



STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF FORT BEND  
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The City Commission for the City of Richmond, Texas met in Special Commission Meeting Session on April 1, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Mayor Moore proceeded to call the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. A quorum was present, with the following members in attendance:

Evalyn W. Moore, Mayor  
Terry Gaul, Commissioner P1  
Barry Beard, Commissioner P2  
Carl Drozd, Commissioner P3  
Vacant, Commissioner P4  
Terri Vela, City Manager  
Gary Smith, City Attorney  
Laura Scarlato, City Secretary

Before the meeting began, Mayor Moore called on the Commissioners to read their prepared statements in response to the recent articles in the newspapers and accusations from Commissioner Josh Lockhart.

**Commissioner Gaul read the following statement:**

*"As most of you know, we have had much drama within the city commission over the past several months. One commissioner accused the mayor of wrongdoing with the objective of having her removed from office. The remainder of the commission considered the alleged charter violations, determined that some had merit and agreed unanimously that censure was the appropriate response. The commissioner was not satisfied with this outcome. Since that time he has accused the commission as a whole of collusion, corruption, and favoritism. I have been reluctant to publicly refute these defamatory statements, but I can no longer remain silent.*

*My background is engineering and project management. I am no stranger to making decisions. My style is to gather relevant data, hear opposing sides of the argument, and form an informed, objective opinion. It disappoints me, no, it angers me, when false, defamatory statements are made about my performance while acting on behalf of the city and its citizens. I have been a commissioner for less than one year, but my limited experience is that the remaining members of the commission have likewise acted in what they felt to be the best interest of the city. When we agree on something, it is not an indication of collusion. When we disagree, it is not the result of corruption or favoritism. We have different perspectives, and that's good for the city. That's why*

*we have five members on the commission. Thank you for letting me express an alternate opinion to what you have been hearing in these meetings and reading in the newspaper.”*

**Commissioner Beard read the following statement:**

*“Mayor, I request to make a statement prior to a motion. In the past few weeks there have several critical remarks made and reported about this Commission and City Staff. My natural proclivity is to ignore these reports, since I know the truth, and have no control over what others say, and what the newspaper reports. Certainly it is preferable to spend time is on productive matters that I may influence an outcome. However, it has been brought to my attention that people would like to hear from us regarding matters that affect the City, and I want to do a better job of getting information to the Citizens without being tedious. To those that know us, thank you for your expressions of support. But as I found out in my last campaign, the vast majority of the Residents of Richmond do not know me, and I think I owe them a response.*

*While I can’t speak for everyone, I think I know they feel the same way, as I acknowledge the honor, opportunity, and responsibility entrusted to us by the Citizens of Richmond, Texas to protect our heritage, address the present needs of the Community, and create a better future for those that follow.*

*Further I would like to say that I am honored and privileged to work with the members this City Commission, and City Staff. There are 3 words that I try to apply to everything I do, Integrity, Caring, and Excellence. In my opinion these are virtues shared by those on the City Commission and our City Staff. That is certainly not to say we do not make mistakes, but those mistakes are certainly not rooted in malevolent motives. We have been through a process that has been trying, but the outcome will make us a better Commission and better Staff, as we more fully understand what it is to be a Home Rule City. I have full confidence that each of us has sought and will seek to make our decisions based on what we feel will be in both the present interests and future interests of the People. We may not always agree, but at the end of the day once consensus is reached we will then subordinate to the majority and move on to the next challenge.*

*“Growing pains” are not pleasant at the time, but they are a part of life, and the outcome is good. We to now turn our attention to the many positive things that are happening in the City of Richmond!!”*

**Commissioner Drozd did not have a prepared statement but stated the following:**

*“I agree with everything that has already been said by the two other Commissioners and I am not going to rehash all of that. There have been a lot of misrepresentations of events that have been going on and that is the only side that you all have gotten mainly, because it is what has been said in the newspapers. They are quoting what is being said by one accuser. I would like to challenge the citizens and the media to find the actual evidence that the accuser is trying to put*

*against the City and the Commission. These are broad accusations and many are defamatory and we shouldn't have to put up with that. We are here to serve at the will of the people, not a single one of us here do it for the money. We are just here to serve."*

**Mayor Moore stated the following:**

*"As Mayor of the City of Richmond, I will accept Mr. Lockhart's letter of resignation, but I will NOT accept those slanderous, false allegations made in his letter. Those allegations are defamatory; the City does not run way he alleges. His negative remarks, while childish and immature, hurt the City and the Citizens of Richmond, who trust their government with their tax dollars. We are spending your money well; you are safe in our hands.*

*I speak for myself, and my Commissioners. To serve is an honor we all share. I'm very sorry these news stories are out there, but they are NOT true; NOT true."*


Mayor Moore introduced agenda item A2, Public Comments. There were no individuals signed up for public comments therefore the agenda item was closed.

Agenda item A3 to consider and take action on Resolution No. 267-2019, accepting Commissioner Lockhart's resignation from the City Commission. Commissioner Beard made the motion to approve Resolution No. 267-2019, accepting Commissioner Josh Lockhart's resignation from the City of Richmond Commission but with a "heavy heart". Commissioner Drozd seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to approve.


Agenda item A4 to consider and take action on Resolution No. 268-2019, filling the vacant Commission Position, position 4. Mayor Moore stated she was not prepared to appoint anyone to the position therefore it was delayed until the April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. The agenda item was closed.

With no further business to discuss, the Mayor Moore adjourned the meeting at 4:09 p.m.

APPROVED:

  
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Evalyn W. Moore, Mayor

Attest:

  
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Laura Scarlato, City Secretary