



STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF FORT BEND  
STATE OF TEXAS

The City Commission for the City of Richmond, Texas met in Regular Session on September 18, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

Prior to the meeting being called to order, the Mayor made the announcement that the City of Richmond, TX had received a letter from the City of Richmond, England expressing concern for our City during the flood and Hurricane Harvey disaster. A special prayer was said for the City on September 10, 2017. Mayor Moore proceeded to read the letter from Mayor Stewart Parsons.

Mayor Moore also stated that a letter had gone out with the water bills regarding the chloramine conversion at the surface water treatment facility to remain in compliance with the Fort Bend Subsidence District.

Mayor Moore proceeded to call the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. A quorum was present, with the following members in attendance:

Evalyn W. Moore, Mayor  
Jesse Torres, Commissioner P1  
Barry Beard, Commissioner P2  
Carl Drozd, Commissioner P3  
Josh Lockhart, Commissioner P4  
Terri Vela, City Manager  
Gary Smith, City Attorney  
Laura Scarlato, City Secretary

Mayor Moore introduced agenda item A2, Excuse from Attendance. There were no absences for Regular Commission Meetings to be explained. The agenda item was closed.

Mayor Moore introduced agenda item A3, Presentations with Employee Recognition for Service with the City.

Gabe Escochea, 5 years of service, Fire Department. Not present  
Derek Gipson, 10 years of service, Vehicle Maintenance Department. Not Present

Proclamations:

The Mayor read the proclamation for Constitution Week, September 17<sup>th</sup> – September 23<sup>rd</sup>, there were two chapters from the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution present to receive the proclamation; Alexander Hodge Chapter and Fort Bend Chapter.

The Mayor read the proclamation for the Fort Bend County Fair Day, September 29<sup>th</sup>, no one was present to receive it.

The Mayor read the proclamation for the Czech Heritage Month for October 2017, no one was present to receive it.

Finance Director Susan Lang was present to receive the award on behalf of the Finance Department Recognition for Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2016

Mayor Moore introduced agenda item A4, Public Comments. There were no comments from the public, the agenda item was closed.

Mayor Moore asked if there was any discussion regarding agenda item A5, the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Beard pulled item A5 (1)  
Mayor Moore pulled item A5 (5).

Commissioner Beard moved to approve the remainder of the Consent Agenda items with Commissioner Drozd seconding the motion and the vote was unanimous to approve.

A5 (1). Commissioner Beard commended Emergency Management Coordinator Ray Burciaga for the report that is included within the Fire Department Monthly Report. Commissioner Beard shared a story during the Harvey event where Ray was asked the size of his staff whereas he replied *"how many employees does the City have?"* Commissioner Beard praised EMC Burciaga stating his *"leadership is exceptional"*.

A5 (5). Mayor Moore inquired as to why the tax figure amount on page 26 of the tax collection report was so high. Finance Director stated this was the current year levy – payment for taxes paid. No cause for concern.

Commissioner Torres moved approval of Consent Agenda items A5 (1) and A5 (5) Commissioner Drozd seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Agenda item A6, to review and consider taking action on Ordinance No. 2017-17, Adopting Proposed FY 2017-18 Budget for the City of Richmond. Finance Director Susan Lang addressed the Commission stating that over the past few weeks there have been several public hearings, a revenue workshop, an expenditure workshop, a workshop for changes which there were none suggested. It was stated there would be an increase in the ground water reduction fee from \$2.10 to \$2.20 per 1000 gallons to

fund the construction of surface water treatment plant. Following a questions and answer period, Commissioner Beard made the motion to adopt the fiscal year 2018 budget. Commissioner Drozd seconded the motion and the votes were as follows:

Mayor Moore Aye  
Jesse Torres Aye  
Barry Beard Aye  
Carl Drozd Aye  
Josh Lockhart Aye

Mayor Moore introduced agenda item A7, Review and consider taking action on Ordinance No. 2017-24, Adopting Proposed 2017 Tax Rate. There was no discussion. Commissioner Beard made the motion that the property tax rate be decreased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.7100, which is effectively a 3.4 percent decrease in the tax rate. Commissioner Torres seconded the motion and the vote was as follows:

Mayor Moore Aye  
Jesse Torres Aye  
Barry Beard Aye  
Carl Drozd Aye  
Josh Lockhart Aye

Agenda item A8, to review and consider taking action on Ordinance No. 2017-27, ratifying the property tax increase reflected in the 2017-2018 fiscal year budget. There was no discussion. Commissioner Drozd made the motion to adopt the increase in property tax revenues reflected in the adopted budget for fiscal year 2018.

Mayor Moore Aye  
Jesse Torres Aye  
Barry Beard Aye  
Carl Drozd Aye  
Josh Lockhart Aye

Mayor Moore introduced agenda item A9, Review and consider approving Annual Review of Investment Policy and Strategy, Resolution No. 200-2017, no changes recommended. Finance Director Susan Lang addressed the Commission stating the Texas Government Code requires the City to review, approve and adopt the investment policy and strategy of the City of Richmond regarding the investment of public funds on an annual basis. Regardless if there are any changes to the policy, this must take place. Commissioner Lockhart inquired as to the long term plans of the investment team, training and succession plans. Commissioner Torres made the motion to approve Resolution No. 200-2017 to approve the Annual Review of Investment Policy and Strategy. Commissioner Beard seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Agenda item A10 Review and consider taking action on Resolution No. 201-2017, appointment of Building and Standards Board Members. City Manager Terri Vela stated that Mr. Valdemar "Bobby" Reyes would like to step down from the Building and Standards Commission Board, Ms. Bobbie Williams wishes to continue on the board as would Mr. David Reese and Ms. Norma Cavasos. City Manager Vela stated the City had received two applications, one from Ms. Irma Gillespie who is ineligible due to residing outside of the City Limits and the ETJ and also Becky Haas who also serves on the Richmond Historical Commission. The Mayor stated there would be no nominations at this time and the agenda item was closed with no action taken.

Mayor Moore introduced agenda item A11 to Review and consider taking action on Resolution No. 202-2017, appointment of Planning and Zoning Board Members. City Manager Terri Vela stated that the terms of Position 1, Ernest Hogue, Position 3, Katherine M. Graeber-Kubelka, and Position 5, Bill Dostal will expire on October 16, 2017. All three members have indicated they would like to continue to serve on the board. Mayor Moore made the motion to reappoint all three positions to the Planning and Zoning Board and approve Resolution No. 202-2017. The vote was unanimous to approve, therefore all three members were reappointed to a two year term through October 2019.

Mayor Moore introduced agenda item A12, to Review and consider taking action on Resolution No. 203-2017, appointment of Historic Commission Board Members. City Manager Terri Vela stated that the terms of Position 2, Lonnie Meadows and Position 4, Ann Council were expiring on September 30, 2017. Mr. Meadows had expressed an interest in continuing to serve on the board and the City had not been contacted by Ms. Council as to her interest. The Mayor made the motion to reappoint both positions to the Historic Commission board. The vote was unanimous to approve, therefore both Lonnie Meadows and Ann Council were reappointed to a three year term through September 30, 2020.

Mayor Moore introduced agenda item A13, to review and consider taking action on both Resolution No. 204-2017 and 206-2017 regarding the Certificates of Obligation. Finance Director Susan Lang addressed the Commission stating the following:

- a. Review and consider taking action on Resolution No. 204-2017, authorizing publication of notice of intention to issue Certificates of Obligation (Series 2017A). \$6,500,000 to fund the Surface Water Treatment Plant.
- b. Review and consider taking action on Resolution No. 206-2017, authorizing publication of notice of intention to issue Certificates of Obligation (Series 2017B). \$3,750,000 to fund various projects, George Park and Freeman Town Park, City Buildings, drainage and detention related improvements, etc.

Commissioner Beard made the motion to approve Resolution No. 204-2017, authorizing publication of notice of intention to issue Certificates of Obligation (Series 2017A) with Commissioner Drozd seconding the motion. The vote was four “ayes” and no “nays” to approve.

Commissioner Beard made the motion to approve Resolution No. 206-2017, authorizing publication of notice of intention to issue Certificates of Obligation (Series 2017B) with Commissioner Drozd seconding the motion. The vote was four “ayes” and

Agenda item A14 was introduced to review and consider taking action on Resolution No. 205-2017, authorizing the reappraisal of properties damaged by the August 2017 Brazos River flood, authorizing payment of the costs of the reappraisal and authorizing proration of taxes. Finance Director Susan Lang addressed the Commission stating that the Resolution authorizes Fort Bend County to reappraise all property located within the City of Richmond that was damaged by Hurricane Harvey. It also allows for the reimbursement of such costs of making the reappraisal and that the City will share such costs with each taxing entity. The reappraised property will be prorated for the remainder of tax year 2017. It was inquired if all of the properties included on the exhibit would be impacted and the answer was no. They were included because the properties did receive damage. Commissioner Beard made the motion to approve Resolution No. 205-2017, authorizing the reappraisal of properties damaged by the August 2017 Brazos River flood, authorizing payment of the costs of the reappraisal and authorizing proration of taxes.

Mayor Moore introduced agenda item A15 to review and consider taking action on Ordinance No. 2017-25, setting Freeman Town Park Hours. City Manager Terri Vela addressed the Commission stating the hours would be from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. for public use. The park grand opening is set for October 10, 2017. Commissioner Drozd inquired as to how the hours were derived as compared to the hours at the other parks located in the City of Richmond. City Manager Vela stated that because this park has a basketball goal and is located in a residential area it was felt that 10:00 p.m. was a reasonable time for the park to close. The hours will be posted and tickets can be issued. The hours are different in Wessendorff Park because some of the walking areas are dark and the City was not comfortable with citizens walking in the dark without proper lighting. Commissioner Lockhart made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 2015-25 setting the Freeman Town Park Hours with Commissioner Beard seconding the motion. There were four “ayes” and no “nays” to approve.

The agenda item A16 to review and consider taking action on Ordinance No. 2017-26, amending provisions relating to Public Information Act voluminous request. City Attorney Gary Smith spoke regarding this agenda item stating the Texas Legislature amended Texas Government Code, Section 552.275, to provide additional protections

for governmental entities in relation to vexatious requestors. The proposed ordinance establishes the reasonable limit at 15 hours per month. Following a brief question and answer exchange, Commissioner Drozd made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 2017-26, amending provisions relating to Public Information Act voluminous request. Commissioner Lockhart seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to approve with four "ayes".

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Moore declared the meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Evalyn W. Moore, Mayor

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura Scarlato, City Secretary