

State of Texas

County of Brazoria

City of Freeport

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the City Council of the City of Freeport met on Tuesday, September 5, 2017 at 6:15 p.m. at the Freeport Police Department, Municipal Court Room, 430 North Brazosport Boulevard, for the purpose of considering the following agenda items:

City Council: Mayor Troy T. Brimage
Councilman Larry L. McDonald
Councilman Brooks Bass
Councilwoman Nicole Mireles
Councilman Roy E. Yates

Staff: Jeff Pynes, City Manager/Interim Chief of Police
Gilbert Arispe, Assistant City Manager
Julian "Pat" Taylor, Deputy City Attorney
Delia Munoz, City Secretary
Nat Hickey, Property Manager
Bob Welch, Finance Director
Chris Motley, Fire Chief
Kim Townsend, Park Supervisor
Jennifer Hawkins, Economic Development Director
Raymond Garivey, Police Captain

Visitors: Melanie Oldham Ed Garcia
Sam Reyna Ruth Renobato
Larry Fansher Jerry Meeks
Christi Mercado

Call to order.

Mayor Troy T. Brimage called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Invocation.

Councilman Bass offered the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Troy T. Brimage led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attending citizens and their business.

Melanie Oldham of 922 West 5th Street hearing very positive remarks about the City during Hurricane Harvey.

Edward Garcia expressed his appreciation to the City Manager Jeff Pynes, Mayor Troy T. Brimage and City Staff, for keeping the City safe during Hurricane Harvey. A job well done.

Economic Development Director Jennifer Hawkins thanked Mayor Troy T. Brimage and Staff for hurricane preparedness was Exemplary.

Consideration of approving the August 7th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 2017 Council Minutes.

On a motion by Councilman Bass, and seconded by Councilman McDonald, with all present voting "Aye", Council unanimously approved the August 7th, 15th, 16th, 17th Council Minutes with a correction on the August 7, 2017 to add Odgen Bass from Freeport and Nan Chambers of 108 N. A, from Velasco Townsite to the minutes.

Consideration of approving a request from the Texas Department of Transportation and authorizing the Mayor and the City Secretary to sign a Memorandum of Agreement and a Temporary Construction Easement for staging equipment for repairing FM 1495 Bridge, on Block 30, Lot 2, of the Freeport Townsite, known locally as 207 East Second Street.

On a motion by Councilwoman Mireles, seconded by Councilman Bass, with all present voting "Aye", Council unanimously approved a request from the Texas Department of Transportation and authorizing the Mayor and the City Secretary to sign a Memorandum of Agreement and a Temporary Construction Easement for staging equipment for repairing/replacing FM 1495 Bridge, on Block 30, Lot 2, of the Freeport Townsite, known locally as 207 East Second Street.

Consideration of authorizing the City Manager to make improvements on the City's parking lot located East of East Park Avenue, between the 100 Block of East Second Street and the 100 Block of East Broad Street.

Mr. Pynes is seeing growth downtown; one major corporation business has 60 employees. Businesses are looking at downtown Freeport as a location option. He received a bid from a contractor that has done work in the City and quoted him a price of \$45,000 for improving the City's parking lot. Improving downtown parking is a good investment.

Jennifer Hawkins with the Economic Development Corporation is requesting parking for downtown. The Brazosport College, FLNG and the Freeport Museum are in need of more parking. Another building town down is being sold and will also need more parking. She is talking to an investor about opening a restaurant. Parking is needed to accommodate growth.

Councilman Yates feels that FLNG is not permanent and as soon as their project is over they will leave.

Mr. Garcia personally feels that the business owners should provide adequate parking for their employees. He is against making the parking improvements. Mayor Troy T. Brimage asked Edward Garcia to contact downtown business owners on their needs.

Councilman McDonald has a business downtown and has never seen downtown full and does not see the need for the parking improvement.

Melanie Oldham talked to Ben Miller who is in real estate and working with Greg Flaniken, who stated that FLNG is very temporary. She stated that City Hall parking is beginning to be difficult as well.

Councilman Bass suggested replacing the parking spaces and/or comparing the cost improvements. More research is needed.

This item was reagendaed.

Consideration of approving a request from Rodney S. Rhoades to purchase Block 3, Lot 26, Bridge Harbor Subdivision, Tax Id. No. 193466.

No action taken.

Consideration of approving a request to purchase and close and abandon a fifty (50) foot wide portion of Division Street Right-of-Way adjacent to Lot 13, Block 501 and Abstract 99 Eli Mitchell Tract F, Property Id. 158326.

No action taken.

Mayor Troy T. Brimage closed the Formal Session and opened the Work Session at 6:42 p.m.

Work Session:

Hurricane Harvey Update.

Mayor Troy T. Brimage commented on the City staff for a job well done.

Mayor Troy T. Brimage announcements and comments.

He commended Captain Ray Garivey and the Police Department, Fire Chief Chris Motley and his firemen, Park Supervisor Kim Townsend and her crew, Street Supervisor David Hoelwyn and street department, working together; clearing the drainage ditches, rescuing people from Slaughter Road to releasing dogs that were still in back yards. He thanked Tony Woods from Baywoods, Sweet "T's", Phat Boyz Restaurant, Maria's Kitchen and Brazos Blends and Brew for staying open and offering their service. He thanked Brazoria County Judge Matt Sebesta, Representative Dennis Bonnen, Senator Joan Huffman and Dow Chemical for offering assistance.

Councilman McDonald Ward A announcements and comments.

Councilman McDonald thanked everybody from all City levels. He also was out checking the water levels, drainage inlets, taking photos and found trees are still restricting the water flow. He also commended Jerry Meeks of Veolia Water, David Hoelwyn and Kenny Collins from the Street Department for a fantastic job.

Councilman Bass Ward B announcements and comments.

Flooding on Velasco Boulevard still continues and glad that the budget was allocated for contracting an engineer to determine where the water needs to go. The 1500-1600 Block of West 2nd Street, the street needs cutting to grade. It is important that the gutters continue to be sprayed. Two more Hurricanes are pending out in the Gulf. He noted where someone dumped 6 to 7 tires off Velasco off the loop road. He recommends an evaluation of the storm on the pros and cons be done. He thanked Mayor Troy T. Brimage on the preparation of Hurricane Harvey. A gentleman living on 11th Street would clear the drainage every morning during the storm, but one early morning a city employee was already there clearing the drainage ditch. That city employee was Mayor Troy T. Brimage. He wanted that mentioned and to thank him for doing that chore.

Councilwoman Mireles Ward C announcements and comments.

Councilwoman Mireles feeling very grateful that Freeport didn't flood. She thanked City Manager Jeff Pynes and Mayor Troy T. Brimage for keeping open the communications. She also had people contacting her about the storm and thankful that communications were transmitted very well. She asked about the mosquito spraying.

Councilman Yates Ward D announcements and comments.

Councilman Yates received at least 15" of rain over a period of days. He did get out and check the Freeport Pump Station and the other at the rail road tracks off Velasco. All was well and pumps running. He commended the City employees for a great job.

Executive Session:

Section 551.071, Government Code:

Consultation with City Attorney concerning pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offers or other matters in which his duty to the City Council under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with Chapter 551, Government Code, to wit:

- Velasco Drainage District

Adjourn

On a motion by Councilman Bass, seconded by Councilman McDonald, with all present voting “Aye”, Mayor Troy T. Brimage closed the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

Mayor Troy T. Brimage
City of Freeport, Texas

City Secretary Delia Munoz
City of Freeport, Texas