

State of Texas

County of Brazoria

City of Freeport

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the City Council of Freeport, Texas met on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, 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 Jeff Pena
Councilman Jerry Cain
Councilman Mario Muraira
Councilman Roy E. Yates

Staff: Tim Kelty, City Manager
Stephanie Russell, Assistant City Manager Via Teleconference
Betty Wells, City Secretary
Chris Duncan, City Attorney
Laura Tolar, Assistant City Secretary/ Special Projects Coordinator
Brenda Ferguson, Human Resource Director Via Teleconference
Lance Petty, Public Works Director, Via Teleconference
Danny Gillchriest, Freeport Police Captain
LeAnn Strahan, Destinations Director Via Teleconference
Chris Motley, Freeport Fire Chief
Stephanie Arbolante, Freeport Police Administrative Assistant

Visitors:

David McGinty	Nicole Mireles
Sam Reyna	Kenny Hayes
Nick Irene (Facts)	Jerry Meeks (Veolia)
Ruben Renobato	Tommy Pearson
Tommy Pearson	Melanie Oldham
Brent Bowles (IAD)	

Visitors, Via Teleconference:

Amanda Petty

Call to order.

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Invocation and the Pledge was led by Mayor Brooks Bass.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Members of the public are allowed to address the City Council at this time, and must include name and address. Note, specific factual information or a recitation of existing policy may be furnished in response to an inquiry made, but any deliberation, discussion, or decision with respect to any subject about which the inquiry was made shall be limited to a proposal to place such subject on the agenda for a subsequent meeting for which notice is provided in compliance with the Texas Open meetings Act unless said notice appears herein. The public is reminded that there is a (4) minute time limit as approved by City Council on June 21, 2010.

Melanie Oldham passed out some information on pipelines. She voiced her concerns on this pipeline, she said that this has not been open or transparent for the community. She said that there are pros and cons to this pipeline.

Sam Reyna handed out some documents to council, he spoke to council of his concerns of an Open Record Request that he submitted on December 7, 2020. He said that he was charged for these records and there should have been no charge since the request was late in being produced. He also spoke of his concern of businesses being denied permits. He said that there are no records of inspections on these businesses.

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

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

Freeport Police Department employee Stephanie Arbolante was presented with a certificate recognizing her as Employee of the Month, for the month of December 2020.

Presentation of City Hall Renovations by IAD Architects.

Mayor Bass said that the proposed renovation is part of the Bond that we went out for last year.

Architect Brett Bowles presented to council the preliminary architectural report for the City Hall Renovations by IAD Architects. He said that the renovations will include bringing the building with ADA, TAS and Building Code Compliance including windstorm.

Mayor Bass asked if the building is grandfathered in? Mr. Bowles said yes, in some areas currently, but because of the nature and scope of the renovations those things need to be brought up to code.

Councilman Pena asked if there would be any improvements to the exterior of the building? Mr. Bowles said no, that the only exterior work proposed are the addition of ADA ramps on the 2nd street side of the building.

Councilman Muraira asked if the building will be checked for asbestos?

Nicole Mireles said that she believes it was checked when she served on council.

City Manager Tim Kelty said that there is \$700,000.00 from the bond for this renovation. Additional funding would need to be identified to complete this phase of the project. While full renovation proposed by the architect was estimated at over \$4M, a limited renovation was estimated at \$1.4M. This limited renovation included bringing the entire building up to code, Construction of Council Chambers/Court room and public restrooms on the first floor.

Councilman Pena also asked if this will include the repair to the second elevator? City Manager Tim Kelty said that this proposal does not. Earlier estimates suggested it would be about \$100,000.00 to put the elevator back in services. Councilman Pena said that he thinks both elevators need to be working.

Police Captain Gillchrist spoke regarding the need for the extra space moving Council and court out of the PD would provide. He said that the PD has outgrown the facility, he said that there is just no room. He said that Council Chambers would be as a training room, and additional office space.

Emergency management briefing COVID-19.

Freeport Fire Chief, Chris Motley he said that the COVID numbers have been a very high. He said that on January 3 there were 467 cases in the County, and that the City of Freeport had a peak of sixteen positive cases in one day. Councilman Cain asked how we are on PPE. Chief Motley said that the PPE is still good. He said that a trip is made to Houston every three to four weeks to pick up PPE when it is offered. He said that there has been a number of COVID-positive cases among employees. He asked people to remember the basics: wash your hands with soap and water, wear your mask and to social distance.

Councilman Pena asked about the restaurant capacity for Freeport? Chief Motley said he believes it is at 50% and this is set by the Governor. Councilman Pena also asked if there are any local places to do COVID testing? Chief Motley CVS, and Clinic on Gulf Blvd. Councilman Pena asked if the low-income families are charged for the testing, Chief Motley said he does not have an answer for this. Councilman Pena said he would like to be proactive on setting up sites by Wards. Chief Motley said that this is done through the county.

Mayor Bass said that Freeport is open for vaccines, he said there is just no response yet.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Consent Agenda items are considered to be routine in nature and may be acted upon in one motion. Any item requiring additional discussion may be withdrawn from the Consent Agenda by the Mayor, Councilmember or City Manager, and acted upon separately.

Consideration and possible action on the approval of City Council meeting minutes from January 11, 2021.

Consider changing the date of the second meeting in February 2021 due to the President's Day Holiday, to Tuesday February 16, 2021.

Consideration of approving Resolution No. 2021-2670 for the Joint Election Agreement and Contract for Election Services with Brazoria County and the City of Freeport.

On a motion by Councilman Cain, seconded by Councilman Yates, with all present voting "Aye" 5-0 Council unanimously approved the Consent Agenda.

COUNCIL REGULAR AGENDA:

Consideration of approving Ordinance No. 2021-2623 calling the Annual General Election for the City of Freeport for the first Saturday in May, being May 1, 2021 at which the voters of said City residing in Wards B and D shall be permitted to vote for or against the candidates for positions B and D on the City Council of the City of Freeport and at which the voters of said City shall elect at large a Mayor for said City.

City Manager Tim Kelty presented to council Ordinance No. 2021-2623 calling the Annual General Election for the City of Freeport for the first Saturday in May, being May 1, 2021 at which the voters of said City residing in Wards B and D shall be permitted to vote for or against the candidates for positions B and D on the City Council of the City of Freeport and at which the voters of said City shall elect at large a Mayor for said City. He said that this ordinance is for calling the election for Mayor of the City, and for Wards B and D, the is for the election to be held on May 1, 2021. With early voting beginning on April 19, 2021.

Mayor Bass said that he needed to point out on page four of Ordinance No. 2021-2623 he said that the dates need to be amended to January 30, 2021 and March 1, 2021. He said 61 days from May 1, will be March 1, 2021 and 91 days from May 1, 2021, will be January 30, 2021. He said that these dates need to be amended so that this Ordinance can be approved.

On a motion by Councilman Yates, to adopt with the amendment to Ordinance No. 2021-2623, seconded by Councilman Pena, with all present voting "Aye" 5-0 Council unanimously approved as amended Ordinance No. 2021-2623 calling the Annual General Election for the City of Freeport for the first Saturday in May, being May 1, 2021 at which the voters of said City residing in Wards B and D shall be permitted to vote for or against the candidates for positions B and D on the City Council of the City of Freeport and at which the voters of said City shall elect at large a Mayor for said City.

Consideration and possible action of a proposal from Motorola through HGCA Buy Cooperative Contract No. RA05-18 for the Radio Console Upgrade Grant Project.

City Manager Tim Kelty presented to council a proposal from Motorola through HGCA Buy Cooperative Contract No. RA05-18 for the Radio Console Upgrade Grant Project. He said that he would like to point out that David Fernandez, with Freeport Police Department put a \$115K grant application together for this project last year, which was recently awarded. Mr. Kelty said this is to replace the dispatch equipment that is outdated at our Police Department.

On a motion by Councilman Cain, seconded by Councilman Pena, with all present voting "Aye" 5-0 Council unanimously approved the proposal from Motorola through HGCA Buy Cooperative Contract No. RA05-18 for the Radio Console Upgrade Grant Project.

Consideration and possible action of appointing Council Liaison for all City of Freeport Boards and Commissions.

Mayor Bass said that from the last meeting minutes Councilman Muraira was appointed Council Liaison to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Nicole Mireles recommended Councilman Pena be the liaison for the EDC Board.

City Manager Tim Kelty presented to council the possible action on appointing Council Liaison for all City of Freeport Boards and Commissions. He said that after an election council appoints a liaison to all the active boards per our Ordinance. The active boards are Board of Adjustments, EDC, Sr. Citizen's and the Historical Commission and Main Street Advisory Board. Inactive boards because of lack of members serving include Beautification and Parks Board and Library Board.

Councilman Cain said that he would like to serve as the liaison for the EDC.

Councilman Pena said that he would like Councilman Cain be on the EDC Board.

On a motion by Councilman Cain, seconded by Councilman Pena, with all present voting "Aye" 5-0 Council unanimously approved the appointing the following Council Liaisons: Councilman Cain, to EDC Board, Councilman Muraira, Boards of Adjustments, Councilman Yates, Senior Citizens, Mayor Bass to the Historical Museum Commission and Main Street Board and Councilman Pena to the Beautification and Parks Board.

Discussion regarding stormwater planning and maintenance throughout the city of Freeport

City Manager Tim Kelty, and Director of Public Works Lance Petty presented to council the discussion regarding stormwater planning and maintenance throughout the City of Freeport. He said that this will include streets that do not drain properly, streets that have been built up, ditches that need cleaning, plugged culverts, design of inlets and culverts. He said that there are a number of things we can do.

Mayor Bass said that he has spoken with Mr. Kelty and Mr. Petty on getting organized on taking care of the old ditches in Velasco. He said that he would like to use regular budgeted money rather than the bond money if we can.

Mr. Petty said that we have 73 miles of ditch, and four drainage employees. He said the drainage plan right now is addressing open and closed channels, inlets, out falls and pumps stations. He said that the inlets discussed last meeting, the city does not have the equipment needed to address these inlets that are silted in, he said they have been neglected. Mr. Petty said that he is getting prices on renting a hydrovac trailer for a couple months. He said that he is hoping for input on the plan so that we can get this finalized and move forward on the maintenance and improvements.

Mayor Bass said that he wants to commend the employees that did the install of the blinking sign on 2nd Street for the school zones, and the stripes being painted on the streets.

Councilman Muraira said that the SOP is very good. Having a plan is very good.

Councilman Pena asked for the total count for the Public Works Department, Mr. Petty said 30 employees.

City Manager Tim Kelty said that in addition to regular maintenance there are some major improvements that can be made as well.

Consideration and possible action on authorization to proceed with improvements to sanitary sewer lift station #7.

City Manager Tim Kelty presented to council the improvements to sanitary sewer lift station #7. He said that this is the primary lift station of the city. He said that we have had issues with this pump station,

there are three pumps that are in the process of being repaired. He said that we are proposing putting a sixth pump in at this station as well as a permanent bypass pump. He said the cost for this is \$126,523.00. Councilman Pena asked how many estimates were received for this? Mr. Kelty said that Jerry Meeks got this price for from the Buy Board and it does meet all the procurements needed.

Jerry Meeks with Veolia said that he does recommend this repair.

Lance Petty also recommended a sound barrier put around the by-pass pump to control the noise level. Mr. Meeks agreed.

Mayor Bass asked that we go with the natural gas option if it is available and requested Mr. Meeks keep Mr. Kelty informed as to which way we go, natural gas or diesel.

On a motion by Councilman Yates, seconded by Councilman Muraira, with all present voting "Aye" 5-0 Council unanimously approved the authorization to proceed with improvements to sanitary sewer lift station #7.

Councilman Pena asked if there is a maintenance agreement on this station? Mr. Meeks said that Veolia takes care of the maintenance. Councilman Pena wants to insure there is a maintenance agreement with Veolia on this pump station. He requested for any new maintenance jobs that we need to have a maintenance agreement for said jobs.

WORK SESSION:

Councilman Pena spoke about the Web QA for residents and employees are able to use this to voice their concerns. He also spoke of his concerns on the lack of patrol monitoring of the exit ramp at 1495 and Broad. He said the 18-wheeler trucks going to the Port shake the buildings in downtown, he said that there needs to be more patrol. Councilman Pena said that the old movie theater is very unsafe, he said that there are people who are going into this building. He said that Code needs to speak with the owners of this building and get it boarded up, it is unsafe. He thanked Mr. Petty for taking care of the lights on Velasco.

Councilman Cain said that the remodel on City Hall is more than we anticipated. He said that we need to decide what we are going to do with the Heritage House. He asked are we going to put more money into that, or apply it to this remodel of City Hall, he said we need to visit this in the near future.

Councilman Muraira said that he thinks the proposal for the renovation at City Hall is excessive, he said that this is a lot of money. He also said that we need to go down on the cost for this remodel. He spoke on the inspection logs for Code Department, he said that he thinks there needs to be more detail on these logs. He also said that he would like to see in the next month what Code is putting down for the inspections. Councilman Muraira told Mr. Petty that his department is doing a good job, he said that he sees in Ward C potholes being covered and things repaired, and signs being put up. Councilman Muraira said at the intersection of Jones Road and Yellowstone, stop sign needs to be straightened out, and old signs need to be replaced around Ward C.

Councilman Roy Yates asked that the street improvements in the wards, has there been a plan made for this? Mayor Bass asked if this is the plan for improvements that council submitted? Mr. Kelty said that there is a list with the streets for each ward and he will get with Councilman Yates. Councilman Yates said that he has residents asking him about this, and he would like to see the answers to this. Councilman Pena asked if there are changes to this list. Mr. Kelty said that this is a three-year plan. Councilman

City Manager Tim Kelty said that we got a small grant for the Museum and he wanted to thank Director LeAnn Strahan for working on this.

Update on reports / concerns from Department heads

Freeport Fire Chief Chris Motley said that COVID test are free, but the facility administering the test can charge for the Doctor fees. Vaccines are 1A and 1B. There was a press release today saying January 20 vaccine administration will begin in Lake Jackson and Pearland.

Councilman Pena asked if we can get a link on our website. He also asked if we have transportation to get the seniors to the testing or vaccine sites. Chief Motley said that we can try and get them there if needed.

Open session was closed at 7:58 pm and Council entered into Executive Session.

CLOSED SESSION:

Executive Session regarding a.) (Potential Litigation) consultation with city attorney b.) (Deliberations about Real Property), open space program, in accordance with Government Code Annotated, Chapter 551, Sections 551.071, 551.072.

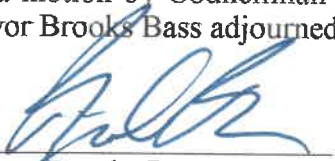
REGULAR SESSION

Mayor Bass reconvened regular session at 8:41 P.M.

There was no action taken from executive session.

Adjourn

On a motion by Councilman Muraira, seconded by Councilman Pena, with all present voting "Aye", Mayor Brooks Bass adjourned the meeting at 8:42 PM.



Mayor, Brooks Bass
City of Freeport, Texas



City Secretary, Betty Wells
City of Freeport, Texas