



STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF FORT BEND

CITY OF RICHMOND

The Development Corporation of Richmond convened in a regular meeting open to the public and pursuant to notice thereof duly given in accordance with Section 501.072, Local Government Code, Vernon's Texas Codes, in Richmond City Hall Annex within said City on July 14, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Directors in attendance included the following:

President, Evalyn W. Moore
Secretary, Verge Greenwood - **Absent**
Robert Haas
Nancie Rain
City Attorney – Gary Smith
City Secretary – Laura Scarfato

Vice President, Joe Bonham
Treasurer, Carl Drozd
William B. Morefield, III - **Absent**
Terri Vela – City Manager
Executive Director – Vacant Position

President Moore proceeded to call the meeting to order at 6:00 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.

There was a quorum present.

Agenda item A2 was introduced for public comments. There were no individuals signed up to speak therefore the agenda item was closed.

Agenda item 3 to review and consider taking action on the minutes of the regular meeting held on May 12, 2020. President Moore asked for changes or discussion regarding the minutes and there were no suggestions. Director Haas made the motion to approve the minutes for the May 12, 2020 meeting. Director Bonham seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to approve.

President Moore asked for a review of the Financial Reports through June 30, 2020. Finance Director Justin Alderete addressed the Board indicating that sales tax revenue was down by 3% however, this is less of a negative impact than anticipated due to CoVid 19. The overall year to date City Sales Tax is 10.79% above what was received last year and there is a 9.46% increase in what was budgeted. Director Haas stated that if the City shuts down again, many businesses will close, it is his hope that it can be avoided. There was no additional discussion and no action was taken.

Agenda item 5, Review and discuss Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget. Finance Director Justin Alderete provided an overview stating that the feedback that had been received from the May meeting had been incorporated to build the budget for next year. One of the goals is to finish the capital projects that have been carried forward. The expenditures were reviewed in detail with the Downtown Lighting Project being almost complete with different colored lighting. City Manager Vela indicated that Mike Moody, Utility Facilities Superintendent assumed the lighting project upon the departure of Cameron Goodman the previous director. Director Drozd ask the timing of the lights which it was stated they are on a timer. Different colors are available for different seasons and holidays. The other capital projects that will carry over are the Downtown Improvement Grants, Myrtle Street, North 10th Street, Public Transit and the Wayside Horns. Director Alderete stated the DCR has a healthy fund balance. City Manager Vela stated this serves as a guide and staff is open for feedback. Director Haas inquired if the changes that were approved to the public transit system had been implemented. City Manager Vela stated the call for service vs point deviation had been implemented but staff would follow up and obtain ridership information. With no additional discussion, the agenda item was closed.


Agenda item 6, Review and consider taking action on the Central Fort Bend Chamber Contract between the City and the Development Corporation. City Manager Vela stated the contract was based on previous years with the exception of additional language to extend the terms to three years versus a one-year term. City Manager Vela stated the Chamber has evolved from a social organization to more of a business organization. The Chamber has become a great extension of our staff city services. Director Drozd requested some language changes to become more absolute such as replacing "shall" with "will" under Section 2, Services that are provided. The Board echoed the suggested change of the language. Director Bonham made the motion to approve the Central Fort Bend Chamber Contract with the updated language. Director Rain seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to approve.

President Moore introduced agenda item 7, Review and discuss Executive Director Position and steps moving forward. City Manager Vela stated the first round of interviews for the Executive Director Position had been completed and round two will be completed by the end of the week. It is the hope to provide two candidates for the Board to review very soon. The candidates have very different backgrounds. There was no discussion therefore the agenda item was closed.


Agenda item 8, Consider and take action on recommendations for future agenda items. Director Haas requested an update be provided on the Planning and Zoning projects that are currently in the works. Director Drozd requested an update on the various grants that had been approved by the DCR. The status of the businesses that have been awarded the Downtown Improvement Grants such as 301 Morton St and the theater. With no further requests, the agenda item was closed.

There being no further business to come before the Development Corporation of Richmond, the meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

APPROVED:


Evalyn W. Moore, President

ATTEST:



Laura Scarlato, City Secretary