

CITY OF FREEPORT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
200 West 2nd Street, Freeport, Texas 77541

MINUTES

STATE OF TEXAS)
)
COUNTY OF BRAZORIA)
)
CITY OF FREEPORT)

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Economic Development Corporation of the City of Freeport met on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Freeport Police Department Municipal Court Room, located at 430 North Brazosport, Freeport, TX, for the purpose of considering the agenda items.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD PRESENT: Quorum Present

Trey Sullivan- President
Lesa Girouard
Jeff Pena
Ed Garcia
Mingo Marquez

Tim Kelty: City Manager
Chris Duncan: Attorney
Stephanie Russell: Finance Director

Visitors in Attendance:

Gary Jennings
Melanie Oldham
Troy Brimage

I. OPEN SESSION:

Mr. Sullivan opened the meeting at 6:07 P.M. A quorum was present. Trey Sullivan, Lesa Girouard, Jeff Pena, Ed Garcia and Mingo Marquez.

II. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

III. **CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

Bob Koole said the EDC board has a lot of power to direct or advice the City Council on how the EDC seeks funds especially when it comes to redevelopment or development within the city boundaries. Mr. Koole stated that he would just like to remind the EDC board that the East side of Freeport is still within the city limits. Mr. Koole also said that Freeport does have a lot of property and interest there and have residence there. Mr. Koole said he sees empty residential property that homes could be built there. Mr. Koole stated that it is to his understanding that the EDC board has a lot of power and control a lot of money and just wanted to make sure the board knew that the East side of Freeport is still there.

Melanie Oldham said she noticed on executive session there would be discussion regarding proposal for a housing development on city property. Ms. Oldham said on 2016-2017 she was on the Urban Renewal Committee and has notebooks about the larger pieces of land that the City owns. Ms. Oldham read a section from the Home Rule Charter Section 8.02.

IV. **CONSENT AGENDA**

A) **APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 12, 2019 REGULAR BOARD MEETING.**

MOTION made by Ms. Girouard to approve the Minutes for November 12, 2019 **seconded** by Mr. Marquez. Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

B) **APPROVE OCTOBER FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Ms. Russell said the first month of October was uneventful for the EDC. Ms. Russell stated she did include the totals from all the way through September so the board members could see how they ended last fiscal year. Ms. Russell stated that the revenue will not be showing until December. Ms. Russell said for the month of October is just showing a negative because it is just showing the minor expenditures.

MOTION made by Mr. Marquez to approve October 31st, 2019 financial statements **seconded** by Ms. Girouard. Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION-ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

It is now 6:20 p.m. and I hereby recess the regular session of the Freeport Economic Development Corporation December 10, 2019 meeting and do hereby convene and executive session, said executive session authorized under the following sections of the Texas Government Code: (1) Government Code, Section 551.087 (Economic and Community Development Matters), 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property).

In Accordance with the Texas Government Code:

- A. Section 551.087 (Economic and Community Development Matters)
 - 1. Proposal for a housing development on City property.
- B. Section 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property).
 - 2. Discussion and possible action regarding purchase and disposition of real property.

Reconvene into Open Session

It is now 7:47 p.m. and I hereby close the executive session of the Freeport Economic Development Corporation and do hereby reconvene the regular open session.

VI. DISCUSSION AND ACTION

A. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING PROPOSAL FOR A HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ON CITY PROPERTY

No action taken

B. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING PURCHASE OF PROPERTY

No action taken

C. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO PREPARE FOR RED RIVER ICSC CONFERENCE.

Mr. Holman said Mr. Pena, Mr. Kelty, Mr. Duncan, Ms. Music, Mr. Green and himself are interested in attending this conference that will be held on January 8-January 10, 2019. Mr. Holman said that everyone that is attending this conference will have to be registered by December 19, 2019.

MOTION made by Ms. Girouard for Mr. Pena, Mr. Kelty, Mr. Duncan, Ms. Music, Mr. Green and Mr. Holman to be registered by December 19, 2019 and attend the ICSC conference January 8th-January 10th, 2019. **seconded** by Mr. Pena. Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

D. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING:

(1) CITY WI-FI IN DOWNTOWN, PARKS AND OTHER AREAS

Mr. Holman said that Mr. Pena and himself have talked about this item for a little bit of time. Mr. Holman stated that Mr. Pena had came up with bringing Wi-Fi to the downtown in the park area. Mr. Pena said the Wi-Fi is an important factor that will enhance and change the reputation of the City. Mr. Pena believes having free Wi-Fi changes the complexion of Freeport. Mr. Pena said he has a couple of contractors giving him bids to tell him how the Wi-Fi would be put in place and the cost, some of the numbers he is getting back are between \$3,000 and \$5,000 to put a legitimate Wi-Fi bubble downtown Freeport. Mr. Holman said the fiber line which is Comcast for business is \$550 per month to use their fiber line. Mr. Pena said having Wi-Fi will also help promote city businesses.

**(2) AESTHETIC/ART LIGHTING OF BRIDGES AND NEW SIGNAGE FOR THE CITY
"AREAS OF INTEREST"**

Mr. Pena said the city has great things that can be pronounced that you are in Freeport which are the river and the beach. Mr. Pena said the bridges that are located on the river and beach can be highlighted with lightning. Mr. Pena stated the EDC board should try to make the investment to try to enhance and highlight the bridges with creative and artistic lighting. Ms. Girouard stated she likes Mr. Pena's idea and would like to know what the next step is. Mr. Pena said he would gladly look at prices but just wanted to make sure the board was behind his idea. Mr. Holman said TxDOT has a fund when they redo their bridges artistic that must be applied for and fight for it a little bit. Mr. Holman stated if the board wanted to add lighting, LED lights, down lights or up lights they should start getting in front of TxDOT Mr. Green stated he had a group of folks at his place and they are some good things going around most of them at surfside but also some of those folks have boats in the Marina. Mr. Green said they are several groups that are very serious about bringing back a blessing of a flee not necessarily a shrimp flee. Mr. Green stated these folks mentioning they missed the blessing of the flee but still want the blessing and now they are putting together a program that they want to start in the Bridge Harbor area and come up across the park in front of

Hooks and have a blessing there. Mr. Green said this group of folks would call the EDC board to be put on the agenda.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Holman stated that Friday December 6 he had an all-day meeting with a large industrial developer. Mr. Holman said Mr. Kelty, Mr. Duncan, county commissioners, and utilities participated in this meeting. Mr. Kelty said he would like to give a lot of recognition to Mr. Holman for the event he put together and this event would have never happened a year ago. Mr. Kelty stated that Mr. Holman put together a very impressive all-day meeting that made a significant impression on these folks. Mr. Holman said please read the monthly notes that is in your packet.

VIII. ADJOURN

MOTION to adjourn was made by Mr. Marquez, **seconded** by Mr. Pena. Motion **PASSED** unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:01p.m.



Mingo Marquez
Secretary