



STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF FORT BEND
CITY OF RICHMOND

The City Commission for the City of Richmond, Texas met in Special Session on September 21, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Drozd proceeded to call the meeting to order at 9:00 a.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 - **Absent**
Terry Gaul, Commissioner P1
Barry Beard, Commissioner P2
Carl Drozd, Commissioner P3
Alex BeMent, Commissioner P4
Terri Vela, City Manager
Gary Smith, City Attorney
Howard Christian, Assistant City Manager
Laura Scarlato, City Secretary

Mayor Pro Tem Drozd passed over Agenda items A2, A3, and A4 then proceeded to Agenda item A5.

- a. Employee Recognition for Service with the City of Richmond -
 - Troy Coffman, 15 years of service, Fire Department
 - Kay Moss, 20 years of service, Fire Department
 - Elizabeth Neal, 15 years of service, Police Department
- b. Proclamations:
 - Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, September 2020.
 - Breast Cancer Awareness Month, October 2020.
- c. Report on Comprehensive Plan Update.
- d. CARES Act Funding Update.

Agenda item A3, Public Comments.

Agenda A4, Public Hearing on proposed 2021 Tax Rate, per Section 26.05 of the Tax Code. To address the City Commission on the tax rate you must be present in person at the meeting.

Agenda item A5, Mayor Pro Tem Drozd inquired if there were any Consent Agenda items to be discussed for agenda item A4. Commissioner Beard stated he had questions and/or comments for the majority of the items.

Agenda item A5. (2) Fire Department Report. Commissioner Beard wished to address the Code Enforcement Report. There are projects on the report that are greater than two years. The Commissioner is concerned with having long term safety issues or the issues having no disposition. Fire Chief Mike Youngblood responded that some of the concerns go in and out of compliance because they are a reoccurring problem (i.e. tall grass). The majority of the issues are forwarded to the Building and Standards Commission. Another problem is determining and locating the property owner. Code Enforcement follows the Dallas model in tracking the issues. Commissioner Beard specifically inquired about 206 Collins which is noted with extension due to COVID-19. Commissioner Beard is concerned about the location and the extension. City Manager Vela stated that the department may need to be more consistent with wording. There were no more comments and the agenda item was closed.

Agenda item A5. (3) Police Department Report. Commissioner Beard stated the Beat Reports are dwindling down to no information and although he realizes the contacts are limited due to COVID-19, we don't want to lose the community involvement and the valuable information obtained from the report. Police Chief Craig agreed the decline in citizen contacts is 100% related to COVID-19 but he is confident that reports will improve and be more comprehensive reporting. Commissioner Beard stated the reports "give me a sense of comfort in the community". City Manager Vela mentioned the National Night Out and inquired about the status. Chief Craig stated there is a lot of questions surrounding the event this year such as crowd size and safety. City Manager Vela stated the Fort Bend County Sheriff's office is doing a parade type event. There were no additional comments or questions, the agenda item was closed.

Agenda item A5. (6). Finance Report. Commissioner Beard requested an explanation of the budget versus actual for salaries and benefits being significantly lower. Finance Director Justin Alderete addressed the question stating the City has not been impacted by the pandemic as expected and the same level of services has continued to be provided. The savings the City has obtained from vacant positions not being filled has allowed the City to fund one-time projects. The city has adopted a new concept titled Salary Savings which is an account budget for since it is known that the City is going to have vacancies throughout the year. Therefore, not a full salary for 12 months. City Manager Vela stated the Police and Fire Departments are difficult to remain fully staffed. Commissioner BeMent requested an explanation of the CARES Act Funding. City Manager Vela stated there would be a presentation provided at the

4:30 meeting. Finance Director Alderete explained there an anticipated \$664,000 from the CARES Act. The budget seems higher because those funds have not all been received yet. More detailed information will be provided this afternoon.

Agenda item A5. (7). Public Works Report. Commissioner Beard stated he would like to bring attention to the Street Overlay Projects that have been completed by Street Department. There has been 13,000 feet of asphalt overlay has been applied with 11,000 feet being laid on the north side of Richmond. "This was a great project and the coordination with Fort Bend County Road and Bridge which hopefully we can continue," stated Commissioner Beard. Commissioner Drozd questioned if the lights on Collins Street had been installed which it was stated they will be installed very soon.

Agenda item A5. (10). Emergency Operations Report (EOC). Commissioner Beard stated it had been a very active month with Hurricane Laura and now Tropical Storm Beta which provided the opportunity to run the exercises of the EOC. Emergency Management Coordinator Anthony Pryor stated that staff had met recently to review the events and discuss future training events. Great feedback was provided to Emergency Management Coordinator Pryor. City Manager Vela stated that the elected officials also need emergency training. It was also stated there will be additional training for events such as hazmat, train derailment, pandemics as well as a hurricane. Commissioner Beard inquired about the military truck that is in a private driveway at the Fort Bend County Club. Emergency Management Coordinator Pryor stated the City has its own vehicle but would follow-up. City Manager Vela stated it is privately owned and if we were to utilize would need to be inspected among other things. With no further questions or concerns, the agenda item was closed.

Agenda item A5. (13). Review and consider taking action on a Final plat and associated Site Development Plan – Veranda at 762 – 15.003 acres of land – 0 Lots – 1 Block – 1 Reserve. The subject site is proposed for a multi-family residential development and is a section within the Veranda Master Planned Community. Commissioner Beard probed as to why the Commission is reviewing a Final plat that has numerous conditions. There was a lengthy discussion with information provided by City Planner Jose Abraham and City Attorney Gary Smith. The procedure of how plat are presented to the Commission and the timing involved. Additional information will be provided before the 4:30 meeting and it will be discussed again at that time. The agenda item was closed.

Agenda item A5. (14). Meeting dates. City Manager stated in addition to the regular meeting there will be special meetings called to address the annexation requests.

Agenda item A6. Ordinance No. 2020-23, Adopting FY 2020-21 Budget. There was no discussion.

Agenda item A7. Ordinance NO. 2020-24, Adopting Proposed Tax Rate. Commissioner Gaul inquired if there was a particular statement that would need to be

made. Commissioner Gaul stated he is uncomfortable with the way it is stated, it is no longer a rate. Commissioner BeMent stated the tax rate, even though it lower appears to increase because the property values have increased. With no other questions or concerns, the agenda item was closed.

Agenda item A8. Ordinance No. 2020-25, Ratifying the Property Tax Rate reflected in the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Budget. Commissioner Beard complimented staff for being able to lower the tax rate while being in a growth mode. The City will receive an additional \$132,681 in revenue from the property taxes which is a 3.38% increase from last years budget. The total tax rate is \$0.687772 reduced from last year's tax rate of \$0.699900 per \$100 tax value. With no other questions or comments, the agenda item was closed.

Agenda item A9. Resolution No. 337-2020, Appointment of Board Members to the Building and Standards Commission. Commission Gaul inquired if there were any additional applicants besides the incumbents that have expressed a desire to continue to serve. Commissioner Drozd stated the Mayor nominates and the Commission approves the nominees. There was a brief discussion and the agenda item was closed.

Agenda item A10. Resolution 338-2020, Appointment of Board Members to the Richmond Historical Commission. There was no discussion regarding this item.

Agenda item A11. Authorize the City Manager to convey property to the Fort Bend History Association. City Manager Vela stated that the City annually receives a letter from the association to renew the loan of 14 items which has been in place since 1997. The City does not have a facility currently available to display the items therefore its more favorable for the association to house and display them. Commissioner Drozd inquired about the rules as far as property, gifting and selling. City Attorney Smith stated the Local Government Code does not address the issue. There were various questions as to the origin of the items as well as appraised value. With no further questions or comments, the agenda item was closed.

Agenda item A12. Excuse from Attendance. None.

Agenda item A13. Future Agenda Items. None.

Before the meeting was adjourned, Commissioner Gaul inquired if the dates for the upcoming special meetings had been determined. City Manager Vela stated they had not been.

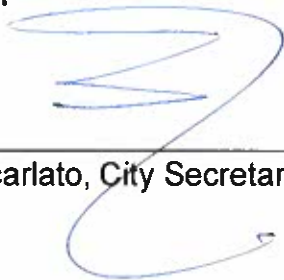
With no further business to discuss, Mayor Pro Tem Drozd declared the meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

APPROVED:



Carl A. Drozd, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:



Laura Scarlato, City Secretary