

State of Texas

County of Brazoria

City of Freeport

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the City Council and the Planning & Traffic Commission of the City of Freeport met on Monday, October 19, 2015 at the Freeport Police Department, Municipal Courtroom, 430 North Brazosport Boulevard, Freeport Texas for the purpose of considering the following agenda items:

City Council:

Mayor Norma Moreno Garcia
Councilman Larry L. McDonald – Absent
Councilman Fred Bolton
Councilwoman Sandra Loeza
Councilwoman Sandra Barbree

Planning Commission:

Edward T. Garcia – Chairman
Cindy Cain
Royce McCoy
Lesa Girouard – Absent
Eddie Virgil

Staff:

Gilbert Arispe – Assistant City Manager
Wallace Shaw, City Attorney
Delia Munoz, City Secretary
Nat Hickey, Property Manager
Brian Davis, Fire Chief
Dan Pennington, Police Chief
Bob Welch, Finance Director
Jennifer Hawkins, Economic Development Inc.

Visitors:

Dail Ballard	Jerry Meeks
Larry Fansher	Lila Lloyd
Annette Sanford	Esther Williams
Moby Burrige	Evelyn Burrige
Winston Rossow	

Call to order

Mayor Norma Moreno Garcia called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Invocation.

Wallace Shaw offered the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilwoman Barbree's granddaughter Kaydance Mercado led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attending citizens and their business.

There were none.

Consideration of approving October 5, 2015 Council Minutes.

On a motion by Councilwoman Barbree, seconded by Councilwoman Loeza, with all present voting "Aye", Council unanimously approved the October 5, 2015 Council Minutes.

Consideration of approving Ordinance No. 2015- 2098 amending the budget for fiscal year 2014-2015.

On a motion by Councilwoman Barbree, seconded by Councilwoman Loeza, with all present voting "Aye", Council unanimously approved Ordinance No. 2015-2098 amending the budget for fiscal year 2014-2015.

Consideration of approving Resolution No. 2015- 2472 appointing Cindy Cane and Eddie Virgil to the Planning Commission of said City.

On a motion by Councilwoman Barbree, seconded by Councilwoman Loeza, with all present voting "Aye", Council unanimously approved Resolution No. 2015- 2472 appointing Cindy Cane and Eddie Virgil to the Planning Commission of said City.

Joint Public Hearing: The City Council of the City of Freeport, and the Planning Commission of said City will conduct a Joint Public Hearing on whether or not Cherry Street, a public street therein situated should be renamed Martin Luther King Boulevard.

There being a quorum with the Planning Commission and the City Council, Mayor Norma M. Garcia opened the Joint Public Hearing at 6:15 p.m., on whether or not Cherry Street , a public street therein situated should be renamed Martin Luther King Boulevard.

Mayor Norma M. Garcia asked for comments from audience and staff.

Esther Williams Secretary of the Martin Luther King Committee stated that 2nd Street is the preferred street, but Cherry Street is an excellent idea. They are approaching 30 years of celebrating Martin Luther King in the City of Freeport.

Dail Ballard member of the Martin Luther King Committee stated that it started in Freeport and that their mailing address is in Freeport. He stated that Sweeny is the only city that has a street named after Martin Luther King. The parade started in 1986 and this is home for the Martin Luther King festival. Doctor Martin Luther King is worthy of renaming a street in Freeport.

Tom Zirlott opposed the renaming of Cherry Street. He was married in Church on Cherry Street, and has sentimental reasons for opposing the name change.

Annette Sanford asked what changes would take place if the street was renamed.

Edward T, Garcia stated that Port Freeport, Seaman Center and Western Seafood and the Post Office would be affected.

Annette Sanford suggested a park or property designated for the memory of Martin Luther King.

Lila Lloyd stated that Martin Luther King did not just represent the African Americans, was responsible for the Civil Right bill, for equality and America.

Reverend Williams stated that naming a street to Martin Luther King is a wonderful thing and asked Council not to have a tunnel vision, did very much for the country and supported non-violence, peace, unity and equality for all.

There being no more comments, Mayor Norma M. Garcia closed the Joint Public Hearing at 6:35 p.m.

Consideration of amending the Code of Ordinances to change the name of Cherry Street to Martin Luther King Boulevard.

On a motion by Councilman Bolton, seconded by Councilwoman Barbree, with all present voting "Aye", Council unanimously approved amending the Code of Ordinances to change the name of Cherry Street to Martin Luther King Boulevard.

Consideration of approving Resolution No. 2015-2478 appointing Nino Herrera, Daniela Ramirez, Ruben Cuellar, Beatrice Gonzalez, and Angela Fisher to the Charter Review Commission.

On a motion by Councilwoman Loeza, seconded by Councilman Bolton, with all present voting "Aye", Council unanimously approved Resolution No. 2015-2478 appointing Nino Herrera, Daniela Ramirez, Ruben Cuellar, Beatrice Gonzalez, and Angela Fisher to the Charter Review Commission.

Consideration of approving Resolution No. 2015-2484 authorizing the creation of the Gulf Coast Regional 9-1-1 Emergency Communication District.

On a motion by Councilwoman Barbree, seconded by Councilwoman Loeza, with all present voting "Aye", Council approved 3 to 1, Resolution No. 2015-2484 authorizing the creation of the Gulf Coast Regional 9-1-1 Emergency Communication District. Councilman Bolton opposed.

Consideration of approving and authorizing the Mayor to sign an engineering contract with John D. Mercer & Associates, Inc. for design and construction for the purposed upgrade to the Riverside Lift Station.

On a motion by Councilwoman Loeza, seconded by Councilwoman Barbree, with all present voting “Aye”, Council unanimously approved and authorized the Mayor to sign an engineering contract with John D. Mercer & Associates, Inc. for design and construction for the purposed upgrade to the Riverside Lift Station.

Consideration of approving a 25% cost match for a 2014 FEMA grant not to exceed \$87,500.00 to place license plate reader (LPR) on the outbound lanes at the current sites, except Ave. J and Skinner, and to place the same equipment at the two additional entry/exit points; FM 523 and FM 1495.

On a motion by Councilwoman Barbree, seconded by Councilwoman Loeza , with all present voting “Aye”, Council unanimously approved a 25% cost match for a 2014 FEMA grant not to exceed \$87,500.00 to place license plate reader (LPR) on the outbound lanes at the current sites, except Ave. J and Skinner, and to place the same equipment at the two additional entry/exit points; FM 523 and FM 1495.

Consideration of approving Kennemer, Masters & Lunford, Certified Public Accounts to perform the City’s audit for the year ending September 30, 2015.

On a motion by Councilman Bolton, seconded by Councilwoman Loeza, with all present voting “Aye”, Council unanimously approved Kennemer, Masters & Lunford, Certified Public Accounts to perform the City’s audit for the year ending September 30, 2015.

Work Session:

Chief of Police Dan Pennington updates on 2014 FEMA Grant funding proposal.

The LPR system has been an outstanding crime prevention tool despite only monitoring most, not all inbound Freeport traffic. The cameras have helped officers recover nearly a dozen stolen vehicles and arrest their drivers, recover tens of thousands of dollars of stolen property, clear several vehicle and home burglaries seize various drugs, and arrest a serial felony exposing suspect who victimized both women and children.

Propose Christmas lighting plan.

Gilbert Arispe presented a proposal on Christmas lighting, on 2nd Street and downtown Memorial Park. Plans are to move events and Holiday on the Brazos to Memorial Park. Installing 5 Star fish at each intersection and LED lighting on the palms trees, starting from the railroad trestle along 2nd street to Memorial Park. The Economic Development has approved \$138,298.25 funds for the lighting and the City would fund the same amount. A great attraction to showcase the City.

Mayor Norma M. Garcia closed the Work Session and opened the Executive Session at 7:05 p.m.

Executive Session:

Section 551.071, Government Code

Consultation with City Attorney concerning pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offers or other matters in which his duty to the City Council under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with Chapter 551, Government Code, to wit:

- Waste Management
- Port Freeport

No action taken

Adourn

On a motion by Councilman Barbee, seconded by Councilwoman Loeza with all present voting “Aye”, Mayor Norma Moreno Garcia adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Mayor Norma Moreno Garcia
City of Freeport, Texas

Delia Munoz – City Secretary
City of Freeport, Texas