



STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF FORT BEND
CITY OF RICHMOND

The City Commission for the City of Richmond, Texas met in Special Session on March 15, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Mayor Becky Haas proceeded to call the meeting to order at 9:05 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:

Becky Haas, 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
Gary Smith, City Attorney
Laura Scarlato, City Secretary

Agenda item A1. Call to order, Quorum Determined and Meeting Declared Open.
Mayor Haas requested the pulled items from each Commissioner regarding the Consent Agenda.

- ❖ Commissioner Beard pulled A6. (3) (5) and (7)
- ❖ Commissioner BeMent pulled A6. (5)

Commissioner Beard pulled A6. (3), the Police Department Report to state how much he enjoyed reading the Officer Beat Reports and to highlight Officer Kristie Pena for the following account of a situation in her Beat Report:

"In the month of February, I assisted an elderly resident who had just had her husband transported to Oak Bend Medical Center by EMS. The resident advised she was looking all around her home for their car keys so that she could be ready to go when they contacted her to pick up her husband. The resident was unable to locate the keys and advised she believed her husband may have taken them with him. I went to Oak Bend and spoke with the husband

who seemed very shocked that a police officer was going out of their way for such a thing. I advised him that it was my pleasure to assist the residents of Richmond in any way that I could. The elderly couple was extremely grateful and were able to experience the great community oriented policing Richmond PD provides its residents."

Commissioner Beard stated this is "So the Richmond Way" and wanted to bring it to our attention.

Commissioner Beard pulled A6. (5) Finance Report. Commissioner Beard stated that he appreciated the inclusion of the Fund Balance Report and would like to know the status of the CARES Act Funding. Finance Director Justin Alderete stated the City has received \$118,000 partial reimbursement of the expected funds from Fort Bend County. The additional revenue will be offset by the expenses which eventually will balance out the Fund Balance.

Commissioner BeMent's question was regarding the fines and forfeitures line item from the Financial Report for Municipal Court. There has been a significant drop from the prior year which is due to the pandemic creating a hole in the budget, even though the fines are not considered a revenue stream. Finance Director Alderete stated as activities increase in the City, the fines are expected to increase. However, when budgeting, staff is very conservative regarding Municipal Court. Other revenue items in the City have increased so it will balance out in the end. Municipal Court Coordinator Carol Trujillo stated that there has been an increase in citations and the Warrant Roundup was successful. Results would be provided next month for the roundup.

Commissioner Beard pulled A6. (7) Public Works Department. Staff was congratulated for keeping all the equipment operating during the recent freeze event. Commissioner Beard has heard no citizen complaints. "Great Job" stated Commissioner Beard. It was also requested to share on social media the curb and gutter pictures of the work that has been done on Winston Street. The citizens are not aware of all the projects that are completed around the City.

That concluded the discussion on the Consent Agenda A6. (1-12).

Commissioner Gaul requested to pull A3. (c1), A5, A12, A15.

Commissioner Drozd requested to pull A8, A15.

A3. (c1) Leak Adjustment Policy. According to Ordinance No. 2019-13 Section 6, authority to adjust monthly charges on water or sewer due to excess usage from leakage on the customer side of connection. Adjustment will be calculated from the last twelve (12) months billing cycles and averaged. Adjustments will be limited to one (1) time, per calendar year, per customer.

Commissioner Gaul had questions regarding the policy for leaks resulting from the freeze event in February. City Manager Terri Vela stated the Municipal Utility Districts (MUD) are using the City's language for policy. Staff feels the average is fair and equitable. The damage assessment resulted in approximately 40 customers being affected. Finance Director Alderete stated it is consistent with surrounding cities to do the twelve-month leak adjustment. There were 14 customers within the City or less than 1.7% of the customer accounts. There was high consumption reported for 53 or 1.58% of the customer accounts. Commissioner Gaul was satisfied with the current policy.

A8. Review and consider taking action on Ordinance No. 2021-06, a request by Vincent Ramos for a conditional Use Permit to allow the operation of a resale store at the subject site located at 1117 Powell Street and to the extent the Conditional Use Permit deviates from the Future Land Use Plan of the comprehensive Master Plan, to provide for an amendment thereto.

Commissioner Gaul inquired if the Conditional Use Permit is approved, is it permanent or can it be revoked for non-compliance? City Planner Jose Abraham stated the conditions need to be included in the permit. Commissioner Gaul indicated that in general, if homeowners have an issue down the road with the permit the City may not have an option to undo it. The City is allowing a waiver to its zoning policy. City Planner Abraham stated that if there is an issue with trash or other problems, that would be an issue for Code Enforcement to address. City Manager Vela inquired if City Planner Abraham brought back to the Commission a clause that if objections arise after monitoring the location, could a revoke language be put into place. Additional information will be provided at the 4:30 meeting. There was a brief discussion with Commissioner BeMent suggesting some additional language be added to reduce the areas of potential misinterpretation.

A12. Review and consider taking action on request for letter of no objection creating Proposed Fort Bend County Utility District No. 251. Commissioner Gaul inquired if there would be any advantage to adding additional language to include the City would also like to enter into a Development Agreement or Strategic Partnership Agreement. City Manager Vela stated that staff did add language where that was specifically addressed. There will be additional discussion at the 4:30 meeting.

Agenda item A15. Review and discuss adding stop signs on Lamar Drive at Mulberry Drive. Commissioner Drozd stated he was glad to see the stop signs study had been completed as he has received complaints from many citizens. However, he inquired whether there would be a follow-up to see if the speed on the street has been reduced and/or if the stop signs were working or if they had made a difference. City Manager Vela stated a request for a follow-up could be made with Assistant City Manager Howard Christian stating the only way to measure is an additional traffic study. The only sure way to reduce speed is by adding speed humps. Mayor Haas requested Commissioner Drozd to speak again at the 4:30 meeting so the discussion would appear in the minutes. Commissioner Beard stated since we have added the stop signs on Lamar Drive, could a study be done on 2nd, Clay, and Collins Streets. There was no more discussion.

Agenda item A16. Review and consider taking action on authorizing staff to negotiate a contract with Traylor & Associates, Grant Consultants. Commissioner Gaul inquired as to the approximate value of the contract. City Manager Vela stated she is very excited about this agenda item. Finance Director Alderete stated Taylor & Associates will provide a presentation to the City Commission on available funding opportunities. It will allow the City to request RFPs for a consulting firm. There is no cost for the engagement with Traylor & Associates. There was a question-and-answer period. City Manager Vela stated the City had a relationship before that was not as favorable and is thrilled to be looking at this process again.

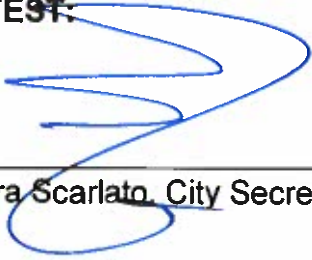
With no further business to discuss, Mayor Haas declared the meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

APPROVED:



Becky K. Haas, Mayor

ATTEST:



Laura Scarlato, City Secretary