



STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF FORT BEND  
CITY OF RICHMOND

The City Commission for the City of Richmond, Texas met in Regular Session on May 17, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

Mayor Becky Haas proceeded to call the meeting to order at 4:32 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. Laura Scarlato, 10 years of service – City Secretary.
  2. Michael Moody, 20 years of service – Field Operation Superintendent.
  3. James Whitehead, 35 years of service – Assistant Public Work Director.
- b. Proclamations
  1. Honoring a Remarkable Life of Virginia Davis Scarborough
  2. Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, requested by Fort Bend Gypsy Motorcycle Club.
  3. Public Works Week, May 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Commissioner Drozd read the proclamation for Ms. Scarborough. Honoring her incredible 100 years on this earth and the accomplishments that she achieved as well as the many hours of service that she has provided to the community. A job well done, Virginia.

Mayor Haas honored the Fort Bend Gypsy Motorcycle Club with a proclamation for Motorcycle Awareness Month and encouraging all citizens to be aware of the increased number of motorcyclists on the road in the upcoming summer months. The motorcycle club was present to accept the proclamation.

Mayor Haas honored the City of Richmond's own Public Works Department for the perpetual service they provide for the City as the week of June 16<sup>th</sup> celebrates Public Works Week.

- c. West Fort Bend Management District Representative Update. Lane Ward, the joint nominee for the City of Richmond and Rosenberg whose term is expiring was present to provide his background and to answer questions for what the WFBMD provides for the City. There was a brief discussion, and the item was closed.
- d. Traffic study update for Lamar Drive. Assistant City Manager Howard Christian reviewed the traffic study. A survey was mailed to 200 citizens in the Lamar Drive area with the City receiving 65 responses. Approximately 33% of the respondents were favorable to a stop sign at Mulberry Drive and 66% replied there were no issues with traffic on Lamar Drive. The Commissioners asked if there were alternative solutions provided or requested by residents. ACM Christian stated the suggestions were to provide more policing and speed bumps which are not an option. They considered it a closed issue. The Commission requested the traffic situation be monitored by police and provide additional information in the next two months.
- e. FM 762/10<sup>th</sup> Street Extension Update from Fort Bend County. Fort Bend County Engineer Stacy Slawinski was present to provide the update and answer questions. Ike Akinwande also an engineer with Fort Bend County was also in attendance. The proposed route of the extension was provided with four lanes and a concrete median similar to Williams Way. The 2020 Mobility Bond provided additional funding allowing the project to move forward. Preliminary work has commenced preparing right of way maps and also schematic drawings for Richmond to review. There was a brief discussion.
- f. YMCA Update including plans on TW Davis location. Jess Stuart, Community Development Executive of YMCAs of Fort Bend introduced Katlynn Balson, Outreach Director and Cindy Jorgenson, District Executive Director. The programs that are currently being offered and how the YMCA served the community during the pandemic were reviewed. Some of the facilities were converted to learning labs for children without internet or computers in their homes. The community was surveyed, and the consensus was that the YMCA is very much appreciated in Richmond. There is approximately 20 acres where the YMCA is located, and the building is 40 years old. The plans are to renovate the current facility and add 25,000 square feet and will be the largest facility compared to the YMCA in Downtown Houston. There will be a pavilion for outside exercise and many new programs. A capital campaign will be forthcoming for funding which is estimated to be \$13-15 million, and the time frame is 18-24 months. Commissioner BeMent stated this is fantastic news. There was a lengthy discussion with questions and answers provided.
- g. Introduction of our new Fire Marshal, Christopher Legington. Mayor Haas introduced Fire Marshal Legington and stated the City is happy to have him return to Richmond.

#### Agenda item A4. Public Comments.

- ❖ Nancie Rain ~ 205 Golfview Dr., Richmond, Texas  
Ms. Rain spoke about the speed along Golfview. The middle turn lane is used as a passing lane by motorists. There have been numerous accidents with damage to their property. It was requested that an electronic sign that monitors speed or something that would improve the safety of walkers and children.

#### Agenda item A5. CONSENT AGENDA

- ❖ Commissioner Beard pulled A5. (2)

#### Agenda item A5. (2) Review and consider taking action on the Fire Department report.

Commissioner Beard recognized and commended the Fire Department for the positive review regarding the compliance inspection conducted by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) on April 20, 2021. All areas of the inspection which included safety reported the Richmond Fire Department to be following the minimum TCFP standards. Assistant Chief Derek Brown was present to answer any questions, the credit was given to Division Chief Aaron Hafer. The Mayor stated she appreciated the safety, Aaron Hafer and Derek Brown. Great job.

The motion was made by Commissioner Beard to approve Consent Agenda items A5 (1) – (15) except for A5 (2). Commissioner Gaul seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve.

The motion was made by Commissioner Beard to approve A5 (2) with Commissioner Drozd seconding the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve.

#### REGULAR AGENDA

Agenda item A6. Review and consider taking action on a Replat – Grand River Replat No. 5 – 9.0952 acres of land – 1 Block – 1 Lot – 0 Reserves. The subject site is part of the Grand River Residential Subdivision located at 2015 Grand River Drive and 1934 Man O War Ct. City Planner Abraham stated the applicant has a large tract, and he currently has a house on one lot and would like to include a horse arena on the second lot. The HOA has provided approval. There was no discussion. Commissioner Drozd made the motion to approve the Replat - Grand River Replat No. 5 – 9.0952 acres of land – 1 Block – 1 Lot – 0 Reserves. Commissioner Beard seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Agenda item A7. Review and consider taking action on Ordinance No. 2021-10, amending Sec. 2-119, appointment to Board of Ethics and Compliance. Commissioner Gaul made the motion to **table** Ordinance No. 2021-10 until the Regular Commission Meeting on June 22, 2021. Commissioner Beard seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Agenda item A8. Review and consider taking action on Ordinance No. 2021-11, amending Sec. 2-324, appointment to Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals. Commissioner Beard

made the motion to **table** Ordinance No. 2021-11 until the Regular Commission Meeting on June 22, 2021. Commissioner Gaul seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Agenda item A9. Review and consider taking action on Ordinance No. 2021-12, amending Sec. 2-351, appointment to Electrical Board of Adjustments and Appeals. Commissioner Beard made the motion to **table** Ordinance No. 2021-12 until the Regular Commission Meeting on June 22, 2021. Commissioner Drozd seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Agenda item A10. Review and consider taking action on Ordinance No. 2021-13, amending Sec. 2-304, appointment to Parks and Recreation Board. Commissioner Drozd made the motion to **table** Ordinance No. 2021-13 until the Regular Commission Meeting on June 22, 2021. Commissioner Beard seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Agenda item A11. Review and consider taking action on Resolution No. 359-2021, amending Sec. 4.02 of the Bylaws of Development Corporation of Richmond, appointment of Directors. City Attorney Gary Smith stated the Commission governs the Development Corporation, but it would be favorable to have the recommendation from the Development Corporation. City Manager Vela stated that Economic Development Director Jones would discuss the necessary changes with the Development Corporation. Commissioner BeMent made the motion to **postpone** Resolution No. 359-2021, amending Sec. 4.02 of the Bylaws of Development Corporation of Richmond. Commissioner Drozd seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Agenda item A12. Review and consider taking action on Amending Section G3 and Sections H1 and H2 of the Rules of Commission related to appointments of Boards, Commissions, and Committees. There was no discussion. Commissioner Gaul made the motion to approve Section G3 and Sections H1 and H2 of the Rules of Commission related to appointments of Boards, Commissions, and Committees "as amended". Commissioner Beard seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Agenda item A13. Review and consider taking action on authorizing City Manager to execute a contract for residential and commercial Solid Waste Collection with Green for Life. ACM Christian provided the background of the City utilizing Republic Services for the last 20 years for residential and commercial solid waste. This contract expired on April 30, 2021. The City received five bids and upon the evaluation, WCA a.k.a. Green for Life was unanimously chosen. The notable changes were reviewed with positive comments from the Commission. Commissioner BeMent hoped the citizens would realize the new company will provide a better level of service. Commissioner Gaul commended staff on the review process. Commissioner Drozd made the motion to authorize the City Manager to execute a contract for residential and commercial Solid Waste Collection with Green for Life. Commissioner Gaul seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Agenda item A14. Review and discuss proposed Ordinance No. 2021-08, amending solid waste fees. City Attorney Smith reviewed the ordinance language and suggested it was better if no action is taken. The basic fees remain unchanged. City Manager Vela stated that staff and the Commission have the same intent, but the language isn't consistent. Because the City has plenty

of time to address the language before the contract goes into effect, no action should be taken. The agenda item was closed.

Agenda item A15. Review and consider taking action on Resolution No. 360-2021, Henderson Wessendorff Foundation Grant agreement for funding Clay Street Sidewalk and Drainage Improvement Project. ACM Christian addressed the Commission stating this proposed Phase IV is the hike and bike trail that will extend from Collins to Second on Clay Street. The purpose of the project is to provide a safe pedestrian/bicycle pathway for area residents to George Park and make regionalized drainage improvements along Clay Street. Commissioner Gaul stated the City is so fortunate to have the two foundations in Richmond. Commissioner Beard made the motion to approve Resolution No. 360-2021, Henderson Wessendorff Foundation Grant Agreement for funding Clay Street Sidewalk and Drainage Improvement Project. Commissioner Gaul seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Agenda item A16. Review and consider authorizing City Manager to execute contract with Retail Coach. Economic Development Director Jerry Jones provided the background of the item and of the Development Corporation of Richmond. The Retail Coach will assist or provide market research services and the assessment, development and execution of a targeted retail recruitment and development strategy. The Commission asked several questions stating there are expectations for the contract and tangible results are needed. Commissioner BeMent made the motion to approve authorizing the City Manager to execute the contract with Retail Coach. Commissioner Drozd seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Agenda item A17. Discuss amending Rules of Commission to include language to add a draft agenda be prepared and emailed to the Commission on Tuesday prior to a Regular Commission Meeting. There was a brief discussion with no action taken at this time.

Agenda item A18. Review and consider action on Resolution No. 361-2021, appointing Lane Ward as the joint appointee. Executive Director Ellen Hughes was present to answer questions. Director Hughes stated the WFBMD created standards for new and redevelopment in the District which is quite large. The District has filled in gaps over the years as needed such as being involved in the Pecan Festival when it first began and the possibility of acting like a MUD District. The US 69 corridor from FM 762 to SH 99 would not look like it does today without the WFBMD. The District currently is a very limited scale of what it was in the beginning. There were questions and discussion about when the District was created and Rosenberg not participating. Commissioner BeMent made the motion to approve Lane Ward as the joint appointee for the West Fort Bend Management District. Commissioner Beard seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Agenda item A19. Consider appointment of Mayor Pro Tem. Per Section 3.04, Charter "Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem" (4) The Mayor Pro Tem shall be a Commission Member appointed by the Mayor at the first regular meeting after each election of Commission Members. Mayor Haas appointed Commissioner Terry Gaul to continue being the Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Richmond.

A20. Excuse from Attendance for future agenda items. The Mayor stated they were no actions needed.

A21. Consider taking action on requests for future agenda items.

- ❖ Commissioner Beard requested a presentation from Development Corporation on what other cities have done by way of City Hall and Economic Development. Commissioner Beard made the motion with Commissioner Gaul seconding the motion.
  
- ❖ Commissioner Beard requested research be done by staff to find alternative material for additional trails that are lesser in cost. City Manager Vela stated the Parks and Recreation Board should be tasked with this item. Commissioner Beard made the motion with Commissioner BeMent seconding the motion.
  
- ❖ Mayor Haas requested that the Finance Department revisit the Homestead Exemption for over 65 years old and the disabled. City Manger Vela stated the time has passed for this year but possibly in 2022. Commissioner Beard made the motion with Commissioner Gaul seconding the motion.

Per Commissioner Drozd, the motion needed to be amended to extend the deadline for the presentation from Development Corporation to two meetings from this time.

Commissioner Beard amended the motion with Commissioner Gaul seconding the motion.

It was determined an Executive Session, as authorized by Texas Government Code, Section 551.071, Attorney Consultation was not needed.

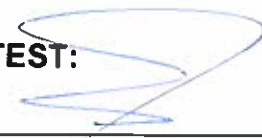
With no further business to discuss, Mayor Haas declared the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

**APPROVED:**



Becky K. Haas, Mayor

**ATTEST:**



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Laura Scarlato, City Secretary

