



STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF FORT BEND  
CITY OF RICHMOND

The City Commission for the City of Richmond, Texas met in Special Session on October 26, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Drozd proceeded to call the meeting to order at 4:32 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 - **Absent**  
Terry Gaul, Commissioner P1  
Barry Beard, Commissioner P2  
Carl Drozd, Commissioner P3 – Mayor Pro Tem  
Alex BeMent, Commissioner P4  
Terri Vela, City Manager  
Gary Smith, City Attorney  
Laura Scarlato, City Secretary

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

Agenda item A3, Second 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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. City Manager Terri Vela stated the UDC required a traffic plan be provided at the beginning of the process. City Planner Jose Abraham stated as part of the general plan, the traffic plan was reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Commission. The UDC requires a traffic

plan with any development with greater than 150 lots. There were no comments from the public, therefore the agenda item was closed.

Agenda item A4, Review and consider taking action on Ordinance No. 2020-26, establishing regulations of the placement and maintenance of donation boxes. City Manager Vela stated staff had taken comments provided at the last meeting and incorporated them into the ordinance. Assistant City Manager Howard Christian provided an overview of the background indicating the need for guidelines started with an abandoned donation box at the end of College Street. Staff needed tools to be able to address the issues. The ordinance provides for the placement, three-sided frame enclosure, color and maintenance. The ordinance allows for the City to have an internal policy pertaining to permitting and violations. There are provisions for Code Enforcement which is relocating to Building Development Services. Commissioner Gaul agreed there is a need for the policy but maybe not so robust. Commissioner Beard expressed numerous concerns as to redundancy of the steps and residents receiving a class C misdemeanor for failure to comply. Assistant City Manager Christian stated the intent was to take into account a step progression. Commissioner Gaul and Commissioner BeMent agreed with Commissioner Beard's concerns. Commissioner BeMent shared concerns of undue burdens with the requirement of insurance and the additional cost burdens for non-profit organizations. The concerns were unintended consequences due to the robustness of the ordinance. Commissioner Drozd stated the ordinance needed to be equal for non-profit and profit organizations to maintain order among everyone. City Manager Vela stated the ordinance language would be tweaked to address the concerns and no action was needed at this time. The agenda item was closed with no action.

Agenda item A5, Review and consider taking action on rejecting bid for the Construction Contract for the Police Department Renovations. Assistant City Manager Christian provided the background of the need for the agenda item. The newer section of the Police Department has windows that leak and the glazing is frosted in the breezeway between the historical section and the newer section. Staff researched the one company that bid on the project and was not comfortable with the communication, references provided, lack of experience with windows and unfamiliarity with the architect. There appeared to be a substantial amount of risk with the company. Staff has decided to reject the bid and solicit local companies for bids such as Ray Glass. Following a brief discussion period, Commissioner Beard made the motion to reject the Construction Contract for the Police Department Renovations. Commissioner BeMent seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Mayor Pro-Tem Drozd adjourned to Executive Session, as authorized by Texas Government Code, Section 551.074, Personnel Matters. The meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

The Executive Session reconvened at 6:22 p.m. The following action was taken.

Commissioner Gaul made the motion to approve a contract for the City Attorney Gary Smith using the terms proposed and circulated by the City Manager. Commissioner Beard seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Commissioner Beard made the motion to approve a contract for the City Judge Phyllis Ross with an increase to 55 hours maximum per month and a hourly rate increase of 3% commensurate with the City employees. Commissioner Gaul seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to approve.

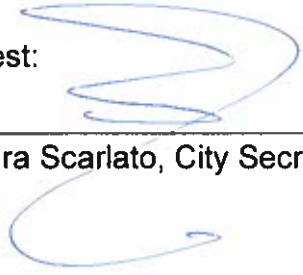
Both the City Attorney Smith and Judge Ross expressed gratitude for the Commissions considerations.

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Pro Tem Drozd declared the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

APPROVED:

  
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Carl A. Drozd, Mayor Pro Tem

Attest:

  
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Laura Scarlato, City Secretary