



STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF FORT BEND
STATE OF TEXAS

The City Commission for the City of Richmond, Texas met in Regular Session on December 16, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.

Mayor Moore proceeded to call the meeting to order at 4:30 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
Alex BeMent, Commissioner P4
Terri Vela, City Manager
Gary Smith, City Attorney
Laura Scarlato, City Secretary

The Mayor Moore proceeded to make the following presentations for agenda item A2:

- a. Employee Recognition for Service with the City of Richmond
 - Dawn Engeling, 30 years of service, Fire Department.
 - Stephanie Rodriguez, 5 years of service, Building Department

Ms. Engeling was present to receive her service award and to be photographed with Mayor Moore. Ms. Engeling received a standing ovation from the gallery. Ms. Rodriguez was present to receive her service award and to also be photographed with Mayor Moore.

- b. Proclamations: None

- c. Recognition of the Finance Department for Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018. Finance Director Justin Alderete was present to receive the award on behalf of the Finance Department.

Agenda item A3, Public Comments was opened and there were no individuals signed up to speak, therefore the agenda item was closed

Mayor Moore introduced Agenda item A4, asking if there was any discussion regarding the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Gaul made the statement the lack of discussion is not because of disinterest, but that there were several questions and/or comments regarding the Consent Agenda that were answered at the Workshop Meeting that was held earlier in the day. Commissioner Drozd pulled consent agenda item A4

(2) for discussion. Commissioner Beard made the motion to approve the remainder of the agenda items with Commissioner Gaul seconding the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve all but A4 (2). Commissioner Drozd pulled the Fire Department report to discuss the Code Enforcement piece. The political season will soon be upon the City and Commissioner Drozd would like the Commission to be on the same page regarding political signs in the right-of-ways and on City property. It is the Commissioner's desire to avoid clutter within the City if possible. Fire Chief Mike Youngblood stated that notifications would be sent to all of the candidates. Commissioner Beard clarified this would be across the board to all candidates. Commissioner Beard made the motion to approve Consent Agenda item A4 (2) with Commissioner Drozd seconding the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve.

Agenda item A5, review and consider taking action on Ordinance No. 2019-46, authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2020 and related items. Finance Director Justin Alderete stated the GO Bonds were a way to refinance the existing bonds. The City currently has General Obligation Bonds, Series 2009 that by refinancing will provide the City an opportunity to save an estimated \$200,000. The net present value must be at least 4% of the principal amount to initiate the sale. Finance Director Alderete confirmed that the Pricing Officer is defined as the Mayor or the City Manager when questioned by Commissioner Beard. Commissioner Drozd made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 2019-46, authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2020 and related items. Commissioner Beard seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Mayor Moore introduced agenda item A6, Update on the Fort/Front St/Williams Way Street Widening Project. Fort Bend County Engineer Stacy Slawinsky provided an update on the project confirming the project name is the **Richmond Parkway Project**. The design begins at Wheaton Street and ends at F.M. Loop 762. The plans are to remove the sweeping curve and replace with a "T" corner and a traffic signal. The County has been working with TxDOT on the project plans which are 95% complete. All the right of way has been purchased, the last parcels being 3 and 6. The most difficult or time consuming will be the relocation of the utilities and underground cables. Working with the multiple utility companies will most likely delay the project for approximately a year. Commissioner Drozd inquired as to what would happen to the property that will be remaining where the roadway or curve was previously located. Mr. Slawinsky stated the property would belong to the state. TxDOT does have a process to deal with the property. City Manager Vela stated the property most likely would be offered to an adjacent home owner. Mr. Ike Akinwande was introduced as the Assistant County Engineer in charge of projects who will be a key player in the Richmond Parkway Project. No action was required on this item, the agenda item was closed.

Mayor Moore introduced agenda item A7, Update on the Williams Way/Richmond Parkway Freeway Sign Installation Project. Assistant Public Works Director Jim Whitehead addressed the Commission stating that as of this morning the City does not have an answer on the approval of the change order to change the signs. City Manager Vela stated that a few months ago the application was received to install

the signs however they failed to put up both signs, only placing the Williams Way sign. Several steps have to occur to get the change order in place but we feel confident the secondary signs will be put in place. They are aware we are displeased and Director Whitehead attends the monthly meetings for updates. Commissioner Drozd inquired if there will be additional sign changes at the stoplights at the feeder roads as well. Director Whitehead stated that those would be changed, along with Highway 59 exits to Williams Way and Richmond Parkway going North and South. No action was necessary and the agenda item was closed.

Agenda item A8, Review and consider taking action on Resolution No. 312-2019, Wayside Horn Agreement with Union Pacific Railroad Company. City Manager Vela stated staff and Union Pacific are in the preliminary discussions of the responsibilities on both sides. Staff has the full confidence that we have something started however we are not at a point for the Commission to take action. The agreement is for staff to receive comments. Assistant City Manager Howard Christian addressed the Commission with an update of the Quiet Zone agreement. The City has received an agreement from Union Pacific which is a standard, very one-sided agreement, however it is a starting point. Staff has been meeting with the railroad. Median Upgrade at Collins Road and F.M. 1640 will take place during the night as to disrupt traffic flow as little as possible. There will be some rerouting of traffic in the community. The plan is to have bids out for the street project in January 2020 so that the City can move forward on the agreement. No action was taken and the agenda item was closed.


Agenda item A9, to Review and discuss process of the Comprehensive Master Plan Update. City Planner Jose Abraham addressed the Commissioner regarding the agenda item providing a brief overview of the process. The Comprehensive Master Plan captures the community's vision and uses a strategic toolbox to achieve the City's goals. There are five major stakeholders involved in the collaborative planning process. They are City Staff, Citizens and Public, Planning and Zoning Commission, City Commission, all other Boards and Commissions. Mayor Moore inquired as to when the process of the update would be starting. City Planner Abraham replied that the process has already started but hopefully all of the meetings will be set by January 2020 and the updated plan will be completed by May 2020. Commissioner Beard expressed his concern regarding a quorum at the meetings, City Attorney Gary Smith stated they would be posted to avoid any conflict. Commissioner Drozd stated that we should be discussing growth versus stronger City involvement. There was no action required for the agenda item, therefore it was closed.

Agenda item A10, Excuse from Attendance at Regular City Commission Meeting. There were no excuses therefore the agenda item was closed.

Mayor Moore introduced agenda item A11, to consider taking action on requests for future agenda items. There were no suggestions therefore the agenda item was closed.


With no further business to discuss, Mayor Moore declared the meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

APPROVED:



Evalyn W. Moore, Mayor

Attest:



Laura Scarlato, City Secretary