



STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF FORT BEND
CITY OF RICHMOND

The City Commission for the City of Richmond, Texas met in Workshop Session on April 8, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Mayor Becky Haas proceeded to call the meeting to order at 9:16 a.m. The meeting was broadcast via video conference call. All members of the public may participate in the meeting and 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

Mayor Haas introduced agenda item A2, Discuss FY 2021-2022 Budget, Financial Objectives and Priorities of the Commission. Finance Director Justin Alderete led the discussion with interjections from Terri Vela, City Manager. The Assistant Finance Director Isaias Preza provided a portion of the presentation. The goal of the Workshop was to receive guidance from the Commission regarding the Budget, the priorities and opinions. Projections for the future growth of the City were provided for the Commission to get an overview of where the City possibly will be with the Veranda and Mandola Farms based on the information staff knows today. The following topics were covered and there was a lengthy discussion of each one with questions being posed.

- Challenges & Opportunities
- Sales Tax
- Asset Management
 - Fleet Replacement
 - High Tech Replacement Fund
- Fiscal Impact Model (Phase I)
 - General Fund
 - Debt Service Fund
- Property Tax Exemptions

- Legislative Update
- Utility & Surface Water Funds
- Solid Waste
- Review Comprehensive Master Plan Priorities
 - Commission Budget Priorities
- Next Steps

Finance Director Alderete reviewed each topic in detail providing economic projections and requesting guidance. The Commission expressed the need to plan, have policies and be proactive not reactive. The future growth of the City is exciting, but the infrastructure will need to be developed to prepare for the growth.

Mayor Becky Haas declared a recess at 12:10 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 12.41 p.m.

The City Limits have 34.09% tax exempt property therefore when comparisons are made with other cities regarding tax rates, it is not an equal comparison. The City of Richmond's commercial base is lower as well. There was discussion on the upcoming garbage contract. The economic effect of allowing over 65 exemptions on the properties was reviewed. There were question and answer periods throughout the workshop.

A recess was declared at 2.31 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 2:44 p.m.

Agenda item A3. Discuss Board Appointment Policy, City Charter, Rules of Commission, and Ethics Ordinance.

City Attorney Gary Smith led a review of the portions of the Charter, Rules of Commission, and Ethics Ordinance. The draft Board Appointment Policy was discussed with a question-and-answer period. City Manager Vela and City Attorney Gary Smith led the discussion.

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Haas declared the meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

APPROVED:

Rebecca K. Haas, Mayor

ATTEST:

Laura Scarlato, City Secretary