



STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF FORT BEND
CITY OF RICHMOND

The City Commission for the City of Richmond, Texas met in Workshop Session on October 19, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Drozd proceeded to call the meeting to order at 9:03 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 - **Absent**
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 -
 - Gabriel Carranza, 10 years of service, Water Production Department
 - Jeffry Daley, 5 years of service, Street Department
 - Manuel Flores, 5 years of service, Fire Department
- b. Proclamations:
 - Fire Prevention Month, October 2020.
 - Men's Health Awareness Month, November 2020.

Agenda item A3, Public Comments.

Agenda A4, Public Hearing to receive comments for or against requests by Fort Bend county, Meritage Homes of Texas, LLC, Richmond Land & Cattle, LLC, and Joseph Mandola (owners of the subject sites) to annex the existing right of way of 9th Street, also known as Plummer Street, and the expansion and extension thereof to serve as the primary entry to the Mandola Farms development from US Highway 90A to the northern boundary of the Mandola Farms development.

Agenda item A5, Mayor Pro Tem Drozd inquired if there were any Consent Agenda items to be discussed for agenda item A5. Commissioner Beard pulled A5 (2) (3) (6) and (7). Commissioner BeMent also pulled agenda item A5 (7).

Agenda item A5. (2) Fire Department Report. Commissioner Beard congratulated Fire Marshal Albert Cantu on his retirement and thanked him for his service to the City. Fire Chief Youngblood assured the Commissioner the tasks that Fire Marshal Cantu preformed would be continued without any delays or break in procedures. The Fire Department has a new reporting system called ESO and it will be more efficient. The Fire Department has received training on both the old and new systems and both were used side by side for the past three months. City Manager Vela stated the position of Fire Marshal will be posted internally and externally and the job description is being reviewed. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the procedures and the steps that are followed by Code Enforcement for notices and citations. The main goal is for compliance to be achieved. City Manager Vela stated there are resources available to offer assistance to citizens to enable them to comply.

Agenda item A5. (3) Police Department Report. Commissioner Beard requested an explanation of the report reflecting some categories increasing and the arrests decreasing. Chief Craig stated the data is due to the pandemic as contacts go down, so does the number of arrests. Chief Craig stated the Police Officers will continue to make contact with the citizens on their beats and the Commission will see a change when CoVid goes away.

Agenda item A5. (6). Finance Report and Quarterly Report. Commissioner Beard inquired as to the decrease in Municipal Court fees and intergovernmental revenue. Finance Director Justin Alderete addressed the questions stating the intergovernmental revenue has decreased because the City has not spent the CARES Act Funding but has recognized the \$660,000. Some of those funds will be carried over to 2021 and once the expense has been recognized, the revenue associated with the CARES Act Funding will be balanced out. Regarding the Municipal Court fees decreasing, Finance Director Alderete said there is a direct correlation with the activity of the Police Department.

Agenda item A5. (7). Public Works Report. Commissioner Beard and Commissioner BeMent pulled this item to receive an update on the Wayside Horns. There was a lengthy discussion with Assistant City Manager Christian providing the status which has been slow because of Union Pacific Railroad. The City also received a notice from the Corp of Engineers stating the bridge is an historic landmark. Assistant

City Manager Christian and City Manager Vela assured the Commission they would be a part of the discussion and make the railroad aware of what the City would like in terms of design. There was some frustration shown for the length of time the process is taking with Assistant City Manager Christian indicating that the City can only control our own contract. Commissioner Beard expressed his desire for a policy to follow as far as the City's thoughts on the direction. City Manager Vela stated that the railroad is constantly resetting the clock which is frustrating.

Commissioner Beard also had questions regarding the capacity at the Surface Water Treatment Plant. Assistant City Manager Christian assured the Commission that close attention is being paid to the plants and their capacity.

City Manager Vela asked Assistant City Manager Christian to provide comments regarding the signage at Lamar Drive quiet zone. It was stated CenterPoint needs to complete actions and then the railroad has 30 days to acknowledge the quiet zones.

Agenda item A5. (11). Holiday Schedule. Commissioner Drozd requested clarification of Patriot Day and the handling of it as to the Fire Department. Human Resources Director Shelly Freeman stated it is not an additional day, but the Fire Department is allowed to observe September 10th as a holiday in lieu of the Labor Day holiday. The holiday is strictly for the Fire Department in observance of 9/11 and assured the Commissioner they do not receive an additional day.

The consent agenda was closed.

It was stated that Commissioner BeMent might have to leave the meeting early therefore, Mayor Pro Tem Drozd requested the items Commissioner BeMent would like to discuss. Commissioner BeMent stated he would email typos to the City Attorney but no other concerns.

Mayor Pro Tem Drozd inquired if Commissioner Beard had any questions for agenda items A6 – A16. Agenda items A11 and A12 which pertain to the Jaybird Monument was pulled for discussion while Ad Hoc Committee Chair Alex BeMent was still present.

There was a lengthy discussion as to the language in the interlocal agreement with Fort Bend County and the City's involvement. Commissioner BeMent expressed the City as custodian of the monument had a responsibility to work out the relocation and terms for maintaining the history of the monument. The use of the term "warrant" was explained by City Attorney Smith as the knowledge we have today.

Agenda item A6. Review and consider taking action on Resolution No. 339-2020, adopting the City's Investment Policy regarding the investment of its funds and funds under its control. Commissioner BeMent stated he would email typos to the City Attorney but no concerns. Agenda items A6 and A7 were discussed at the same time. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the policy and strategy, use of the language in each resolution and the Quarterly Investment Report. City Finance Director Alderete

reviewed the Quarterly Investment Report. Commissioner Beard and BeMent requested the Report be included in the agenda and not in the Consent Agenda in the future. Commissioner Drozd inquired as to the policy resolution having a section referred to as strategy. The question was, is there a strategy for each fund. Finance Director Alderete stated the strategy is global.

Agenda item A7. Review and consider taking action on Resolution No. 340-2020, adopting the City's Investment Strategy. This item was discussed with A6. City Manager Vela stated the Mayor would pull the Quarterly Investment Report at the 4:30 p.m. meeting to discuss in detail.

Agenda item A8. Review and consider taking action on Resolution No. 345-2020, designating the City's Investment Officers. There was a lengthy discussion of appointing positions versus the actual names of the officers. Following explanations from City Manager Vela and Finance Director Alderete, the Commission was content with the language of the appointments.

Agenda item A9. Review and consider taking action on Resolution No. 341-2020, appointment of Planning & Zoning Commission Members. Mayor Pro Tem Drozd stated this agenda item would be discussed by Mayor Moore at the 4:30 p.m. meeting.

Agenda item A10. Review and consider taking action on Resolution No. 342-2020, dedicating for public right of way purposes, property necessary for the Front Street project and conveying right of way to the Texas Department of Transportation for the Front Street project. There was no discussion by the Commission.

Agenda item A11. Review and consider taking action on Resolution No. 343-2020, approving and authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with Fort Bend County for relocation of the article known as the Jaybird Monument. This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Agenda item A12. Review and consider taking action on Resolution No. 344-2020, approving and authorizing the conveyance of the article known as the Jaybird Monument to Hodges Bend Cemetery Association, Inc. Although this item was discussed earlier in the meeting, Mayor Pro Tem reopened item A12 for discussion. City Manager Vela stated that there were two claims of ownership regarding the monument but were not considered valid. City Attorney Gary Smith reiterated the letters claiming ownership of the monument had not established ownership through legal means. The claims were simply letters. City Attorney Smith indicated the language in the resolution would include no valid liens, encumbrances or valid claims versus the warranty language. The title of the exhibit would also be changed from Bill of Sale to Conveyance. The Commission had no further discussion.

Agenda item A13. Review and consider taking action on Ordinance No. 2020-26, establishing regulations of the placement and maintenance of donation boxes. Commissioner Beard stated he was thrilled the regulations were being established.

Commissioner Drozd expressed his concerns for liability insurance and inquired if this should be done during the permitting process. City Manager Vela stated the agenda item is only for discussion and not adoption. City Attorney Smith indicated the liability risk is small and would fall to the property owner. City Attorney Smith also stated he would review the policies of surrounding cities for input. City Manager Vela affirmed that three divisions, Planning, Permitting and Code Enforcement were all involved with the process.

Agenda item A14. Review and consider taking action on Interlocal Agreement for the WaterWise Program in the 2020-2021 year. Commissioner BeMent conveyed curiosity as to the benefit received for the \$34 per kit sponsorship. City Manager Vela confirmed the City receives credits for ground water reduction for participating in the plan.

Agenda item A15. Excuse from Attendance at Regular Commissioner Meeting.
None.

Agenda item A16. Consider taking action on requests for future agenda items.
None.

There were no follow up questions from the Commission.

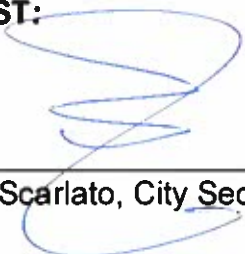
With no further business to discuss, Mayor Pro Tem Drozd declared the meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

APPROVED:



Carl A. Drozd, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:



Laura Scarlato, City Secretary