

State of Texas

County of Brazoria

City of Freeport

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the City Council of the City of Freeport met on Monday, August 1st., 2011 at 6:00 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: Norma Moreno Garcia
Michelle Kent
Fred Bolton
Nicolosa Mireles
Sandra Barbree

Staff: Jeff Pynes, City Manager
Gilbert Arispe, Administrative Asst.
Wallace Shaw, City Attorney
Delia Munoz, City Secretary
Nat Hickey, Property Manager
Larry Fansher, Parks Director

Visitors: Jim Pirrung Dorothy Pirrung
Joyce Adkins Annette Sanford
Brenda Laird Jerry Meeks

Call to Order.

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

Invocation.

Wallace Shaw offered the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Norma Garcia led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consideration of approving the July 18th, 19th, & 21st, 2011 Council Minutes.

On a motion by Councilwoman Kent, seconded by Councilwoman Mireles, with all present voting "aye", Council unanimously approved the July 18th, 19th, & 21st, 2011 Council Minutes.

Attending citizens and their business.

Annette Sanford thanked Council for the lights on the railroad bridge.

Consideration of authorizing the City Manager to select/appoint 5 members for the Fair Housing Workgroup, 3 of which being from racial/minority, large family, disable, etc. from the incorporated areas of the City.

Councilwoman Mireles suggested that the selection process be from each ward.

Joyce Adkins asked if this had been done before.

On a motion by Councilman Bolton, seconded by Councilwoman Mireles, with all present voting "aye", Council unanimously approved authorizing the City Manager selecting 5 members for the Fair Housing Workgroup, 3 of which being from racial/minority, large family, disable, etc. from the incorporated areas of the City.

Consideration of rescheduling September 5th, 2011 council meeting to September 6th, due to a city holiday.

On a motion by Councilwoman Mireles, seconded by Councilwoman Kent, with all present voting "aye", Council unanimously approved rescheduling September 5th, 2011 council meeting to September 6th, due to a city holiday.

Consideration of setting a date for a joint public hearing with the Planning Commission to consider whether or not the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance and Map of said city, codified as Chapter 155 of the Code of Ordinances of said City, should be amended to add a new zoning district, to be called W-4 Marina District and whether or not the zoning classification of all of the land located North of Second Street, East of Cherry Street, West of Terminal Street and South of the centerline of the Brazos River should be changed to W-4 Marina District.

On a motion by Councilwoman Kent, seconded by Councilwoman Barbree, with all present voting "aye", Council unanimously approved September 6th, 2011 for a joint public hearing with the Planning Commission to consider whether or not the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance and Map of said city, codified as Chapter 155 of the Code of Ordinances of said City, should be amended to add a new zoning district, to be called W-4 Marina District and whether or not the zoning classification of all of the land located North of Second Street, East of Cherry Street, West of Terminal Street and South of the centerline of the Brazos River should be changed to W-4 Marina District.

Consideration of accepting and awarding the bids to purchase 3,423 tons of stabilized concrete and a quantity of crushed granite sufficient to construct a nature or hiking trail 6 ft. in width and 6,671 ft. in length.

On a motion by Councilwoman Mireles, seconded by Councilwoman Kent, with all present voting 4 to 1, Council approved awarding the bid to Cherry Construction to purchase 3,423 tons of stabilized concrete and a quantity of crushed granite sufficient to construct a nature or hiking trail 6 ft. in width and 6,671 ft. in length. Councilman Bolton opposed.

Consideration of approving Ordinance No. 2011-2283 reviewing the rate increase request of CenterPoint Energy Entex; denying the requested increase in rates; ordering that no change in rates occur; requiring the reimbursement of rate case expenses; establishing an effective date for this ordinance; Making such other findings and provisions related hereto; containing a savings clause; and providing for the effective date thereof.

On a motion by Councilwoman Kent, seconded by Councilwoman Mireles, with all present voting "aye", Council unanimously approved Ordinance No. 2011-2283 reviewing the rate increase request of CenterPoint Energy Entex; denying the requested increase in rates; ordering that no change in rates occur; requiring the reimbursement of rate case expenses; establishing an effective date for this ordinance; making such other findings and provisions related hereto; containing a savings clause; and providing for the effective date thereof.

Consideration of setting a public hearing for August 15th, 2011 to create a Texas Enterprise Zone Program.

On a motion by Councilwoman Barbree, seconded by Councilwoman Kent, with all present voting "aye", Council unanimously approved August 15th, 2011 for a public hearing to create a Texas Enterprise Zone Program.

Consideration of the approval of any action items discussed in Executive Session.

On a motion by Councilwoman Mireles, seconded by Councilwoman Barbee, with all present voting 4 to 1, Council authorized for Mr. Pynes to proceed with Mr. & Mrs. Hernandez's proposed development on 331 W. 2nd, known as the old Alamo Drive-in. Councilwoman Kent opposed.

Work Session:

Discussion readopting the tax abatement guidelines and criteria.

Mr. Pynes recommended changing the percentage in the Commercial and Residential Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria for 2011-2013.

Jim Pirrung, a retired Industrial Engineer stated that temporary conditions such as tax abatements should not influence the decision whether you build a plant in a particular area; only permanent conditions should be considered.

Council Bolton agreed that there too many tax abatements.

Discussion regarding the proposals for 331 W. 2nd Street; known as the old Alamo Building.

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hernandez were present to discuss and answer questions for the proposed development for 331 W. 2nd Street. They would like to remodel the old Alamo building into a 1950 style Drive In ; selling hamburgers, shakes, etc, hiring at least 4 to 6 people.

Richard Kent of 430 W. 1st., stated that he had done the demographics and Freeport needed variety and a hamburger place would not draw people to Freeport.

Mayor Norma Garcia closed the formal session and opened the executive session at 6:30 p.m.

Executive Session:

Section 551.074

Deliberations concerning the evaluation, and duties of a public officer or employee.

- City Manager

Mayor Norma Garcia closed the executive session at 7:01 p.m. and reconvened to take action on item 12 of the agenda.

Adjourn

On a motion by Councilwoman Mireles, seconded by Councilwoman Kent, with all present voting “aye”, the meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Mayor Norma Moreno Garcia

City Secretary - Delia Munoz