



STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF FORT BEND  
CITY OF RICHMOND

The City Commission for the City of Richmond, Texas met in Regular Scheduled City Commission Meeting on June 20, 2023, 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  
Lasha Gillespie, 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.

**Agenda item A3.** Employee Recognition for Service with the City of Richmond:

- David Evans, Police Department – 15 Years of Service.
- Danell Gaydos, Police Department – 15 Years of Service.
- Jesse Martin, Police Department – 25 Years of Service.

**Agenda item A4.** Mayor, City Commissioners and City Staff Announcements per Sec. 551.0415 of the Texas Government Code.

- Commissioner Beard announced that the Fire Department passed their biennial inspection with no violations. This inspection is conducted by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP).
- Mayor Haas announced that the Fire Department received two new fire trucks today.

**Agenda item A5.** Public comments (Public comment is limited to a maximum of 3 minutes per item. No Deliberations with the Commission. Time may not be given to another speaker.)

- None

**Agenda item A6.** Public hearing to receive comments for or against text amendments to the Unified Development Code, to include certain changes to parking requirements and standards in the DN, Downtown district. The specific sections to be amended include:

1. Section 4.2.103, Alternatives of Modifications to Required Parking
- None

**Agenda item A7.** Update on Train Report.

- Discussion topics included the impact that train delays have on the police and fire departments, the possibility of drafting an ordinance that would prevent trains from blocking crossings, and the placement of cameras at railroad crossings.

**Agenda item A8. Consent Agenda**

-Mayor Haas selected consent agenda item (3) Police Department for discussion.

- Commissioner BeMent made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of the Police Department Report. Commissioner Beard seconded. Motion passes unanimously.
- Mayor Haas proceeded to ask Police Chief Craig about the effectiveness of the pharmacy ordinance following its implementation. Chief Craig indicated they have achieved good outcomes with the assistance of Fort Bend County and their partners. Commissioner BeMent made a motion to approve the Fire Department Report. Commissioner Beard seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

**Regular Agenda**

**Agenda item A9.** Review and consider taking action on a replat an approximate 0.1743 acre tract of land – Bordens Addition Lot 9 Partial Replat No. 1– 1 Block – 1 Lot – 0 Reserve, being a portion of Lot 9, Section 1, Bordens Lots and in the John T. Edwards Survey, Abstract No. 23, City of Richmond, Fort Bend County, Texas, and a plat variance to deviate from the minimum required lot area of 12,000 square feet and minimum required 30 foot rear setback as provided in Table 3.1.102A of the Unified Development Code. The subject site is located at 1019 N. 10th street, at the southwestern corner of N. 10th street and Clay Street.

- Helen spoke before the City Commission and gave them a quick summary of the project. She continued by stating that the recommendation of the staff is that the replat and associated variance be approved, subject to comments in staff's report. The City Commission also recommended adding a question asking if the property will be owner-occupied to the application process. Commissioner Gaul made a motion to approve the partial replat in Bordens Addition as described in the packet. Commissioner BeMent seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

**Agenda item A10.** Review and consider taking action on Ordinance No. 2023-14, adopting text amendments to the Unified Development Code to include certain changes to parking requirements and standards in the DN, Downtown district. The specific sections to be amended includes:

1. Section 4.2.103, Alternatives of Modifications to Required Parking
  - After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Gaul made a motion to table this item for at least one meeting so that the City Commission members may analyze the supply and demand analysis. Commissioner BeMent seconded. Motion passes unanimously.
  - Commissioner BeMent then asked for an update on the additional parking at the end of Morton Street. According to City Manager Vela, an update will be provided during executive session.

**Agenda item A11.** Discussion of lot size reduction within the OT, Olde Town and GR, General Residential Districts.

- Key discussion points included possibly modifying the UDC's language to allow for the usage of infill lots in a way that is compatible with the neighborhood and defining what that means; and change of occupancy from residential to commercial for rental properties.

**Agenda item A12.** Review and consider taking action on Ordinance No. 2023-15, proposed FY 24 Tax Exemptions.

- Each member of the City Commission voiced their views on the best course of action.
- Commissioner BeMent made a motion to increase the homestead exemption by an amount to be determined in this meeting. Commissioner Beard raised a Point of Order to request further information on staff's recommendation regarding the planned tax exemptions for FY 24.
- Commissioner BeMent amended his motion to move to pass Ordinance No. 2023-15 with a 2.5% homestead exemption and no change the over 65 exemptions. Commissioner Beard seconded.

**Individual vote is as follows:**

Commissioner Gaul	No
Commissioner Beard	Aye
Commissioner Drozd	No
Commissioner BeMent	Aye
Mayor Rebecca Haas	Aye

**Motion Passes 3-2**

**Agenda item A13.** Excuse from Attendance at Regular City Commission Meeting.

- Commissioner BeMent made a motion to approve Commissioner Beard's excuse (medical) from the May 15, 2023, Regular City Commission meeting. Commissioner Gaul seconded. Motion passes unanimously.
- Commissioner BeMent made a motion to approve Commissioner Drozd's excuse (travel) from the May 15, 2023, Regular City Commission meeting. Commissioner Beard seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

**Agenda item A14.** Consider taking action on requests for future agenda items.

- Commissioner Beard made a motion to have the UDC Amendments as a future agenda item. Commissioner BeMent seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

**Agenda item A15.** Adjourn to Executive Session, as authorized by Texas Government Code, Sections 551.071 Consultation with Attorney, 551.072, Deliberation Regarding Real Estate, 551.087, Deliberation Regarding Economic Development Negotiations, and 551.074, Personnel Matters.

- Mayor Haas adjourned to Executive Session at 6:14 p.m.

**C1.** Reconvene into Open Meeting at 7:42 p.m.

**C2.** Adjournment.

- With no further business to discuss, Mayor Haas declared the meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

**APPROVED:**



Becky K. Haas, Mayor

**ATTEST:**



Lasha Gillespie, City Secretary