

STATE OF TEXAS)(

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 **Monday, March 24, 2008 at 6:00 P.M.**, at the Police Department Conference Room, 430 North Brazosport Boulevard, Freeport, Texas to discuss the following:

Planning Commission:

Diane Williams, Chairperson
Robert Leffingwell
Linda Allen
Michelle Kent
Roddy Mohler
Abel Garcia

Staff:

Doug Caffey
Melissa Farmer
Mayor Larry McDonald
Nat Hickey
Lt. Allen Lawson
Pat Taylor

Visitors:

Barbara Mohler
Terrie Rivera
Joyce Adkins
Lorrie Kloss
Bernard Scrogin
Damon Reuben

Open Meeting

Ms. Diane Williams called meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Invocation

Mrs. Linda Allen opened meeting with prayer.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Robert Leffingwell moved to accept the minutes for February 25, 2008, seconded by Mrs. Michelle Kent, unanimous vote for approval.

Discuss/consider traffic flow (pertaining to drop-off and pick-up) and the City parking codes at Jane Long Elementary School located on 11th Street between Pecan Street and Velasco Street

Lt. Allen Lawson stated that the school did not have a problem with traffic flow but that the parents did. He was also concerned about the buses and where they were dropping off and picking up students. He said they were not picking up and dropping off where they were supposed to, they were stopping on Pecan and 11th Street, and that even parents were doing this and that it was causing a traffic problem and a danger to the children.

Ms. Terrie Rivera, the transportation representative for the school district, asked where the buses were picking up and dropping off from and that they were supposed to enter and exit off of Pecan and that if they weren't, that she would check into it and fix the problem.

Discuss/consider that during designated AM/PM hours only, one-way/one-lane traffic only be allowed. The flow of the traffic should be from West (Pecan) to East (Velasco), this includes buses

Lt. Allen Lawson stated that he did not see how one-lane traffic would help the situation; he thought that it would only cause more problems with traffic and congestion. He thought the solution would probably be in the form of crossing guards. Mr. Abel Garcia stated that the problem was with cars being parked on the street down both sides of the street and that when there were garbage cans in the road, that drivers were having to cross the double line to avoid them. He thought that one-lane traffic would keep the cars from having to dodge all the things that were in the road.

Discuss/consider that no parking be allowed on sidewalks in front of school or down both Pecan and Velasco all the way to 8th Street

Lt. Allen Lawson stated that State law states that you cannot park on the sidewalk and that instead of issuing tickets right away, that the best way to handle the situation was to talk to the citizens that were parking on the sidewalk and letting them know that this was not allowed and that if they continued to park there after talking to them, that then tickets could and should be issued.

Mr. Abel Garcia stated that the laws of the State and of the City needed to be enforced or that there was no sense in having the laws in the first place.

Mr. Roddy Mohler stated that the citizens also needed to be educated on the laws and the traffic problems.

Discuss/consider that yard and garage sales not be allowed to begin during drop-off or pick-up times during the school sessions

Ms. Diane Williams stated that the City really couldn't tell people what time to start their garage sales and that since there were several times that the children were let out of school, that there would be no way to enforce it. Mr. Doug Caffey stated that enforcement would be a problem since the City does not require a permit for garage sales. He said that some cities enforce it by selling permits and having a record of how many times they have pulled a permit for a garage sale. He said this would be the only way to enforce garage sales and that without it, it would be impossible to enforce.

Discuss/consider repainting the double lines in the street and replacing the faded-out directional signs

Ms. Diane Williams stated that this item had been discussed and previously voted on to be done at a prior meeting and that, therefore, this item did not need to be discussed. She requested to Pat Taylor to have this taken care of.

Discuss/consider that vehicles must be parked in order to drop off or pick up

The principal of Jane Long Elementary stated that there was a problem with parents rolling up and not even stopping when they let their kids out and that the only way to stop this was to start ticketing the parents for this traffic offense. Ms. Diane Williams stated that the issues that needed to be addressed were; more help with enforcement from the police department for a little while to monitor the situation; that the bus situation needed to be looked at more closely; that maybe a neutral zone for pick up needed to be found; that the stripes needed to be painted; that an ordinance for garage sales needed to be looked into; and that we needed to educate the community.

The transportation representative stated that maybe signs posted at Pecan and Velasco saying "Do Not Cross Double Lines" would help also.

Discuss/consider upgrading vicious dog ordinance

Mr. Doug Caffey stated that he had been looking into having the City ordinance amended on vicious dogs to include that no dogs could be secured in the front yard, that the dog must be at an occupied residence with an active water and electric service and that the animal must be secured by a fence or an approved stake.

Lt. Allen Lawson stated that the ordinance that the City had in place seemed to be working since the citizens with vicious dogs didn't want to pay the registration fee and seemed to be taking that vicious animal out of the City Limits of Freeport to avoid the fee.

Ms. Diane Williams asked Doug to get with the City Attorney and to come back to the Commission with an Addendum to the Ordinance for animals left at an abandoned or vacant house.

Discuss/consider ordinance on derelict vessels

Mr. Doug Caffey stated that in order to find out who owns these boats that the person who owns the dock where the boats are tying off of should be responsible for getting the information on the owner of the boat. He stated that if these dock owners had to pay a fine for not getting the information, that they would be more likely to get the information.

Ms. Diane Williams said that the item should be placed on a later agenda once more information could be gathered by Mr. Caffey and the City Attorney.

Adjourn

Mr. Roddy Mohler made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Michelle Kent. Meeting was adjourned at 8:07 P.M.

These minutes read and approved this _____ day of _____, 2008.

Diane Williams, Chairperson