



STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF FORT BEND

CITY OF RICHMOND

The Development Corporation of Richmond convened in a regular meeting open to the public and pursuant to notice thereof duly given in accordance with Section 501.072, Local Government Code, Vernon's Texas Codes, in Richmond City Hall Annex within said City on December 11, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. Directors in attendance included the following:

President, Evalyn W. Moore

Secretary, Verge Greenwood

Robert Haas - Absent

Nancie Rain

City Attorney – Gary Smith

City Secretary – Laura Scarlato

Vice President, Joe Bonham

Treasurer, Barry Beard

William B. Morefield, III

Terri Vela – City Manager

Cameron Goodman, Executive Director

President Moore opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Agenda item A2 was introduced for public comments. There were no comments from the public, therefore the agenda item was closed.

Agenda item 3 was introduced by President Moore to review and consider taking action on the minutes of the regular meetings held on October 16, 2018 and November 13, 2018. There were no comments or corrections, Commissioner Beard made the motion to approve the minutes for the meetings on October 16th and November 13th, 2018 with Commissioner Morefield seconding the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve.

President Moore asked for a review of the Financial Reports through November 30, 2018. Director Beard reported that the Development Corporation revenues remain strong. There are some expenses coming up but all are expected. Overall the DCR is in good shape. There was no action necessary and the agenda item was closed.

Agenda item 5, Executive Director Cameron Goodman provided the Annual Report Presentation to the Board. Before the presentation. ED Goodman announced that the Development Corporation of Richmond was awarded the Best Economic Development Community in Fort Bend County for 2018 by the Central Fort Bend Chamber Alliance. ED Goodman thanked the Board for all of their support throughout the year.

Executive Director Goodman proceeded to review the 2018 Projects and Accomplishments, A brief summary of those are as follows:

- DCR Website – viewed by 12 countries in last 90 days, largest audience is Houston.
- Downtown video – valuable marketing tool generating interest for the downtown.
- Downtown Improvement Grant – Mercy Goods awarded \$22,500. Interest from two other businesses.
- Digital Marketing Study – Strategic tool identified five key target industries for marketing Richmond for business investment and tourism. Also, key employees of businesses.
- Second Chance Job Fair – approximately 100 attendees and 10 employers. It was an educational process for next year's job fair. It was evident that it is a needed event.
- Target Industry Study – Identified the five industries that benefit from locating in Richmond; Oil & Gas, Business Services, Professional, Scientific & Technical Services, Healthcare & Social Services, Real Estate, Finance & Insurance.
- Wayfinding Signs – Positive response from citizens, 13 key areas, create a sense of place and a way of branding the City. City Manager Vela stated it has been suggested to finish the back of the signs plus one additional sign will be added.
- Opportunity Zone Program – The City has two out of the five qualifying census tracts in the County. The program is to provide developers with an incentive to invest long term in qualified zones. The City worked with Governor Greg Abbott and this is a powerful benefit for the City of Richmond.
- Pecan Harvest Festival – 600 visitors despite the weather. Next year's goal is 5000 with vendors committing to return for 2019. This event is a valuable marketing tool for the City.
- Miracle on Morton Street – largest turnout in several years. Beautiful weather and again a great marketing tool for the City.
- Hotel & Convention Center Legislature – The City has been working with Representatives Phil Stephenson and Rick Miller to joint-author the bill and Senator Kolkhorst will pick up the bill when it reaches the Senate. The bill will allow cities the ability to capture the State of Texas' portion of sales and hotel taxes for qualified hotel and convention center projects within a 1,000 feet radius of the convention center.
- Wayside Horns & Quiet Zones – close to being completed with a conservative goal of implementation being July 2019. City Manager Vela stated the City is working with TxDot and Union Pacific to finalize.
- Financials – Sales tax exceeded the budgeted amount as did all revenues. Expenses were lower, however the Wayside Horn expense has not been booked.

Overall, the year 2018 has been an extremely successful and busy year for the Development Corporation of Richmond. Executive Director Goodman again thanked the Board for their commitment and support.

President Moore announced the board would adjourn to Executive Session at 6:11 p.m., as authorized by Texas Government Code, Sections 551.074 Economic Development Negotiations.

The Board reconvened at 6:19 p.m.

There was no action taken during Executive Session.

Director Bonham made the motion to approve the Special Warranty Deed to accept ownership of the property as long as the City Commission approves. Director Greenwood seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.


There being no further business to come before the Development Corporation of Richmond, the meeting was adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

ATTEST:



Laura Scarlato, City Secretary

APPROVED:



Evalyn W. Moore, President