advance the Arapaho Station master development
- Evaluate the effectiveness of economic development incentives
- Expand support for small and mid-sized businesses
- Strengthen retail attraction in priority areas

Ensure systems are safe and secure
- Advance phased replacement and integration of legacy software to improve efficiency, security, and scalability
- Maintain continuous technology upgrades, system patching, and refresh cycles to ensure vendor support and safeguard against vulnerabilities
- Further cybersecurity awareness and advance cybersecurity best practices

Maintain strong fund balance and bond rating
- Maintain a multi-year capital improvement plan
- Conduct annual review of property tax exemptions and financial policies
- Review outstanding debt annually for refunding opportunities
- Consider new or enhanced best practices to safeguard our AAA bond rating

Work to increase public engagement and input
- Review current environmental initiatives and assess opportunities for innovative programs that advance awareness and participation priorities
- Explore strategies to make it easier for stakeholders to provide input to the City
- Consider ways to make volunteering opportunities easier to know about and understand how to take part

Improve access, usability, and user experience with policies, processes, and procedures
- Facilitate Council discussion for alignment of current development priorities
- Review Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance and development standards and reconcile with the future land use plan
- Review existing design standards and options for enhancements and standardization
- Review existing special reinvestment areas and reconcile any outstanding differences in understanding
- Evaluate approach and order of studying the special development areas identified in Envision Richardson

Value, protect, and create a positive return on City, resident, and other stakeholder investments in the City

- Open Fire Station #5, Animal Shelter, Library, City Hall, Sherrill Park Titleist Fitting Center/Maintenance Barn, Renovated Heights Aquatic Center
- Review and discuss calling a May 2026 Bond Program election
- Continue work towards achieving silver-level bike-friendly designation while leveraging pedestrian and bike investments
- Partner with DART to ensure successful launch of the Silver Line and completion of the Cotton Belt Trail to enhance connectivity and community access
- Discuss street maintenance programs and repair strategies

Document and continuously improve business processes

- Review the Council Rules of Order and Procedure
- Evaluate Boards & Commissions
- Ensure Council decisions on regulations are informed by a comprehensive understanding of emerging technologies, their impacts, and viable policy approaches
- Initiate a comprehensive water/wastewater rate analysis study, including evaluating the current rate structure

Protect and promote innovative integrity and vitality programs to support neighborhood desirability and encourage reinvestment

- Review the City's regional involvement in unhoused initiatives
- Review minimum property standards to confirm alignment with contemporary regulations and evaluate standard enforcement procedures to ensure consistency with best practices
- Enhance engagement with neighborhood leadership for insight and best practices
- Receive and discuss next steps of the Housing Needs Assessment

Promote an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship where businesses of all sizes can thrive

- Explore opportunities to enhance international business strategies and programs
- Explore opportunities to expand collaboration in research, innovation, and workforce development with educational partners
- Continue to assess smart city initiatives for strategic alignment and explore opportunities to implement meaningful use cases that deliver community value

Leverage our regional leadership position to positively impact County, State and Federal issues

- Explore how Council can engage with our state and federal representatives in a more direct and intentional manner
- Continue to prioritize and facilitate engagement in regional boards and committees to advance the City's interests and collaboration efforts
- Examine opportunities for Council to strengthen purposeful engagement with franchisees

Explore alternative funding opportunities

- Conduct a market scan to identify and evaluate potential funding sources, including grants, public–private partnerships, philanthropic contributions, and state/federal programs
- Analyze financial, legal, and operational implications of each funding option to determine viability and alignment with strategic priorities
- Prioritize opportunities and create a roadmap for pursuing high-impact funding streams

Effectively navigate the regulatory environment

- Assess emerging legislation to identify organizational impacts and strategies that mitigate risk and ensure adherence
- Partner with NTMWD to secure future water supply and wastewater treatment capacity and align planning with long-term community and economic development needs
- Partner with DART to support the design of a modernized governance model that reflects regional needs and collaborate on a sustainable, regionally viable funding plan to ensure long-term success

13. REPORT ON ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

Council reported on items of community interest.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

In compliance with Section 551.072 of the Texas Government Code, Council will convene into a closed session to discuss the following:

- Deliberation Regarding Real Property
  - Consider Sale of City Property – Vernet St./Custer Rd. Area

Council Action

Council convened into Executive Session at 8:13 p.m.

RECONVENE INTO REGULAR SESSION

Council will reconvene into open session, and take action, if any, on matters discussed in Executive Session.

Council Action

Council reconvened into regular session at 8:57 p.m. There was no action as a result of the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY SECRETARY