



STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF FORT BEND
CITY OF RICHMOND

The City Commission for the City of Richmond, Texas met in Regular Session on April 15, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. The meeting was broadcast via video conference call. A quorum was present, with the following members in attendance:

Becky Haas, Mayor-not in attendance
Terry Gaul, Commissioner P1
Barry Beard, Commissioner P2
Carl Drozd, Commissioner P3-not in attendance
Alex BeMent, Commissioner P4
Terri Vela, City Manager
Howard Christian, Assistant City Manager
Gary Smith, City Attorney
Lasha Gillespie, City Secretary

- A1. Call to Order, Quorum Determined and Meeting Declared Open.**
- Mayor Pro Tem BeMent called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.
- A2. Recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag and the Texas Flag.**
- Pledges recited.
- A3. Employee Recognition for Service with the City of Richmond:**
- John Dawson – 30 years – Police Department.
Proclamations:
- Proclamation read for Child Abuse Prevention Month.
 - Proclamation read for Autism Awareness Month.
 - Lemonade Day 2024.- Central Fort Bend Chamber Program Director, Melissa Toon, and presenting sponsor, Amanda Dockum of Crimson Realty were present to receive proclamation.
 - National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, April 14th-20th. - Staff from PD were present to receive.
- A4. Mayor, City Commissioners and City Staff Announcements per Sec. 551.0415 of the Texas Government Code.**
- The Shred Event, held on April 13th, saw an impressive turnout and was a successful collaboration between City staff and Keep Richmond Beautiful. Further details will be provided at next month's meeting.
 - The Fort Bend History Association received recognition for their hosting of "A Night in the Garden"

on April 6th.

A5. Public comments.

- None

A6. Staff Update on Scenic Texas and Application of Livable Center Program.

- Planning Director Garica reported that Richmond, having joined the Scenic City Certification Program in 2016 and reached Platinum by 2019, scored in the 90% range, placing among the top 13 for the 2023 Scenic City of the Year award, with plans to apply again in 2024. He also discussed the Livable Centers Program, aligned with the Houston-Galveston Area Council's 2045 Regional Transportation Plan, which aims to enhance multimodal travel, resilience, safety, equity, and economic and housing diversity. City Commission members supported this initiative, noting that the upcoming overpass will impact the Livable Center study with staff set to use current data for their submission.

A7. Water usage and wastewater treatment reports over the last 5 year with charts and graphs.

- Joe Reyes updated on the city's conservation efforts, noting that while the average water production over the last four years was 128 gpcd, above the national average of 111 gpcd, many variables affect these numbers. Therefore, staff recommends focusing on wastewater treatment gpcd as a more reliable conservation indicator, which omits factors like irrigation, leaks, and hydrant flushing. Despite higher water production, a slight decrease in wastewater gpcd suggests effective conservation. City Commission members questioned why wastewater treatment is a better metric; staff responded that it allows for greater control. However, monitoring both metrics remains crucial.

A8.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Beard selected Fire and Police for discussion.

- Commissioner Gaul moved to accept the Consent agenda with the exception of the two items related to the Fire and Police department reports. Mayor Pro Tem BeMent seconded. Motion passes unanimously.
- **Fire-** Based on discussion from the workshop, staff provided the City Commission with an organizational chart and FTE. Fire Chief Youngblood highlighted that the FD is at minimum staffing, noting the need for two additional staff per shift across three shifts, and mentioned that a Safer Grant application was submitted for six additional personnel. Commission members raised concerns about eight vacant positions, questioning both temporary measures and long-term strategies for filling these gaps. In the short term, FD has accelerated the hiring process and increased part-time hires. For the long term, efforts include conducting a comprehensive salary study and implementing incentive programs for retention. Additionally, FD is rolling out a SQUAD program and a CADET program. It was also noted that FD submitted in the budget for additional firefighters in previous years.
- **Police-** Chief Craig noted that the Police Department (PD) is adequately staffed but currently has

three vacancies, with ongoing recruitment efforts to fill these positions.

- Commissioner Beard moved to approve the Fire and Police reports. Commissioner Gaul seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

- A9. Review and consider taking action on Ordinance No. 2024-06, permitting/allowing golf carts on roadways, shared use paths and sidewalks.**
- City Commission members and staff discussed the possibility of permitting golf carts, ATVs, UTVs, and neighborhood electronic vehicles on certain roads, shared use paths, and sidewalks. Staff provided maps highlighting permitted and prohibited roads, and minor adjustments were made regarding designated pathways and the allowable width for ATVs and UTVs. Concerns were raised about the suitability of some streets for these vehicles. Staff also noted ongoing efforts to secure an easement on Foster Dr. The discussion was deferred to the next meeting, and no action was taken.
- A10. Review and consider taking action on Quarterly Monthly Financial Report and Quarterly Investment Report.**
- Staff reviewed the highlights of the Quarterly Financial Report, observing positive trends as we reach the midpoint of Fiscal Year 2024. There was a brief discussion about the Investment Report and bond sales, pointing out that the city's financial advisor stated the bond markets are currently favorable for municipalities. Commissioner Beard moved to accept the Quarterly Monthly Financial Report and Quarterly Investment Report. Commissioner Gaul seconded. Motion passes unanimously.
- A11. Review and consider taking action Resolution No. 480-2024, submit application for Community Development Block Grant, Phase XV, North Richmond Sanitary Sewer Improvements.**
- The grant request seeks to replace approximately 2,000 feet of gravity sewer line, install new service leads for 47 homes, and rehabilitate 5 manholes on Douglas and Rochelle Streets, areas prone to rainwater inflow and infiltration. Discussions included the project's cost, prioritization, and the longevity of the new pipes. Commissioner Gaul moved to approve Resolution No. 480-2024, submit application for Community Development Block Grant, Phase XV, North Richmond Sanitary Sewer Improvements. Commissioner Beard seconded. Motion passes unanimously.
- A12. Review and consider taking action on Resolution No. 481-2024, support beautification of the Richmond Garden Club, located at Hwy 90A and 6th St.**
- The Richmond Garden Club plans to beautify the northeast corner of Jackson Street and 6th Street using proceeds from their annual bulb sale. The project, featuring a concrete planter behind the sidewalk on Jackson Street modeled after the historic watering trough at City Hall Plaza, has been approved by the St. Johns UMC Board of Trustees. This initiative aligns with the City of Richmond's Comprehensive Master Plan and enhances the visibility along Highway 90A. Comments suggested promoting community participation in beautification efforts and simplifying collaboration with the

city. Commissioner Beard moved to approve Resolution No. 481-2024, support beautification of the Richmond Garden Club, located at Hwy 90A and 6th St. Commissioner Gaul seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

- A13. Review and consider taking action on Resolution No. 482-2024, approving interlocal cooperation contract for failure to appear program with our Municipal Court.**
- Under the Failure to Appear / Failure to Pay Program, the Department of Public Safety can withhold driver license renewals for individuals who have not addressed citations or satisfied fine-related judgments. License renewals may be denied until these issues are resolved and reported by the courts to the department. Commissioner Beard moved to approve Resolution No. 482-2024, approving interlocal cooperation contract for failure to appear program with our Municipal Court. Commissioner Gaul seconded. Motion passes unanimously.
- A14. Review and consider taking action on Resolution No. 483-2024, adopting Municipal Court Confidential Policy.**
- Commissioner Beard moved to approve Resolution No. 483-2024, adopting Municipal Court Confidential Policy. Commissioner Gaul seconded. Motion passes unanimously.
- A15. Excuse from Attendance at Regular City Commission Meeting.**
- Mayor Haas submitted her excuse from attendance.
 - Commissioner Beard moved to approve the Mayor's absence. Commissioner Gaul seconded. Motion passes unanimously.
- A16. Consider taking action on requests for future agenda items.**
- Commissioner Beard moved to receive an update on Richmond Pkwy/Front St., including a timeline for remaining activities. Commissioner Gaul seconded. Motion passes unanimously.
- A17. Adjourn to Executive Session.**
- Mayor Pro Tem BeMent adjourned the meeting to Executive Session at 6:02 p.m.

OPEN MEETING

- C1. Reconvene into Open Meeting, and take action on items, if necessary.**
- Reconvened into Open Meeting at 6:59 p.m. No action taken.
- C2. Adjournment.**
- With no further business to discuss, Mayor Pro Tem BeMent adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

ATTEST:



Lasha Gillespie, City Secretary

APPROVED:



Alex BeMent, Mayor Pro Tem