



STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF FORT BEND
CITY OF RICHMOND

The City Commission for the City of Richmond, Texas met in Special Session on May 17, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Mayor Becky Haas proceeded to call the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. The meeting was broadcast via video conference call. 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 "ACM"
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 A5. It was discussed and decided to go through the agenda items individually.

A5. (1) Minutes – No discussion.

A5. (2) Fire Department – 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. Great job.

A5. (3) Police Department – Commissioner BeMent shared his concern with the significant increase in rapes. Commissioner Beard commented the arrests rates seemed to be increasing with the lifting of Covid mandates. Assistant Police Chief Dixie Brzozowski stated consistently April is a slower month and the rapes were from the ICAD and a domestic both involving juveniles.

A5. (4) Municipal Court – Commissioner BeMent stated the Court Report numbers were inconsistent with the Financial Report numbers for Court.

A5. (5) Financial Report – Commissioner Beard stated there has been an increase in disconnects and asked what is driving the number. Finance Director Alderete stated that during the pandemic the disconnect policy was suspended. Since that has been reinstated, we are seeing normal numbers now therefore, in actuality there has not been an increase. It was stated that the CARES Act funding has been fully reimbursed. There is 162 days of cash on hand with the recommended number being 90 days. The sales tax is much higher than usual and is being researched.

A5. (6) Tax Assessor/Collector Report - Terri Vela stated that Finance will be investigating the discrepancy between Municipal Court and Financial statements.

A5. (7) Public Works – Mayor Haas commended the Public Works Department on maintaining and repairing City equipment and machines. There have been numerous positive comments regarding the work being done at the old fire station and the property on Myrtle Street. Assistant City Manager Howard Christian indicated the leaks at the fire station as reported were from the freeze event. The results of the Lamar Drive Survey were that 63% of the returned surveys (65 out of 200) stated there were no issues on Lamar Drive. There were questions about the survey and ACM Christian stated it would be revisited and monitored for the next few months. Mayor Haas stated residents appreciated the shred event and are very excited about the tire round-up this coming Saturday. Commissioner Beard inquired about the overspray at the Myrtle Street property and ACM Christian stated the expectations of the contract would be adhered to.

A5. (8) Planning Department – Commissioner Beard inquired about the RimZim Ranch. City Planner Jose Abraham stated the property is behind the pet cemetery on Pitts Road. Commissioner Beard was appreciative of the *Planning and Zoning Snippet Series* that was included. There was discussion regarding the approved large trees. City Manager Terri Vela stated a link is included on the Planning Report to access the approved trees both small and large. City Planner Abraham stated the approved plant list needs to be reviewed.

A5. (9) Building Department – No discussion.

A5. (10) Code Enforcement Report – Commissioner Beard stated he is feeling much better about Code Enforcement. There are numerous yellow signs that are visible which reflects the number of noncompliance issues that were located in City.

A5. (11) Emergency Management Report – No discussion.

A5. (12) Final Plat, Mandola Farms Section 2 – Commissioner Beard questioned the lots being less than 50 feet wide. City Planner Abraham stated the lots are measured at the setback line and based on those calculations the lots are 50 feet wide. It was stated the curves are taken into consideration as well.

A5. (13) Preliminary Plat – FM 723 Boat and RV Storage – Commissioner Gaul stated he had an issue with condition 2, providing documentation supporting plat note #15. City Planner Abraham stated this property was grandfathered because it was planned prior to the UDC being adopted. The City is asking for documentation to support the claim. It was asked why the Commission was approving before it is done. City Planner Abraham stated it is a Preliminary Plat and if the Commission denies, it will push it back two months. The Commission will approve the Final Plat so they will have another opportunity to view it. Commissioner requested to be alerted to the information being provided to avoid rubber stamping any item. Commissioner Drozd stated that inaction is not an option. The Commission must either approve or deny.

A5. (14) Preliminary Plat – Veranda Section Thirty-Two – No discussion.

A5. (15) Meeting Dates – City Manager Vela requested if it would be possible to move the next Commission Meeting and Workshop to Tuesday, June 22nd, 2021. The City Manager and City Attorney will be attending a legislative class on the 21st. Commissioner BeMent will check his calendar but there were no objections to the change.

REGULAR AGENDA

A6. Replat – Grand River Replat No. 5 – Commissioner Beard inquired as to the reason for the combining of the two lots. The owner 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 requires that a residence be the primary use on each lot and combining the lots will allow the owner to construct the horse arena. The HOA has provided approval. Landscaping will be completed to make it look attractive. Commissioner Gaul asked if the setbacks and all the remaining requirements were being met and the response was yes.

A7. Ordinance No. 2021-10, Amend Board of Ethics and Compliance appointment – Commissioner BeMent inquired as to what was being changed. City Manager Vela stated the appointment on the application language. This is the opportunity for the application to reflect what the Commission has requested. The Development Corporation appointment process would also need to be reviewed. Commissioner Beard, Commissioner BeMent and Commissioner Gaul all had questions which were addressed by City Attorney Gary Smith. City Manager Vela stated that any recommendations would be given to the committee of two to review the applicants. City Planner Abraham stated his preference would be for the applicant to not have a technical voice based on their background. But rather a citizen that comes to the board and is able to express opinions. It was stated if specific eligibility requirements are enforced then it will eliminate a lot of capable citizens. Commissioner Beard stated the Commission is policy makers and the Commission determines what the preferences are for the boards, not staff. City Manger Vela stated qualified individuals come in all sizes. Commissioner Beard stated it would be preferred to not have the nomination process a competition. Mayor Haas stated one person should not have all the power. Commissioner Gaul stated this preference would be to have the ordinance language to be a concise as possible. It was also stated to change the policy so that the ordinance does not have to be amended with all the changes. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the process.

A8. Ordinance No. 2021-11, Amend Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals appointment – see discussion for A7.

A9. Ordinance No. 2021-12, Amend Electrical Board of Adjustments and Appeals – see discussion for A7.

A10. Ordinance No. 2021-13, Amend Parks and Recreation Board appointments – see discussion for A7.

A11. Resolution No. 359-2021, Amend Bylaws of Development Corporation, appointment of Directors. City Manager Vela stated the Development Corporation would need to amend its Bylaws and the preference would be to have them discuss the appointment process and the Bylaws. Commissioner Gaul inquired about the bonding requirement in section 4.03 of the DCR officers. City Manager Vela stated the City has provided the bonding in the past however, it will be reviewed if it is still a necessary requirement.

A12. Rules of Commission, Amending Section G3 and Sections H1 and H2 with regards to Boards, Commissions and Committees – Commissioner Gaul stated the wording in H2 was odd and requested it be reviewed.

A13. Authorizing the City Manager to execute the Contract – Residential and Commercial Solid Waste Collection with Green for Life. City Manager Vela reviewed that at the last meeting the City Manager was authorized to negotiate the contract with Green for Life. The service will be switched over effective August 1st, 2021. Staff has been working on a landing page for the website that will guide citizens through the transition. Commissioner Drozd inquired if the City has been receiving complaints about the current service and the answer was yes and staff is working with Republic Services to make corrections. Commissioner Gaul requested clarification of the transition process. City Manager Vela stated perhaps there will be a period where both services will be picking up garbage with cans from both companies until the transition is complete. Mayor Haas asked if there will be still the ability to have refrigerators picked up. ACM Christian stated there would be certification stickers for this process. Commissioner Beard desired to highlight that the new company, GFL will donate \$8,000 to Keep Richmond Beautiful.

A14. Ordinance No. 2021-08, Amend Solid Waste Fees. City Manager Vela stated this ordinance goes hand in hand with the contract stated in agenda item A13. The language needs to be changed to provide for the other services. Commissioner Gaul questioned Section 7 with regards to failure to pay garbage would result in water cut-off and whether that is the intent of the language. City Attorney Smith stated the goal is to have uniform collection across the community. Commissioner Gaul inquired as to if the provision is legal. City Manager Vela stated the intent is if a citizen has water, wastewater and garbage, the language will reflect all three would need to be paid as a type of “franchise” agreement.

A15. Resolution No. 360-2021, Henderson Wessendorff Foundation Grant agreement for funding Clay Street Sidewalk and Drainage Improvement Project. City Manager Vela stated the City submitted for a \$2.2 million dollar grant application and it will be combined with supplemental funding of \$2.47 million dollars allocated through the 2017 Fort Bend County mobility bond. ACM Christian stated this proposed phase of the hike and bike trail will extend from Collins to Second on Clay Street. The purpose of the project is to provide a safe pedestrian/bicycle pathway for area resident to George Park and make regionalized drainage improvements along Clay Street. Commissioner BeMent and Commissioner Drozd expressed a tremendous appreciation for the Henderson Wessendorff Foundation. Commissioner Beard suggested listening sessions with citizens to gather input and strategies when discussing round

a bouts and stop lights. There will be one contractor for both projects making it easier to coordinate the projects. Commissioner Drozd indicated there needs to be a better plan for the Pink Elementary School with drop off and pick up. Commissioner Beard stated that 18-wheeler trucks cannot maneuver a round-a-bout. The recent accident regarding an 18-wheeler and the railroad tracks on 2nd street was discussed. City Manager Vela stated that new or additional signage was being reviewed.

A16. Retail Coach, Authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract - City Manager Vela provided background stating the City has used the Retail Coach several years ago. The company provided leakage report data and additional information to attract more businesses. Commissioner Beard expressed concerns of the information that will be provided. Economic Development Director Jerry Jones stated the smaller the business the more heavily they lean on the developer and stated that they would provide strategies for bringing in developers. Commissioner Beard voiced apprehension of the value of services. There was a lengthy discussion.

A17. Rules of Commission, Amend to include language requiring a draft agenda be prepared on Tuesday prior to the Regular Commission Meeting – City Manager Vela stated the item is based on a previous request. There was a brief discussion with two Commissioners expressing the amendment is not needed and one who desires the change and one who was neutral.

A18. Resolution No. 361-2021, Lane Ward appointment to West Fort Bend Management District "WFBMD" – City Manager Vela stated Mr. Ward would be present at the Regular Commission Meeting to answer any questions. Commissioner Drozd would like to know why the City of Rosenberg no longer contributes to the WFBMD and what services they continue to receive. Commissioner Beard stated the legislature created the WFBMD so why isn't it a requirement to participate. City Manager Vela stated WFBMD adopted standards however, the City does not utilize all of the services they could provide. Building Official Lori Bownds stated that the City does keep all of the permit fees that the WFBMD obtains.

A19. Mayor Pro Tem appointment – No discussion.

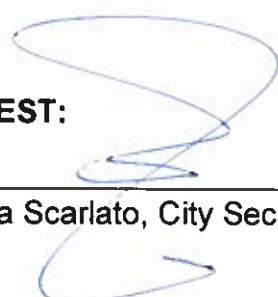
With no further business to discuss, Mayor Haas declared the meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m..

APPROVED:



Becky K. Haas, Mayor

ATTEST:



Laura Scarlato, City Secretary