



STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF FORT BEND  
CITY OF RICHMOND

The City Commission for the City of Richmond, Texas met in Special/Workshop Session on August 10, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

Mayor Moore proceeded to call the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. via video conference 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  
Howard Christian, Assistant City Manager (ACM)  
Gary Smith, City Attorney  
Laura Scarlato, City Secretary

Agenda item A2, Public Comments were opened and there were no citizens signed up to speak therefore the agenda item was closed.

Mayor Moore introduced agenda item A3, Review and discuss FY 2020-21 Annual Budget Workshop to discuss Tax Rate and Additional Budget Discussions. In accordance with Section 26.06 of the Texas Tax Code "NOTICE, HEARING, AND VOTE ON TAX INCREASE", consider taking action on the maximum tax rate to be published be set at \$0.687772. The public hearing having already been set on September 8, 2020, at 4:30 PM, at 600 Morton Street. Finance Director Justin Alderete provided a presentation regarding the property tax rate. It was reviewed where the City is in the budget process and how property taxes have been impacted by the legislature passing of Senate Bill 2 in 2019. Senate Bill 2 lowered the voter approval rate from 8%

to 3.5% and a City having a population less than 30,000, it must calculate a De minimis tax rate. Finance Director Alderete stated the average home value has increased from \$92,012 in 2009 to \$136,000 in 2019. The tax rate has been reduced from \$0.79 to \$0.687772 over a ten-year period. To comply with the Truth in Taxation provision, the City will be publishing notices in the newspaper, website and holding public hearings. The upcoming dates for the budget process were reviewed and then the floor was opened for questions. Commissioner Gaul questioned the proposed tax rate being carried out to six places and what the impact would be if the rate was rounded to fewer places. Commissioner Beard stated the City had the leeway for the rate to be higher without triggering a citizen vote but to be prudent to the citizens it should be as low as possible. There were no further questions. Commissioner Beard made the following motion, "In accordance with Section 26.06 of the Texas Tax Code NOTICE, HEARING, AND VOTE ON THE TAX INCREASE, I move that the maximum tax rate published be set at \$0.687772. The public hearing having already been set for September 8, 2020, at 4:30 PM, at 600 Morton Street". The affirmative votes were taken to accept the proposed tax rate of \$0.687772.

**Mayor Moore – Aye**

**Commissioner Gaul - Aye**

**Commissioner Beard – Aye**

**Commissioner Drozd - Aye**

**Commissioner BeMent – Aye**

Agenda item A4, Review and consider taking action on Ordinance No. 2020-22, requiring wearing a mask/face covering for City facilities. City Manager Terri Vela introduced the agenda item stating the ordinance before them is for consideration and feedback with the anticipation of reopening the City facilities to the public. It is being proposed for the safety of the citizens and employees. Commissioner Gaul expressed concerns with the ordinance being permanent and the need to repeal in order to remove it. Commissioner Gaul suggested a trigger based on the state or federal orders. Commissioner Drozd requested the definition of a facial covering be more defined in order to insure proper terminology. Commissioner Gaul inquired if the ordinance was necessary. Commissioner Beard stated he was not comfortable with the \$250 fine. City Attorney Gary Smith stated he would research the provision allowing for a warning due to noncompliance. The language will be revised and with no action, the agenda item was closed.

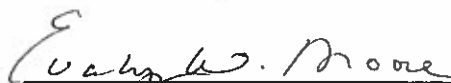
Mayor Moore introduced agenda item A5, Review and consider taking action on Ordinance No. 2020-01 calling a General Election to elect the Mayor on May 2, 2020 and postponed until November 3, 2020 by Ordinance No. 2020-10. City Manager Terri Vela introduced the agenda item stating the need to amend the General Election ordinances. Commissioner Gaul expressed concern that the document stated a three-

year term when in fact the term will be short by six months due to the postponement. Commissioner Drozd stated the charter sets the date for the terms. Commissioner Beard did not see a need for change. Commissioner Beard made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 2020-20 providing for a General Election scheduled to be held on May 2, 2020 and postponed until November 3, 2020, for the purpose of electing a Mayor for a term of office from 2020 to 2023 consistent with the Charter; providing for a joint election scheduled on May 2, 2020 and postponed until November 3, 2020, with other entities contracting with Fort Bend County for this joint election; providing for election precincts and polling places; providing for repeal; providing for severability; and containing other provisions relating to the subject. Commissioner Drozd seconded the motion and the vote was passed unanimously.

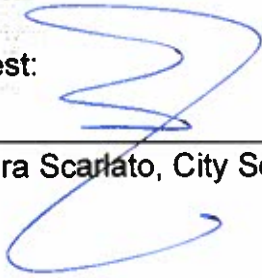
Agenda item A6, to review and consider taking action on Ordinance No. 2020-21, calling a special election to submit propositions on amendments to the City of Richmond Home Rule Charter. City Attorney Gary Smith provided a presentation of the proposed Charter Amendments that are being recommended by staff. There are six propositions being recommended to bring the City Charter into alignment with the Constitution. City Attorney Smith reviewed each one in detail with Commissioner questions being asked and answered. Commissioner Beard made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 2020-21 calling a special election to be held on November 3, 2020 in the City of Richmond, Texas to submit propositions on amendments to the City of Richmond Home Rule Charter, relating to election of Mayor and Commissioners by majority vote; filling a vacancy in the office of Mayor or Commissioner; in the event of the absence of two commissioners, counting the Mayor's presence toward the quorum and allowing the Mayor to vote; allowing the cancellation of a general election as provided by state law; precluding the referendum process from applying to Comprehensive Plans and Master Plans; allowing the annexation of additional territory as provided by state law; making provision for the conduct of the election; resolving other matters incident and related to such election; providing for severability; and containing other provisions relating to the subject. Commissioner Drozd seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to approve.

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Moore declared the meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

APPROVED:

  
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Evalyn W. Moore, Mayor

Attest:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned above a solid black horizontal line.

Laura Scarlato, City Secretary