



STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF FORT BEND
CITY OF RICHMOND

The City Commission for the City of Richmond, Texas met in Special Session on June 28, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

Mayor Becky Haas proceeded to call the meeting to order at 4:31 p.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 "ACM"
Gary Smith, City Attorney
Laura Scarlato, City Secretary

Agenda item A1. Call to order, Quorum Determined and Meeting Declared Open.

Agenda item A2. Recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag and the Texas Flag. Mayor Haas led the Commission in the pledges.

Agenda item A3. Presentations:

- a. Employee Recognition for Service with the City of Richmond.
 1. Linda Cruz, 5 years of service – Human Resources Department.
 2. Stephen Polinski, 25 years of service – Police Department – Not Present.
 3. Monte Silhavy, 5 years of service – Street and Drainage Department – Not Present.

Linda Cruz was present to receive her award and take photographs with Mayor Becky Haas.

Agenda item A4. Public Comments.

- ❖ Mittie Cobbin ~ 220 Fleming Street., Richmond, Texas
Ms. Cobbin expressed concern for the North 10th Street expansion and the effects it will have on the property owners that will be displaced. Also, the roundabout on Collins that is being considered is a concern. The citizens do not feel safe or secure with the inability for emergency vehicles to be able to cross the tracks. The citizens feel they have no access to basic needs and asked for compassion.

A5. Presentation on Property Tax Exemptions.

Finance Director Justin Alderete provided an update to the presentations that were given in February and March regarding the potential tax exemptions and the financial impact to the City. Background information was provided with the City having a tremendous number of tax-exempt properties. The City faces challenges that other cities do not have due to having a broader tax base. There was a peer city tax exemption value comparison provided, please see a sampling below:

❖ Richmond	Market Value of	\$922,638,545	Exempt Property 34.09%
❖ Rosenberg	Market Value of	\$3,850,416,322	Exempt Property 10.81%
❖ Sugar Land	Market Value of	\$20,225,102,549	Exempt Property 06.92%

The Fort Bend Central Appraisal District phases of the property tax cycle was provided and the roles the district provides versus the City. Various scenarios with additional exemptions were presented. Mayor Haas stated with the new subdivisions coming in should provide an increase in the revenue allowing there to be additional exemptions. Mayor Haas suggested a \$10,000 exemption for citizens over the age of 65 and \$10,000 for homestead. Commissioner Gaul stated that more residents would benefit from lowering the tax rate versus the increase in exemptions benefiting a small group of residents. The burden is shifted. Commissioner Beard stated the possibility of chasing off business with a higher tax rate when the increase in sales tax revenue would lower the tax rate. Commissioner Drozd stated it would be nice to offer more exemptions, but the City is not at a position yet to offer them. The tax rate will decrease as the sales tax increases. Commissioner BeMent stated he is inclined to lower the rate so there is a benefit for all citizens. The over 65 exemptions could be an incentive to move to the City.

Agenda item A6. CONSENT AGENDA

- ❖ Mayor Haas pulled A6. (7) Public Works requesting an update on the No. Tenth Street Project. ACM Howard Christian stated the City met with Fort Bend County and the layouts for the parcels are near completion. A company has been hired to negotiate the property acquisitions. Commissioner Gaul inquired as to how many property owners will be impacted. ACM Christian stated the list has not been provided yet, but the estimate is 35-50 parcels. The majority is a piece off the front of the properties rather than the entire property. Commissioner Beard thanked all of the residents concerned with the project for attending the meeting.

The motion was made by Commissioner Beard to approve Consent Agenda items A6 (1) – (14) except for A6 (7). Commissioner Gaul seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve.

The motion was made by Commissioner Drozd to approve A6 (7) with Commissioner Beard seconding the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve.

REGULAR AGENDA

Agenda item A7. Review and consider taking action on amending the Rules of Commission. City Manager Terri Vela introduced the agenda item stating the language had been revised based on the comments from the workshop meeting. Commissioner Gaul inquired if the rules addressed both special and regular meetings. Commissioner Drozd stated the amendment would create wasted time of staff and breeding additional work, did not support. City Manager Vela stated that it does cause interruption and revisions to what is being done. Commissioner Beard made the motion to approve the amendments to the Rules of Commission to provide for an agenda four business days prior to the meeting. Commissioner BeMent seconded the motion, and the vote was as follows:

Commissioner Beard	For
Commissioner BeMent	For
Commissioner Drozd	Against
Commissioner Gaul	Against
Mayor Haas (Tie Breaker)	For

The motion and second was approved.

Agenda item A8. Discuss Traffic Impact Analysis recently conducted on Golfview Drive. Assistant Public Works Director Jim Whitehead provided the results of the traffic study that was performed May 24, 2021 – June 1, 2021, on Golfview Drive. There was a total of 36,048 vehicles during the time frame with recording of up to 87 mph in a 30-mph posted speed limit. Staff recommended installing two digital solar powered signs to calm the traffic. The Commission agreed with Commissioner BeMent expressing appreciation to resident Nancie Rain for bringing the issue to the attention to the City officials.

Agenda item A9. Review and consider taking action on Resolution No. 362-2021, approving the Fort Bend History Grant. City Manager Vela introduced the agenda item and then referred to Economic Development Director Jerry Jones to address the Commission. It was stated that staff recognizes that a plan needs to be developed to provide for the future maintenance of Decker Park and other structures. Commissioner Drozd indicated the resolution does not provide for the scope and amount of the requested funds. Commissioner Beard requested that staff track and identify the values the structures provide for the City. Commissioner Gaul suggested allowing the Development Corporation the flexibility to deal with these items within the DCR budget. Commissioner Beard made the motion to approve the authorization of funds by the Development Corporation of Richmond for the Fort Bend History Association Project in the amount of \$3,500. Commissioner Drozd seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Agenda item A10. Review and consider taking action on Ordinance No. 2021-10, amending Sec. 2-119, appointment to Board of Ethics and Compliance. City Manager Vela introduced the agenda item. City Attorney Gary Smith noted the change in the verbiage. Commissioner Gaul made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-10, amending Sec. 2-119, appointment to Board of Ethics and Compliance relating to the appointment procedure of members of the Board, providing for severability, providing for an effective date and containing other provisions relating

to the subject. Commissioner Beard seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Agenda item A11. Review and consider taking action on Ordinance No. 2021-11, amending Sec. 2-324, appointment to Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals. No discussion. Commissioner Beard made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-11 amending section 2-324 of the Code of Ordinances relating to the appointment procedure of members of the Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals, providing for severability, providing for an effective date, and containing other provisions relating to the subject. Commissioner Drozd seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Agenda item A12. Review and consider taking action on Ordinance No. 2021-12, amending Sec. 2-351, appointment to Electrical Board of Adjustments and Appeals. No discussion. Commissioner Drozd made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-12, amending section 2-351, of the Code of Ordinances relating to the appointment procedure of members of the Electrical Board of Adjustments and Appeals, providing for severability, providing for an effective date, and containing other provisions relating to the subject. Commissioner Gaul seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Agenda item A13. Review and consider taking action on Ordinance No. 2021-13, amending Sec.2-304, appointment to Parks and Recreation Board. No discussion. Commissioner Drozd made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-13, amending Section 2-304, of the Code of Ordinances relating to the appointment procedure of members of the Parks and Recreation Board, providing for severability, providing for an effective date, and containing other provisions related to the subject. Commissioner Beard seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Agenda item A14. Review and consider taking action on Ordinance No. 2021-14, amending Sec. 1-31, appointment to Building and Standards Commission. No discussion. Commissioner Beard made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-14, amending section 1-31, of the Code of Ordinances relating to the appointment procedure of members of the Building and Standards Commission, providing for severability, providing for an effective date, and containing other provisions relating to the subject. Commissioner Gaul seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Agenda item A15. Review and consider taking action on appointment of Commission Interview Committees for each board and discuss policy for appointments to boards, commissions, and committees. City Manager Vela provided the changes based on the morning comments. There will be two committees with two Commissioners on each. Finance Director Alderete drew the names out of a hat and the results were as follows:

Commission Interview Committee 1

Commissioner Alex BeMent

Commissioner Terry Gaul

Boards:

1. Building and Standards Commission
2. Parks and Recreation Commission

3. Board of Ethics and Compliance
4. Richmond Historical Commission
5. Development Corporation of Richmond

Commission Interview Committee 2

Commissioner Barry Beard

Commissioner Carl Drozd

Boards:

1. Zoning Board of Adjustment
2. Planning and Zoning Commission
3. Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals
4. Electrical Board of Adjustments and Appeals

A16. Excuse from Attendance at Regular City Commission Meeting. None

A17. Consider taking action on requests for future agenda items. Mayor Haas requested an update to the North Tenth Street Project.

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Haas declared the meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

APPROVED:



Becky K. Haas, Mayor

ATTEST:



Laura Scarlato, City Secretary