



STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF FORT BEND
CITY OF RICHMOND

The City Commission for the City of Richmond, Texas met in Special Scheduled Session on Feb 9, 2026, 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
Gary Smith, City Attorney
Lasha Gillespie, City Secretary

A1. Call to Order, Quorum Determined and Meeting Declared Open.

- Mayor Haas Beard called the Special City Commission Meeting to order at 4:31 p.m. A quorum was confirmed and the meeting was declared open.

A2. Recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag and the Texas Flag.

- The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag and the Texas Flag was recited.

A3. Review and consider taking action on Ordinance No. 2026-04, calling a general election for the purpose of electing the Mayor on May 2, 2026.

- Staff presented Ordinance No. 2026-04 calling the general election for the purpose of electing the Mayor on May 2, 2026. Staff explained that the ordinance was required to be adopted before the statutory deadline, which necessitated the special meeting rather than waiting for the next regular meeting. Commissioners asked whether the ordinance followed the same format used in prior elections, and staff confirmed that it did.
- **Action:** Commissioner Beard made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2026-04, calling a general election for the purpose of electing the Mayor on May 2, 2026. Commissioner Drozd seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

A4. Review and consider taking action on Resolution No. 37-2026, Joint Election Agreement and Contract for Election Services with Fort Bend County.

- Staff presented Resolution No. 37-2026, authorizing a Joint Election Agreement and Contract for Election Services with Fort Bend County for the May 2, 2026 election. Staff explained that the agreement allows the City to conduct the election jointly with Fort Bend County. While some logistical details such as polling locations and participating entities were still being finalized, the



agreement was substantially the same as previous contracts used for City elections. Outside legal counsel had reviewed the agreement and provided no comments. Commissioners asked about anticipated polling locations. Staff indicated that the Water Maintenance Facility would be used and that the George Memorial Library location was still being confirmed.

- **Action:** Commissioner Drozd moved to approve on Resolution No. 37-2026, Joint Election Agreement and Contract for Election Services with Fort Bend County. Commissioner Gaul seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

A5. Review and consider discussing funding downtown sidewalk projects.

- Staff provided an update on the proposed downtown sidewalk improvement project, which includes sidewalk replacement and related improvements along Morton Street and adjacent blocks. The updated estimate is approximately \$2.5 million, compared to the earlier estimate of about \$1.1 to \$1.2 million. The increase was attributed largely to ADA-related requirements, including milling and overlay of portions of Morton Street to correct slopes for accessible ramps and sidewalk connections. The estimate also includes pavers, conduit for future decorative lighting, landscaping, and a contingency. Commissioners asked questions about the scope of work, roadway milling, sidewalk elevations, paver materials, construction impacts to businesses, and whether the project could be phased. Staff explained the work would likely be completed in blocks and one side of the street at a time to maintain access. Commissioners discussed whether the project cost was justified, with some expressing concern about the overall expense and suggesting the scope be narrowed, while others noted the project has been deferred for years and would likely become more expensive if delayed further. The possibility of pursuing grant or foundation funding was also discussed. Staff advised they would explore available funding opportunities, including grants for shovel-ready projects, and bring the item back at a later date. No action taken.

A6. Adjourn to Executive Session, as authorized by Texas Government Code, Sections 551.072 and 551.087, Deliberation regarding Real Property and Economic Development Negotiations.

- Mayor Haas adjourned the meeting to Executive Session at 5:02 p.m.

OPEN MEETING

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

- Reconvened into Open Meeting at 6:07 p.m.

C2. Review and consider taking action on Resolution No. 38-2026 authorizing the Development Corporation of Richmond to enter into an Economic Development Grant Agreement for Project Bread.

- **Action:** Commissioner Gaul moved to approve Resolution No. 38-2026 a Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Richmond, Texas authorizing an Economic Development grant agreement for Project Bread; authorizing expenditures pursuant to the agreement; and providing an effective date. Commissioner BeMent seconded. Motion passes unanimously.




- C3. Review and consider taking action on Resolution No. 39-2026 authorizing the Development Corporation of Richmond to enter into an Economic Development Grant Agreement for Fire House.
- **Action:** Commissioner Beard moved to approve Resolution No. 39-2026, authorizing the Development Corporation of Richmond to enter into an Economic Development Grant Agreement for Project Firehouse and authorizing expenditures pursuant to the agreement, subject to any request for prior release of equipment being brought back to the City Commission for approval. Commissioner BeMent seconded. Motion passes 3-1. Commissioner Gaul opposed.

C4. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

APPROVED:



Rebecca K. Haas, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lasha Gillespie, City Secretary