



STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF FORT BEND  
CITY OF RICHMOND

The City Commission for the City of Richmond, Texas met in Regular Session on December 18, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

Mayor Becky Haas proceeded to call the meeting to order at 4:30 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.

- Mayor Haas called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

**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:

- Finance Director Preza received the Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting on behalf of the city, an award granted by the Government Finance Officers Association of the U.S. and Canada (GFOA). This recognition, given for the city's annual audit, marks the 18th consecutive year the city has earned this distinguished honor. The Certificate of Achievement is the most esteemed award in governmental accounting and financial reporting.
- CM Vela received recognition for 20 years of service.

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

- Commissioner Beard acknowledged the efforts of the Rotarians in organizing the Pecan Harvest Festival and commended them for hosting an outstanding event. Additionally, he emphasized the success of the Tree Lighting ceremony.

**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.)

- A young member of the Reaching Richmond Collaborative spoke to the City Commission regarding concerns about safety and drug-related activities in the areas of Rochelle and Pultar Road.
- Regina Garza- 21006 Herrons Terrace St. 77406- The Community Health Manager from Access Health and the Reaching Richmond Community Collaborative provided the City Commissioner with an overview of the Collaborative's mission.

**Agenda item A6.** Staff Update on Outstanding Grant Funds.

- ACM Christian provided an update on the grant projects, initiating a comprehensive discussion involving both staff and the City Commission. This discussion covered various aspects, including updates, progress, funding, project estimates, and budgets, pertaining not only to the ARPA Grant

Projects and GLO Grant Projects but also to Mobility Grants and pending grants.

*Mayor Haas excused herself at 4:52 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem BeMent chaired the meeting. Mayor Haas resumed chairing the meeting at 5:21 p.m.*

**Agenda item A7.** Insurance Service Office (ISO) ratings update.

- The Richmond Fire Department used a consulting firm for an ISO evaluation, resulting in a rating of 2 within the city and 2X outside, impacting insurance costs. ISO, assisting insurers, assigns ratings from 1 to 10 based on factors like water distribution and fire resources. Richmond's O2/2X rating reflects its dedication to fire safety, informing enhancements and funding decisions. Chief Youngblood highlighted the report, noting that Richmond has the most favorable insurance rates for residential properties within the city limits. He also discussed strategies to secure the city's rating of 2 or better, which encompassed increasing staffing, establishing a full-time manned ladder, enhancing the dispatch CAD system, access and achieving rapid response times. The Chief also stated his intention to provide further details about achieving a lower rating in the upcoming meeting. Additionally, there was a request for information regarding the frequency of the ladder truck's utilization over the past decade.

**Agenda item A8.** Consent Agenda

- Commissioner Gaul made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda in its entirety. Commissioner Drozd seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

**Regular Agenda**

**Agenda item A9.** Review and consider taking action on amending the Rules of Commission.

- The City Attorney discussed modifications to sections A1 and B5 of the Commission's Rules, reflecting feedback from the City Commission. The revised version was distributed to the Commission. Commissioner BeMent moved to approve the revised Rules of Commission as per the version emailed by the City Attorney at 3:45 pm today. Commissioner Drozd seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

**Agenda item A10.** Review and consider taking action on Ordinance No. 2023-29, preventing traffic blocking in major thoroughfares.

- The City Attorney revised the ordinance in response to feedback from this morning's workshop about defining principal arterial streets. Commissioner Gaul moved to approve the amended Ordinance 2023-29, as modified today and shared by the City Attorney with the City Commission at 3:45 pm via email. Commissioner Beard seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

**Agenda item A11.** Review and consider taking action on Ordinance No. 2023-30, establishing a speed zone.

- Commissioner Beard moved to approve Ordinance No. 2023-30, establishing a speed zone. Commissioner Drozd seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

**Agenda item A12.** Review and consider taking on a Preliminary Plat for Rio Vista Business Park Reserve, 10.0011 acres of land, 1 Block, 0 Lots, 1 Reserve. The subject site is located at 1006 FM 359 in the William Morton League Abstract No. 62, in Fort Bend County, Texas in Fort Bend County Clerk's File (F.B.C.C.F) Number (No.) 2021117052.

- Staff recommends approval of this plat conditioned upon addressing the comments listed below:  
Show West Fort Bend Management District interior building line of 10 feet and 6-foot parking setback for side property lines. Commissioner Beard moved to approve subject to conditions by the Planning and Zoning Commission. Commissioner BeMent seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

**Agenda item A13.** Review and consider taking action on Resolution No. 467-2023, adopting a Hotel Occupancy Tax Policy and application form.

- The staff is actively seeking input to initiate a dialogue and confirm that they are heading in the correct direction while crafting a policy and application form. The discussion encompassed topics such as the purpose of establishing a HOT policy, the potential for a workshop to delve into the policy, the intended utilization of the funds, and the criteria for eligible expenditures.

**Agenda item A14.** Review and consider taking action on Resolution No. 468-2023, supporting a grant application to fund an overpass crossing of Union Pacific Railroad Tracks as a part of our FM 762/10th Street Mobility Project.

- Commissioner BeMent moved to approve Res. No. 468-2023 supporting a grant application to fund an overpass crossing of Union Pacific Railroad Tracks as a part of our FM 762/10th Street Mobility Project. Commissioner Beard seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

**Agenda item A15.** Excuse from Attendance at Regular City Commission Meeting.

- None

**Agenda item A16.** Consider taking action on requests for future agenda items.

- Commissioner Gaul moved to schedule a workshop to delve deeper into the principles underlying the use of HOT funds, dependent on availability. Commissioner Beard seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

**Agenda item A17.** Adjourn to Executive Session, as authorized by Texas Government Code, Section 551.087, Economic Development Negotiations.

- Mayor Haas adjourned the meeting to Executive Session at 6:24 p.m.

**Agenda item C1.** Reconvene into Open Meeting, and take action on items, if necessary.

- Reconvened into open meeting at 7:31 p.m.
- Commissioner Beard moved to authorize staff to move forward with a Project Firehouse document based on input received today. Commissioner BeMent seconded. Motion passes unanimously.
- Commissioner Beard moved to grant staff permission to continue negotiations for Project Italy, contingent on receiving approval from DCR. Commissioner BeMent seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

**Agenda item C2.** Adjournment.

- With no further business to discuss, Mayor Haas adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

**APPROVED:**



Becky K. Haas, Mayor

**ATTEST:**



Lasha Gillespie, City Secretary