



STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF FORT BEND  
STATE OF TEXAS

The City Commission for the City of Richmond, Texas met in Emergency Session on March 30, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

Mayor Moore proceeded to call the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. via video conference call pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.125, as amended, and as modified by the temporary suspension of various provisions thereof effective March 16, 2020, by the Governor of Texas in accordance with the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, all as related to the Governor's proclamation on March 13, 2020, certifying that the COVID-19 pandemic poses an imminent threat of disaster and declaring a state of disaster for all counties in Texas. All members of the public may participate in the meeting via video conference call.

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

Agenda item A2, Public Comments was opened and there were no citizens signed up to speak through modified methods as stated per the agenda. Therefore, the agenda item was closed.

Agenda item A3, Review and consider taking action on Resolution No. 321-2020, adopting the provisions of the Expanded Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and the Emergency Leave Act as required by Families First Coronavirus Response Act. City Manager Terri Vela introduced the item and then proceeded to turn the item over to Human Resources (HR) Director Shelley Freeman. HR Director Freeman provided the background of the FMLA stating the Family First Act amends the current FMLA by providing expanded provisions in response to COVID-19. The eligible employees include those who work for an employer with fewer than 500 employees and who have been on the payroll for at least 30 calendar days. Mayor Moore asked for questions

regarding the item. Commissioner Beard inquired about the effects on the budget which the response was no effects. Commissioner BeMent stated it appeared the City is getting the paperwork in order to be able to request for reimbursement. Commissioner Beard made the motion to approve Resolution No. 321-2020, adopting the provisions of the Expanded Family Medical Leave Act and the Emergency Leave Act as required by Families First Coronavirus Response Act. Commissioner Drozd seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Agenda item A4, Review and consider taking action on Ordinance No. 2020-10, postponing the May 2, 2020 General Election until November 3, 2020. City Manager Terri Vela suggested that due to Mayor Moore being a candidate in the election, that she allow this item be conducted by Mayor Pro Tem Carl Drozd. Mayor Pro Tem Drozd opened the item for discussion. Texas Governor Abbott, in response to the COVID 19 pandemic and in an effort to combat the spread of the disease, issued a proclamation authorizing local governments to postpone the May 2, 2020 election until the next uniform election date, November 3, 2020. The postponement, if approved, does not change the term of office, nor does it change the election date for the City. The proclamation **only** allowed a local government to postpone to the November uniform election date. Communications with John Oldham, County Elections Administrator, indicates that all other local governments either have or are expected to postpone their elections. City Manager Vela stated that Missouri City would be voting this evening and Sugar Land has postponed until November. City Manager Vela stated there would be an increase in cost due to the elimination of cost sharing and some difficulty in locating election judges. Commissioner Gaul stated, *"It would be difficult to carry out the election and collectively adhere to the rules of social distancing"*. Commissioner Beard stated, *"For the safety of the citizens, as much as he hated to postpone it, it seems to be unavoidable"*. Commissioner BeMent stated, *"It doesn't seem like we have a choice with the increased costs"*. Commissioner Beard made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 2020-10, postponing the May 2, 2020 General Election until November 3, 2020. Commissioner BeMent seconded the motion and the vote was as follows:

Commissioner Gaul ~ Aye  
Commissioner Beard ~ Aye  
Commissioner Drozd ~ Did not vote because he was chairing the meeting for the item  
Commissioner BeMent ~ Aye

The agenda item was closed.

Agenda item A5, Review and consider taking action on Ordinance No. 2020-11, Affirm the Public Health Emergency Declarations including the revisions for the City of Richmond. City Manager Vela provided the explanation for the ordinance being that on March 18, 2020, March 23, 2020, and March 24, 2020, Mayor Moore, under authority of Chapter 418, Texas Government Code, issued Orders consistent with the orders of Texas Governor Greg Abbott and Fort Bend County Judge KP George for combatting the spread of COVID 19. The proposed ordinance ratifies and extends the Mayor's Orders. Those orders are summarized as follows:

- On March 18, Mayor Moore issued an Emergency Order closing certain businesses and restricting gatherings of more than 10 persons.
- On March 23, Mayor Moore issued the Second and Restated Order clarifying the prior order and adopting the "All of Community" approach, closing other businesses and further restricting gatherings of persons.
- On March 24, Mayor Moore issued the Third and Restated Order adopting the "Stay Home Work Safe" program closing businesses and providing exceptions for essential activities to combat the spread of COVID 19.

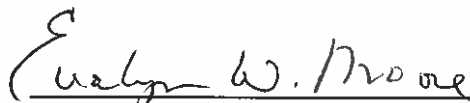
Commissioner Gaul requested the provision be added, in case of a conflict between orders, the latest order adopted takes precedence. Commissioner Beard inquired if Ordinance will be in effect until President Trump resends all the other dates. Commissioner Drozd stated the ordinance is a standalone document and is sufficient as written. Commissioner BeMent inquired if the issue would be on the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda. City Manager Terri Vela stated that it would. Commissioner Drozd made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 2020-11, Affirming the Public Health Emergency Declarations including the revisions of the City of Richmond. Commissioner Gaul seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Agenda item A6, Consider taking action on requests for future agenda items. City Manager Vela stated the Emergency Declaration item would be on the agenda. No other items were suggested therefore the agenda item was closed.

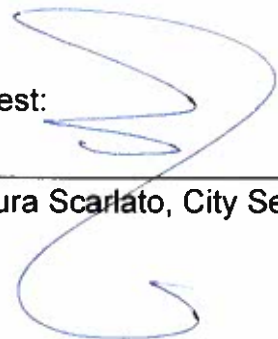
Mayor Moore thanked staff for getting the equipment together to enable the Commission to have the meeting via the teleconference with special shout out to IT Coordinator Joe Medina.

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Moore declared the meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

APPROVED:

  
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 Evalyn W. Moore, Mayor

Attest:

  
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 Laura Scarlato, City Secretary