

State of Texas

County of Brazoria

City of Freeport

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the City Council of Freeport, Texas met on Tuesday, November 17, 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
Councilman Mario Muraira
Councilman Roy E. Yates

Staff: Tim Kelty, City Manager
Stephanie Russell, Assistant City Manager
Betty Wells, City Secretary
Laura Tolar, Assistant City Secretary/ Special Projects Coordinator
Chris Duncan, City Attorney
Brenda Miller-Ferguson, Human Resource Director
Billy Shoemaker, Freeport Building and Code Director
Ray Garivey, Freeport Police Chief
Lance Petty, Public Works Director
Chris Motley, Freeport Fire Chief
Giselle Hernandez, Accounts Payable Specialist
Clarissa Molina, Administrative Assistant

Visitors:

Jerry Meeks (Veolia)	Abigail Muraira
Manning Rollerson	Ruben Renabato
Nicole Mireles	Sam Reyna
Eric Venable	Sheryl Deharde
Chuck Deharde	Robert Koole
Ed Garcia	Jacob Brown
Eric Venable	

Visitors, Via Teleconference:

Melissa Washington (GLO)	Teresa
Amanda	Vander Williams
Jessie Parker	

Call to order.

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Invocation was led by City Manager Tim Kelty. Pledge was led by Mayor Brooks Bass.

COUNCIL BUSINESS:

Consideration and possible action approving Ordinance No. 2020-2617 canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the November 3, 2020 Charter Amendment Election.

City Manager Tim Kelty presented to council Ordinance No. 2020-2617 canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the November 3, 2020 Charter Amendment Election. He said that there were eight questions presented to the public, and they were all adopted.

On a motion by Councilman Cain, seconded by Councilman Yates, with all present voting "Aye" 5-0 Council unanimously approved Ordinance No.2020-2617 canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the November 3, 2020 Charter Amendment Election.

Consideration and possible action approving Ordinance No. 2020-2618 canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the November 3, 2020 election, signing the required affidavit and administering the Oaths of Office by the successful candidates.

City Manager Tim Kelty presented to council Ordinance No. 2020-2618 canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the November 3, 2020 election, signing the required affidavit and administering the Oaths of Office by the successful candidates. He said that this election was for the positions of Ward A and Ward C. In Ward A there were five candidates, and none received the majority of the votes. Ward A will have a runoff election on December 15, 2020 between Larry McDonald, and Jeff Pena. In Ward C it was declared that Mario Muraira was the winner.

On a motion by Councilman Yates, seconded by Councilman Green, with all present voting "Aye" 5-0 Council unanimously approved Ordinance No. 2020-2618 canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the November 3, 2020 election, signing the required affidavit and administering the Oaths of Office by the successful candidates.

Administer Oath of Office to newly elected Council Member to Ward C.

City Secretary Betty Wells, administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Council Member to Ward C, Mario Muraira.

Citizen's Comments

Jeff Pena passed out information to council, he spoke to council of his concern of street lights that are out in each Ward of the City.

Manning Rollerson spoke to council about the street lighting on Cherry Street. He also spoke of his concern of the speeding traffic that drives down Cherry Street. Mr. Rollerson spoke of his concerns of the conditions of his daughter's apartment.

Mayor Bass read a public comment from Maria Gonzalez. Ms. Gonzalez is a counselor with Gulf Coast Center's Texans Recovering Together, Crisis Counseling Program. She said that they are offering free and confidential services for anyone affected by COVID-19 in Brazoria and Galveston Counties.

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

Presentation of Employee of the Month for the month of October 2020.

Freeport Public Works employee Danny Erwin was presented with a certificate recognizing him for Employee of the Month, for the month of October 2020.

Presentation of Life Saving Award.

Freeport Police Chief Ray Garivey presented a Life Saving Award to Jacob Brown, Chuck Deharde, Sheryl Deharde and Eric Venable for their heroic actions during an emergency at Bryan Beach on October 18, 2020.

COUNCIL BUSINESS – REGULAR SESSION:

Consideration and possible action on the approval of City Council meeting minutes from November 2, 2020.

On a motion by Councilman Cain, seconded by Councilman Yates, with all present voting “Aye” 5-0 Council unanimously approved the Meeting Minutes from November 2 ,2020.

Consideration and possible action of selecting a Mayor Pro Tem.

City Manager Tim Kelty, presented to council the possible action of selecting a Mayor Pro Tem. He said that this position is now vacant. And per the charter a Council Person must serve for at least two years on Council.

On a motion by Mayor Bass, seconded by Councilman Cain, with all present voting “Aye” 4-0 Council approved selecting Councilman Yates as Mayor Pro Tem. Councilman Yates abstained from voting.

Consideration and possible action to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-2619 calling the Runoff Election of Council Position for Ward A.

City Manager Tim Kelty presented to council Ordinance No. 2020-2619 calling the Runoff Election of Council Position for Ward A. He said that early voting will begin on November 30, with Election Day being December 15. This is for Ward A, between Larry McDonald and Jeff Pena.

Mayor Bass announced the dates of early voting.

November 30-December 4, 8AM-5PM

December 5, 7AM-7PM

December 7-9, 8AM-5PM

December 10-11, 7AM-PM

On a motion by Councilman Yates, seconded by Councilman Muraira, with all present voting “Aye” 5-0 Council unanimously approved Ordinance No. 2020-2619 calling the Runoff Election of Council Position for Ward A.

Consideration and possible action for appointment of Council Representative to Zoning Ordinance Steering Committee.

City Manager Tim Kelty presented to council the possible action for the appointment of Council Representative to Zoning Ordinance Steering Committee. He said that staff recommends the appointment

of one volunteer from City Council, and one from each of the Planning Commission, Board of Adjustments, and the EDC, and some volunteers from the community.

Councilman Muraira volunteered to be a representative for the Zoning Ordinance Steering Committee.

Mayor Bass said that he would like each Council to nominate a person from each Ward. And Mayor Bass said that he would like to be added to this committee as an Ad-Hoc.

On a motion by Councilman Cain, as stated and seconded by Councilman Yates, with all present voting "Aye" 5-0 Council unanimously approved the appointment of Council Representative to Zoning Ordinance Steering Committee.

Consideration of authorizing the purchase of public safety vehicles for the Freeport Police and Fire Department.

Assistant City Manager Stephanie Russell presented to council the purchase of public safety vehicles for the Freeport Police and Fire Department. She said that these four vehicles were budgeted in the 2021 budget, but however Police Departments vehicle's will be over the budgeted amount. Ms. Russell said there were funds located in other accounts that have not been expended that can be used for this overage.

Mayor Bass asked what cuts the department is anticipating to use to offset this? Ms. Russell said that there were savings in other line items that came in less. She also said that there were some credits. Mayor Bass asked if these savings will not cut into any public safety issues. Ms. Russell said this is correct.

Chief Motley said that he is purchasing a Chevy Tahoe for the EMS Coordinator.

Mayor Bass said the vehicles being purchased for the PD are two patrol cars and one truck. Chief Motley said he believed so.

On a motion by Councilman Cain, and seconded by Councilman Green, with all present voting "Aye" 5-0 Council unanimously approved the purchase of public safety vehicles for the Freeport Police and Fire Department.

WORK SESSION:

Mayor Bass said if you are called to volunteer please consider this, he said you are being asked because we feel you are an asset to the City. He also congratulated and welcomed Councilman Muraira to the council. He also said that he wanted to say that he enjoyed his time with working with Councilwoman Loeza. He said that he feels she brought a lot of talent for the city. He said that he appreciates her service and we wish her well. Mayor Bass said that the Director reports are very detailed and he really appreciates that.

Councilman Green had no comment.

Councilman Cain said that he likes the idea of appointing someone from the Wards for the Steering Committee. He said that he encourages the public to let council know if they believe someone should be nominated.

Councilman Muraira said that there are three potholes on Zapata, he asked if we could get those holes covered. He said that on North G and Sweeney Street there was piping has been taken out, and dirt just

put over it, he asked will this be fixed anytime soon? Lance Petty said this will be fixed in the next week or so.

Councilman Yates said that he feels bad for the drownings. He said that there has to be some kind of signs that we can put up, he said we have to figure something out that these signs can't be taken down.

City Manager Tim Kelty said that he wanted to recognize Ms. Russell and her staff for the 140 applications for the Utility Relief Fund that came in. He said that 90 applications have been reviewed and signed off on.

Update on reports / concerns from Department heads

No comment from department heads.

Open session was closed at 6:49 pm and Council entered into Executive Session.

CLOSED SESSION:

Executive Session regarding a.) (Potential Litigation) consultation with city attorney b.) (Deliberations about Real Property), 212 East Park Ave in accordance with Government Code Annotated, Chapter 551, Sections 551.071, 551.074.

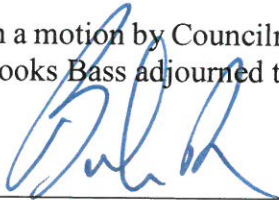
REGULAR SESSION

Mayor Brooks Bass reconvened regular session at 7:19 P.M.

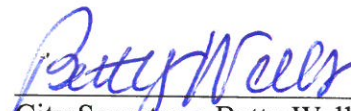
There was no action taken.

Adjourn

On a motion by Councilman Yates, seconded by Councilman Cain, with all present voting "Aye", Mayor Brooks Bass adjourned the meeting at 7:19 PM.



Mayor, Brooks Bass
City of Freeport, Texas



City Secretary, Betty Wells
City of Freeport, Texas