

State of Texas

County of Brazoria

City of Freeport

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the City Council of Freeport, Texas met on Monday, February 3, 2020 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 Brooks Bass
Councilman Jerry Cain
Councilman Ken Green
Councilwoman Sandra Loeza
Councilman Roy E. Yates Absent

Staff: Tim Kelty, City Manager
Stephanie Russell, Assistant City Manager
Betty Wells, City Secretary
Chris Duncan, City Attorney
Brenda Miller-Ferguson Human Resource Director
David Hoelewyn, Street Department Director
Nat Hickey, Property Manager
Brian Dybala, Freeport Golf Course Director
LeAnn Strahan, Freeport Destination Director
Mike Praslicka, Freeport Fire Deputy Chief
Billy Shoemaker, Code/Permit Director

Visitors: Melanie Oldham
Mario Muraira
Nicole Mireles
Keith Stumbaugh
Angie Williams
Kenny Hayes
Desiree Pearson
Troy Brimage
Eric Hayes
Manning Rollerson
David Towers
Sam Reyna
Edmeryl Williams
Cindy Cain
Donna Hayes
Tommy Pearson
Sabrina Brimage
Cliff Vandergrift

Call to order.

Mayor Brooks Bass called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: Announcements by Mayor, City Council and/or Staff

Presentation of the Investment Report for the quarter ending December 31, 2019.

Assistant City Manager Stephanie Russell presented to Council the Investment Report for the quarter ending December 31, 2019.

Citizen's Comments

Nicole Mireles spoke to council of her concerns on the PayScale for City Employees. She said that she feels the Matrix PayScale was a good thing for the City Employees. She said that we are losing too many officers for reasons of low pay. She said that she wants council to look back into the Matrix PayScale.

Eric Hayes spoke to council of his concern on his alley at 1507 West Broad and the repairs that are needed. He said that on Mulberry side there is a two-foot-deep hole. He also said that he received a certified letter from the Port Freeport he said that it appears that they are going forward with the eminent domain and the offers are about \$400 less than the original offer.

Melanie Oldham spoke of her concern for the salary for City of Freeport employees. She also said that she feels the City should check into getting a Grant Writer. She addressed her concern of the Port Freeport taking private and City property along with City streets through the Eminent Domain and she hopes that Council stands up for the City.

Manning Rollerson spoke to council about the East End Park. He also stated that on January 30, 2020 a letter was sent out to Mayor Brooks Bass. Mr. Rollerson stated that papers have been filed to save the park. He said that on Cherry Street dump trucks, teenagers, and motorcycles race down this road, someone is going to get hurt.

Ms. Edmeryl Williams said that after the section of her street was paved, the water runs back into her yard on 520 E.6th Street. She said this did not happen before. She also said that the City should not be throwing the residents in the East End under the bus. She said that they are citizens, and that their taxes are paid. She said that there are children and teens who do not live in the East End that use the park, she said that it is not a scary place. Mayor Bass said that we will protect the City of Freeport the best that they can.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Consideration and possible action on the approval of City Council meeting minutes from January 21, 2020.

Discuss and consider changing the date of the second meeting in February due to the Presidents Day holiday, to Tuesday, February 18, 2020.

Consideration to approve Resolution No. 2020-2617 to amend TexPool authorized representatives.

On a motion by Councilwoman Loeza, seconded by Councilman Cain, with all present voting “Aye”, Council unanimously approved the Consent Agenda.

REGULAR SESSION

Consideration and possible action approving Ordinance No. 2020-2596 amending Freeport Code of Ordinance regarding the boundaries and times for School Zones affecting Traffic

City Manager Tim Kelty presented to council the proposed Ordinance No. 2020-2596 to amend the Freeport Code of Ordinance for the boundaries and times for school zones. He said that this was reviewed by BISD, Freeport Police Department and the BISD Police Department. With this amendment to the ordinance it establishes a uniform speed limit of 20MPH during specific hours for each school, including Brazosport High School, Freeport Elementary, Velasco Elementary and Freeport Intermediate School.

On a motion by Councilwoman Loeza, seconded by Councilman Green, with all present voting “Aye”, Council unanimously approved Ordinance No. 2020-2596 amending Freeport Code of Ordinance regarding the boundaries and times for School Zones affecting Traffic

Consideration and possible action on Resolution No.2020-2618 amending the master fee schedule.

LeAnn Strahan, Freeport Destination Director, presented to council the proposed Resolution No. 2020-2618 to amend the Master Fee Schedule to add applicable fees for the Freeport Recreation Center. This will add admission fees for residential/non-residential membership fees, pool party rentals, and basketball registration. Along with the clarification of ages, military discounts, and non-resident surcharges.

On a motion by Councilman Cain, seconded by Councilwoman Loeza, with all present voting “Aye”, Council unanimously approved Resolution No.2020-2618 amending the master fee schedule.

Consideration of Resolution No. 2020-2619 appointing qualified person(s) to Board of Adjustments.

City Manager Tim Kelty presented to council Resolution No. 2020-2619 appointing qualified person(s) to the Board of Adjustments. Mayor Bass said that this has traditionally been an annual meeting, but that this a very important board. It is the board of last resort. He said that when someone applies for a variance it goes to this board, and they decide whether to grant it or not and it requires seventy five percent of the board be in attendance. Mr. Kelty said that there are four individuals that have expressed interest in serving on this board, Mario Muraira, Carlos Varela, Keith Stumbaugh, and Dean Knox. The board has four seats that are currently occupied. The board is made of five regular members and two alternates. The board is short one regular member, and two alternates at this time.

On a motion by Councilman Green and seconded by Councilman Cain with all present and voting “Aye”, council unanimously appointed Keith Stumbaugh as the Regular on the Board of Adjustments to fill out the vacant term.

On a motion by Councilman Green and seconded by Councilwoman Loeza, with all present and voting “Aye” council unanimously appointed Mario Muraira, and Carlos Varela as alternates on the Board of Adjustments to fill out those remaining vacant terms.

Discussion and direction for City Hall renovations

City Manager Tim Kelty said last year there was discussion regarding moving Council Chambers and Municipal Court to City Hall. In addition to those improvements, there is also a need for public rest rooms on the first floor and more and better secured office space on the first floor for Human resources and Assistant City Manager

Mr. Kelty said, there is \$66,000 that was included in this year's budget for a preliminary architectural service for the O.A. Fleming building that was being considered at the time the budget was adopted that could be used. Mr. Kelty said with this renovation, it would free up needed additional space at the Police Department as well. He asked for authorization to move forward with that planning and asked if there was anything else Council wanted to include

Mayor Bass asked Mr. Kelty to come back on next council meeting with a punch list with things that need to be done. Nicole Mireles asked if the O.A. Fleming building is no longer an option. Desiree Pearson asked if there has been testing for mold in City Hall. Mayor Brooks Bass said that this will be one of the things that will be discussed.

WORK SESSION:

Mayor Bass spoke about the election coming up in May, he said that Ken Green has filed for Ward A, and Sandra Loeza for Ward C. Mayor Bass said that he and City Manager Tim Kelty met with BISD and had a lengthy meeting about the O.A. Fleming building. Mayor Bass said that he knows what he wants, and that is land to build houses on. He said that he is not inclined to be in a three-way deal with the Port of Freeport and the school district. He would rather have a two-way deal and just deal with the school district. He said that the ball fields are owned by the City, these are under a fifty-year lease with the school district. He feels that Mr. Massey superintendent wants to discuss this and get this resolved. We need to get this resolved in a way that will be beneficial to both entities. Mayor Bass said that we are working on it. Mayor Bass asked that Betty Wells, City Secretary work with Tim Kelty, City Manager to get a called meeting with proper notice for every Boards and Commissions that we have in the City of Freeport.

Councilman Green said that he, the City Manager, and David Hoelewyn the Street Department Director had a chance to ride around Ward A. He said that there has been some major development on roadways. He said that there is improvement that will happen this year.

Councilman Cain said that he sees a lot of spots on the roads where the water cannot make it to the drain. He asked if there is something that can be done to take care of where the water stands along the curb. Street Department Director David Hoelewyn said that they are making the repairs that can be made, Councilman Cain said that he has seen production on the roads that were torn up, and he said that this is good to see.

Councilwoman Loeza said that she was on 5th and Dixie, it looks like there has been trash dumped in the cul-de-sac. She also said that there are two vehicles that look like they are not working, and if there is anything can be done to get these moved. She asked if there is an ordinance on having windows boarded up. She asked about the street signs, if they are broken can the City replace them. She asked about a large utility pole that is in a ditch on Ave H, Billy Shoemaker said that he will go by and see if the pole belongs to Centerpoint.

City Manager Tim Kelty said that we are in the final stages of interviews for the Public Works position. Mr. Kelty said that he also met with a couple ladies last week on the Mainstreet Program, he said that we will be putting that back in the Strategic Plan for next year. He said that he met with Jerry Meeks and David Hoelewyn and we will be finalizing all of the water and sewer lines for the next street repairs that council has approved. Mr. Kelty said that he met with Freese and Nichols and he is excited that they have identified a lot of projects through the various studies that they have been doing.

Update on reports / concerns from Department heads

Brenda Ferguson Human Resource Director said that she wanted to address the Matrix System, she said that they are not ignoring the concerns. She said that they have done some preliminary studies to look at this, and she said that she and Mr. Kelty are meeting with staff.

Billy Shoemaker, Code and Permit Director, told council that Church's Chicken plans have been submitted back to Freese and Nichols, which submitted back to Church's Chicken. Mr. Shoemaker said that the issue is that Church's is wanting to renovate the building, but he believes that the building should be torn down and rebuilt.

LeAnn Strahan, Freeport Destination Director, informed council of the Daddy-Daughter Sock Hop Dance that will be on February 15, 2020 from 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. the tickets are on sale at the Freeport Museum and the Visitor's Information Center.

David Hoelewyn, Street Department Director informed council that the alley on Mulberry will be getting fixed. Mr. Hoelewyn said that today they were tied up with the County putting in asphalt.

Open session was closed at 7:05 pm and Council entered into Executive Session.

CLOSED SESSION:

Executive Session regarding a.) economic development (Projects 2019-2 and 2019-3) and b. Attorney Consultation (Possible Litigation) and, c. Deliberation about Real Property (Project 2020-1) in accordance with Vernon's Texas Government Code Annotated, Chapter 551, Sections 551.071, 551.072, and 551.087.

REGULAR SESSION

Mayor Brooks Bass opened regular session at 7:38pm

Adjourn

On a motion by Councilwoman Loeza, seconded by Councilman Green, with all present voting "Aye", Mayor Brooks Bass adjourned the meeting at 7:39 PM.

Mayor, Brooks Bass
City of Freeport, Texas

City Secretary, Betty Wells
City of Freeport, Texas