

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF BRAZORIA

CITY OF FREEPORT

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the City Council of the City of Freeport met in a special session Tuesday, October 24, 2017, 9:33 a.m., at the Freeport Police Department, Municipal Court Room, 430 North Brazosport Boulevard, Freeport Texas, for a proposed Master Plan workshop.

Council: Mayor Troy T. Brimage
Councilman Roy Yates
Councilwoman Nicole Mireles

Staff: Jennifer Hawkins, Director of EDC
Nat Hickey, Property Director
Jason Travis, President of EDC

Port Freeport: Phyllis Saathoff, Port Freeport CEO
Jason Hull, Port Freeport Director of Engineers
Shane Pirtle, Port Commissioner
Rudy Santos, Port Commissioner

Visitors: Chris Duncan, EDC Attorney
Jason Travis, President of EDC
Gary Mitchell
Meredith Dang
Sue Darcy
Allen Mueller
Harish Narayanappa
Melanie Oldham
Larry Fansher

Open Meeting:

Mayor Troy T. Brimage opened the workshop at 9:33 a.m.

Discuss Kendig Keast Collaborative (KKC) proposed Master Plan for the City of Freeport.

Introduction: Mr. Gary Mitchell (AICP President) of Kendig Keast Collaborative introduced the attending members of his team:

Meredith Dang (KKC)
Sue Darcy (Marsh Darcy)

Allan Mueller (Marsh Darcy)
Harish Narayanappa (Epic Transportation Group)

Mr. Mitchell presented a general overview of pending master plan project. The project will start with an overview of city as it is today including but not limited to infrastructure, land, parks, becoming familiar with current status of City Council, Economic Development Board, Port Freeport, etc. The project will be referred to as a “Community Strategic Plan.”

Mr. Mitchell also informed that the first workshop will be held in November 2017 and first public event (Town Hall Meeting) would be held in January, 2018.

Mr. Mitchell opened the discussion to attending visitors and Council.

Mayor Troy T. Brimage stated the Brazos River was our greatest asset and we are lacking in marketing our access to deep water. He stated Port Freeport was a huge asset to the city and the demand for new housing was increasing.

Chris Duncan stated one of Freeport’s problems was aging housing and that much of that is due to absentee landlords and slum lords.

Ms. Darcy referred to a project in the Houston Heights where they placed an upscale apartment house on Washington Ave. that provided easy access to downtown to draw millennials to the Heights.

Councilman Yates stated the City needed more than a beautification plan.

Ms. Darcy reassured that the plan will focus on all aspects of economic development and that beautification (parks, etc.) would be a component of the plan.

Councilman Yates stated the importance of transparency from all entities involving the City, Economic Development Corporation and Port Freeport. Councilwoman Mireles stated that cooperation was a key element to the success of the plan. All entities agreed. Mayor Brimage stated that because of previous differences of opinions concerning what is best for Freeport, we should agree to trust the guidelines of the “Community Strategic Plan.”

Concerns about traffic re-routing and congestion due to widening of Hwy. 36 and reconstruction of FM 1495 bridge were expressed.

Ms. Darcy closed the discussion with one final question: Name the one thing you would like to see as a result of this plan.

Mayor Brimage replied, “Execution” Ms. Darcy summarized that the plan would need to be fundable and implementable to execute.

Adjournment

Mayor Troy T. Brimage adjourned the workshop at 11:04 am.

Mayor Troy T. Brimage
City of Freeport, Texas

