

State of Texas

County of Brazoria

City of Freeport

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the City Council of Freeport, Texas met on Monday, August 20, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Freeport Police Department, Municipal Court Room, 430 North Brazosport Boulevard, Freeport Texas for the purpose of considering the following agenda items:

City Council:

- Mayor Troy T. Brimage
- Councilman Brooks Bass
- Councilman Ken Green
- Councilwoman Sandra Loeza
- Councilman Roy E. Yates

Staff:

- Bob Welch, Finance Director / Interim City Manager
- Laura Tolar, Asst. City Secretary/Special Projects Coordinator
- Wallace Shaw, City Attorney
- Nat Hickey, Property Manager
- Kim Townsend, Parks / Rec. Director
- Chris Motley, Fire Chief
- Loni Kershaw, Human Resources Director
- David Hoelewyn, Streets Director
- Billy Shoemaker, Building Official
- Jennifer Hawkins, EDC
- Leann Strahan, Museum Director
- Ray Garivey, Police Chief
- Brian Dybala, Golf Course Director

Visitors:

Ed Garcia	Melanie Oldham
Tommy Pearson	Mary Garcia
Sabrina Brimage	Manning Rollerson
Kyle Hammonds	David Hallow
Sandra Barnett	Jim Barnett
Christina Travis	Marty Deleon
Ann Johnston	ShaunTae Johnston
Lila Diehl	Eric Hayes
Angel Barbosa	Peggy Yates
Nicole Mireles	Sam Reyna
Bob Koole	Margaret McMahan
Ron Spier	Paul Crow
Erin Callahan	Darlene Wier
Cynthia Husband	Ronaldo Cantu

Edmeryl Williams
Jerry Meeks

Angie Williams

Call to order.

Mayor Troy T. Brimage called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Invocation.

Wallace Shaw offered the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Troy T. Brimage led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attending citizens and their business.

Manning Rollerson thanks the City and Mayor Brimage for attending World Harvest. He asked if there would be a hearing or just a swap if anything is done regarding the park on the east end. Mayor Brimage advised there would be a hearing if that were to be considered. Mr. Rollerson commented that the playground equipment is rusty.

Consideration of approving the minutes for August 6, 2018 and August 13, 2018 meetings.

Councilman Bass asked if we could make a correction to the August 6, 2018 meeting.

On a motion by Councilwoman Loeza, seconded by Councilman Bass, with all present voting "Aye", Council unanimously approved the minutes for August 6, 2018 and August 13, 2018 meetings.

Consideration of Resolution No. 2018- 2555 amending Resolution No. 2017-2512 to substitute Talbert Brimage, Mayor, for Jeff Pynes, former City Manager, as the City's authorized official for an ASSET PROTECTION INITIATIVE GRANT FOR FY 2017-2018 grant #3251701.

On a motion by Councilman Bass, seconded by Councilman Green, with all present voting "Aye", Council unanimously approved Resolution No. 2018-2555 amending Resolution No. 2017-2512 to substitute Mayor Brimage for Jeff Pynes as the grant manager.

Consideration of authorizing preparation of documents for the sale to Paul Crow and Ron Spier of the 0.291 acre tract adjoining their 0.212 acre tract known as Lot 2B, Block 211, in the C. Henninger Subdivision known locally as 200 Front Street, Freeport and authorizing the Mayor to sign and the City Secretary to attest the same.

Mr. Spier commented that after the recent council meeting he would like to make an offer of \$10,000 for the property from the levee to the river. He thought that was a fair price. Mr. Spier commented that the property is land locked and they would construct two new homes for themselves.

Councilman Green commented that no part of that property is level.

Melanie Oldham asked if the property has been surveyed and appraised and who would be responsible if the levee were damaged for some reason.

Ed Garcia commented that the master plan suggested that waterfront not be sold and wondered what the rush is to sell this property.

Mayor Brimage commented that these property owners will spend a couple hundred thousand dollars on improvements to this property.

Tommy Pearson asked how this property can be accessed.

Ed Garcia said that no one will be able to use the property to fish from.

Councilman Yates said he was ok with selling the property. He figures it would be approximately \$1.20 per square foot.

Mr. Spier commented that the property in question has about 180 foot of waterfront.

Peggy Yates asked if this property was not sold to them then who would it be sold to.

Bob Koole commented that he also was concerned about the levee system and thought children should have the same memory fishing on the river like he did.

Nicole Mireles asked what is the status of the masterplan.

Jennifer Hawkins, EDC Director, said the masterplan would be finalized after the next townhall meeting.

Manning Rollerson stated that he felt the riverfront property was valued too low.

Peggy Yates commented that property is only worth what someone is willing to pay for it.

On a motion by Councilwoman Loeza, seconded by Councilman Green, with all present voting 4 to 1, this item was approved. Councilman Yates opposed.

Discuss Tax Rate in general and the process used to determine it.

Mayor Brimage stated that with the proposed tax rate that the taxes should only go up \$4.80 per household annually. Also, that since the appraisal protests the values has gone from \$50 million to \$36 million.

Manning Rollerson asked how a city can grow without raising taxes. He asked where would the money come from.

Eric Hayes asked when the industrial contracts would expire

Interim City Manager Bob Welch said 10 years.

Mayor Troy Brimage stated that he was interested in bonds to get the city's infrastructure fixed.

Discuss building blocks program as used in the past, and whether or not it should be started again and, if so, any changes needed.

Mayor Troy Brimage stated that he was interested in researching and bringing back the Building Blocks program for residents that are truly needy.

Nicole Mireles stated that the Concerned Citizens of Freeport group has helped at two houses.

All council members felt it was a good thing and to move forward with discussions.

Consideration of presentation of request given by Cynthia Husband for permission to move her home from 303 East 2nd Street 1609 North Avenue Q, Freeport.

Ms. Husband stated that she has required movers. The roof and porches must come off. She said the house has solid wood and the siding is in good shape. The intent of his house is for it to be her retirement home. She will replace the windows, roof and plumbing. She has spoken to the neighbors at the new location and they were excited.

Ms. Husband stated that this would be her seventh home to refurbish.

Council encouraged her to work with the Building Department moving forward.

Presentation from the blues fest for approval of beer license holder.

Ms. ShaunTae Johnston spoke regarding the beer license. She stated that she was getting the run around from Mr. Welch and Mayor Brimage.

Mayor Brimage stated that he does not want the Biker Bash in Freeport. He stated that long time member of the Lions Club Richard Turner quit Lion's Club because of the last Biker Bash.

Councilman Green asked if Lions Club would be involved this year.

Ann Johnston stated that the club voted to not be involved this year.

Nicole Mireles asked if city staff will be used to set up and take down this year's event.

Ann Johnston asked how this event was different than Riverfest.

Marty Deleon, organizer of the Biker Bash, stated that he picked a beer license holder from outside Freeport so no one got their feelings hurt. He said that he has a signed agreement with Ms. Johnston.

He realizes that last year's event put a sting on the city and he has done his best to ensure nothing of that nature will occur again.

Ed Garcia stated that Blues Festival used to be a family event then the bikers brought in the undesirables.

Mr. Deleon stated that there have only been two arrests in 14 years.

On a motion by Councilman Yates, seconded by Councilman Green, with all present voting 3 to 2, this item was approved. Councilman Bass and Mayor Brimage opposed.

Work Session:

Mayor Troy T. Brimage announcements and comments.

There were none.

Councilman Green Ward A.

There were none.

Councilman Bass Ward B.

Councilman Bass questioned the responsibility of trimming trees, sidewalks and lights.

Mr. Hoelewyn stated that if the trees were in the city easement and covering a stop sign or over sidewalks the city has been trimming those trees.

Mr. Bass said that he believes the ordinance states that it is the responsibility of the homeowner to do the maintenance of the trees. Councilman Bass added that there was still a need to get the trees trimmed near the new Freeport Elementary near 10th and 11th Streets.

Councilman Bass stated that the Concerned Citizens Group are looking for projects to help needy folks with home maintenance.

Councilwoman Loeza Ward C.

Councilwoman Loeza questioned how far fire hydrants were from one another.

Fire Chief Chris Motley stated they are normally 500 feet and the maximum is 1,000 feet.

Councilman Yates Ward D.

Councilman Yates showed the picture of the skull owned by Mike Sorrell that will be reconstructed to show what the girl might have looked like. He is trying to get Mr. Sorrell to donate the skull to the museum. The Smithsonian has dated the skull to 3,500 years old.

Nat Hickey added that the lady that will be doing the reconstruction of the skull wants the public to come out and watch. A National Archeological group has carbon dated it to approximately 11,000 years old. He stated that they said it was the oldest artifact of this sort that was found in the state.

Updates on current infrastructure.

There were none.

Update on reports / concerns from Department heads.

There were none.

Mayor Brimage closed open session at 7:29 PM and opened 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:

Discussion and possible action regarding any claims the City may have against a third party or parties involving the operation and funding of the Freeport Historical Museum.

Reopen Open Session:

Mayor Brimage reopened regular session and closed Executive Session at 8:11 PM.

1. Consideration of taking action on any items discussed in Executive Session.

No Action Taken.

Adjourn

On a motion by Councilman Bass, seconded by Councilman Green, with all present voting "Aye", Mayor Brimage adjourned the meeting at 8:13 PM.

Mayor, Troy T. Brimage
City of Freeport, Texas

Assistant City Secretary, Laura Tolar
City of Freeport, Texas