

**CITY OF FREEPORT
PLANNING COMMISSION
Tuesday, March 22, 2011, 6:00 P.M.
Freeport Police Department, Municipal Court Room,
430 North Brazosport Boulevard
Freeport, Texas**

AGENDA

Edward Garcia, Acting Chairman
Tobey Davenport
Jesse Aguilar, Jr.


Reuben Cuellar
Mike Jones

NOTICE is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the City of Freeport, Texas will meet in a regular meeting on **Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at 6:00 P.M.** at the Freeport Police Department Municipal Courtroom, 430 North Brazosport Boulevard, Freeport, Texas to discuss the following:

1. Open Meeting.
2. Invocation.
3. Approval of the Minutes for February 23, 2011.
4. Second update on the conditions of Union Pacific's Railroad Crossings in the City Limits of Freeport by the Building Official, Mr. Kola Olayiwola.
5. Adjourn.

NOTE: ITEMS NOT NECESSARILY DISCUSSED IN THE ORDER THEY APPEAR ON THE AGENDA. THE PLANNING COMMISSION, AT ITS DISCRETION, MAY TAKE ACTION ON ANY OR ALL OF THE ITEMS LISTED.

I, Melissa Farmer, Building/Permit Department Secretary, City of Freeport, Texas, hereby certify that this Agenda was posted on the official bulletin board/glass door of City Hall facing the rear parking lot of the building with 24-hour access at 200 West 2nd Street, Freeport, Texas on or before Friday, March 18, 2011 at 5:00 P.M.



Melissa Farmer
Building/Permit Department
City of Freeport

COUNTY OF BRAZORIA)(

CITY OF FREEPORT)(

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Planning and Traffic Commission of the City of Freeport, Texas met in a regular meeting on, **Wednesday, February 23, 2011 at 6:00 P.M.** at the Police Department Conference Room, 430 North Brazosport Boulevard, Freeport, Texas to discuss the following:

Planning Commission:

**Edward Garcia – Acting-Chairperson
Reuben Cuellar
Tobey Davenport
Mike Jones**

Staff: Kola Olayiwola
Melissa Farmer
Wallace Shaw
Councilwoman Michelle Kent
Councilwoman Nicole Mireles
Lt. Jay Newton

Guest: Cliff Vandergriff
Jeff Crisp

Open Meeting.

In the absence of Mr. Edward Garcia, Mr. Tobey Davenport called meeting to order at 6:10 P.M.

Invocation.

Mr. Tobey Davenport opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of the Minutes for January 13, 2011.

Mr. Mike Jones moved to accept the minutes for January 13, 2011, seconded by Mr. Reuben Cuellar, unanimous vote for approval.

Update on the conditions of Union Pacific's Railroad Crossings in the City Limits of Freeport by the Building Official, Mr. Kola Olayiwola.

Mr. Kola Olayiwola discussed the present conditions of the railroad tracks with the Board Members. He stated that the City has given them one month to make improvements. Mr. Tobey Davenport asked to please include the railroad crossing on Broad Street.

Item was not voted on.

Discuss/ consider adopting rules for Meetings and Agendas.

Mr. Mike Jones made a motion to adopt the City Councils Rules of Procedure, minus the public having to sign up for speaking on issues. There must be (2) Board Members to place items on the Agenda, seconded by Mr. Reuben Cuellar, unanimous vote for approval.

Discuss/ consider resending drafted truck route to the City Council.

Mr. Tobey Davenport made a motion to amend the truck route to include Cherry Street, from 4th Street to Brazos Boulevard as additions, and that Oak Street be deleted, from 4th Street to Brazos Boulevard; and that it be sent back to City Council for their consideration with the amendments, seconded by Mr. Mike Jones, unanimous vote for approval.

Discuss/consider recommending to the City Council changing the speed limit on Brazosport Boulevard and Gulf Boulevard.

The Board discussed the speed limits on Brazosport Boulevard and Gulf Boulevard. Mr. Wallace Shaw discussed with the Board Members that a municipality has the same authority to alter by ordinance prima facie speed limits from the results of an engineering and traffic investigation as the Texas Transportation Commission, but that since the City did not have an engineering and traffic investigation department, that the governing body of a municipality may not modify the rule established by Section 545.351 (a).

Item was not voted on.

Discuss/consider recommending to City Council changes in Automobile Wrecker Ordinance, Section 121, of the Code of Ordinance Book.

The Board Members discussed the request. Mr. Mike Jones requested that the City adopt an ordinance making it law that when a person is being arrested and the vehicle does not need to be held for evidence, that a family member or friend with a valid Driver's License, and can be there in a certain amount of time, 15 to 20 minutes, or a time determined by the City Council, they can take the vehicle. And, that if they could not get anyone there and it must be towed, they should have the option to choose a towing company at that point.

Mr. Cliff Vandergrift of B & C Towing wanted to know how long the Board wanted a police officer to sit on the side of the road waiting on someone to come pick the vehicle up.

Mr. Mike Jones stated that it should just be done across the board.

Mr. Tobey Davenport stated that 121.05, Section E, addresses this issue and that it's perfectly adequate to handle the situation; and that they were doing it this way already.

Item was not voted on.

Discuss/consider holding two (2) Planning Commission meetings a month.

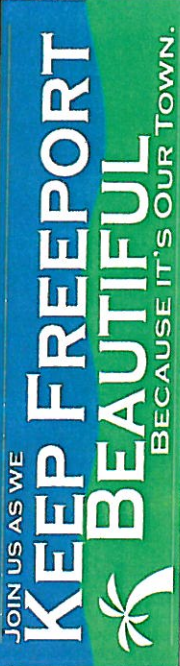
Mr. Tobey Davenport made a motion to keep the schedule as is, seconded by Mr. Reuben Cuellar, with Mr. Tobey Davenport, Mr. Edward Garcia and Mr. Reuben Cuellar voting for, and Mr. Mike Jones voting against, the motion passed.

Adjourn.

Mr. Edward Garcia closed the meeting at 7:00 P.M. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

These minutes read and approved this _____ day of _____, 2011.

Edward Garcia, Acting Chairperson



JOIN US AS WE

KEEP FREEPORT BEAUTIFUL

BECAUSE IT'S OUR TOWN.

City of Freeport

Update On The Union Pacific Railroad Crossings

March 17th, 2011

Kola Olayiwola
Building Codes Official
Master City Planner (MCP)

Sample of Violations

Railroad Crossings
Freeport, TX

- Unfinished Surfaces (asphalt)
- Unacceptable angles of ascend and descent
- Housekeeping is poor/nonexistent
- Project debris and scraps lying along the right-of-ways (ROW)

Inadequacies were observed along:

700 Blk. 3rd/Broad St.
 700 Blk. 4th St.
 700 Blk. 5th St.
 700 Blk. 8th St.
 South Gulf Blvd.
 South Ave. D
 Navigation Street
 Cherry Street.

Synopsis of the findings along with Enforcement Letter- were mailed (2/8/2011) to Union Pacific Railroad (local office) for immediate actions.

Railroad Crossing (700 Blk. 4th St.)

Uneven finish where asphalt adjoins RR timber. Poor quality work.



Very poor housekeeping after job completion. Loose rocks left on street.



BEFORE



AFTER

Railroad Crossing (700 Blk. 5th St.)

Poorly finished project. Loose rocks mixed with "finished" asphalt.



Very little clean up observed in this area after job completion.



BEFORE



AFTER

Railroad Crossing (700 Blk. 8th St.)

Actual track area is elevated approx 8-10 " creating a hazardous plateau.

Note the unfinished areas of asphalt.



BEFORE



AFTER

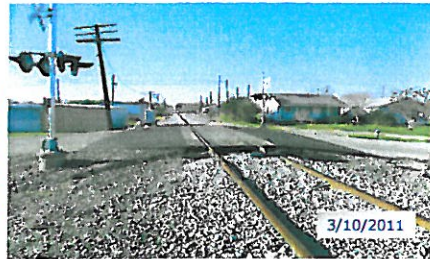
Railroad Crossing (Broad/3rd St.)

The rail crossing at Broad is elevated approximately 12'-15' above Broad Street

Housekeeping and clean up was average. Partially buried spikes.



BEFORE



AFTER

Railroad Crossing (Cherry St.)

Rough approach and Uneven surfaces.

Large pile of timbers and debris.
Port of Freeport in background.



BEFORE



AFTER

Railroad Crossing (South Gulf Blvd.)

Double set of tracks. Arguably the roughest crossing in Freeport.

Irregular and unfinished surfaces at crossing



BEFORE

NOT READY

NOT READY

AFTER

Railroad Crossing (South Ave. D)

Track timbers in fatigue state.
Poor housekeeping within feet of local office.

1st of 5 crossings near the Union Pacific local office.



BEFORE

NOT READY

NOT READY

AFTER

Railroad Crossing (Navigation St.)

Notice the raised level of blacktop between the concrete rail platforms.

Ongoing issues with housekeeping. Pile of discarded timber and litter.



BEFORE

NOT READY

NOT READY

AFTER