

State of Texas

County of Brazoria

City of Freeport

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the City Council of Freeport, Texas met on Monday, August 31, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Freeport Police Department, Municipal Court Room, 430 North Brazosport Boulevard, Freeport Texas for the purpose of considering the following agenda items:

City Council: Mayor Brooks Bass:
Councilman Jerry Cain:
Councilman Ken Green:
Councilwoman Sandra Loeza:
Councilman Roy E. Yates:

Staff: Tim Kelty, City Manager
Stephanie Russell, Assistant City Manager
Betty Wells, City Secretary
Chris Duncan, City Attorney
Laura Tolar, Assistant City Secretary/ Special Projects Coordinator
Brian Dybala Director of Freeport Municipal Golf Course
Brenda Miller Ferguson, Human Resource Director, Via Teleconference

Visitors:	Melanie Oldham	David McGinty
	Nicole Mireles	Ed Garcia
	Sam Reyna	Mary Garcia
	Jerry Meeks (Veolia)	Ty Morrow
	Larry Fansher	Sandra Barnett
	James Barnett	Ruben Renabato
	Mario Muraira	Jessie Parker
	Jeff Pena	

Visitors Via Teleconference: Pam Tilley Vander Williams

Call to order.

Mayor Brooks Bass called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: (Council Member)

Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Brooks Bass.

Citizen's Comments

Ed Garcia, 1924 North Ave H, spoke to council about the Engineering Firm that the City is hiring. He said that we know where the problems are located on our streets and drainage, and he hopes that the city doesn't do a lot of unnecessary testing when we already know where the problems exist.

Sam Reyna, 2002 North Ave G, spoke to council about the bonds that the city is applying for. He said that he hopes that the city uses this money to repair the infrastructure of the city. He said that he does not agree with the amount of money that is being said it will take to repair the Heritage House.

Larry Fansher thanked City Manager, Tim Kelty and Councilman Roy Yates on the response to an email that was sent. Mr. Fansher spoke on the infrastructure of the city, and the need of roof tops. He also spoke of the concern for the three percent merit raises for city employees, he said that with the Pandemic he does not feel this is the time for raises. Mr. Fansher also spoke on the lack of transparency for the move of the Visitors Information Center from the main Road on Brazosport Boulevard, to a location that has no activity. He said that this was done without the input from the citizens of the City.

Jessie Parker 323 East 7th Street, spoke to council of her concern of the Port Freeport sending letters from their attorneys during the pandemic. She said that the Port is harassing residents.

Mayor Bass encouraged the residents if it is needed, seek competent legal counsel.

REGULAR SESSION

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding a Resolution No. 2020-2645 to hire an engineering firm to complete application and project implementation for CDBG-Mitigation (MIT) funding through the General Land Office.

Assistant City Manager Stephanie Russell presented to Council Resolution No. 2020-2645 to hire an engineering firm to complete application and project implementation for CDBG-Mitigation (MIT) funding through the General Land Office. Ms. Russell said that this Resolution is to acquire an Engineer to complete the application and project implementation. Ms. Russell said that staff advertised and requested RFQ's twice in the newspaper, and there were ten responses that were opened last Wednesday. She said that staff recommends Freese and Nichols for this process.

Mayor Bass asked if we still have the opportunity to get money from this particular board for previous hurricanes? Ms. Russell said yes from 2015-2016 and Hurricane Harvey. Mayor Bass asked if she knew of the success to get money? Ms. Russell said based on our projects we have a good chance of getting this funding.

Councilman Yates asked if this has anything to do with the damage from the hurricane. Ms. Russell said that it doesn't have to be from hurricane damage, but it will get you more points.

City Manager Tim Kelty said that the Grant Writer that we have been working with has identified potential projects that will be eligible. He said that the projects for the wastewater treatment plant are part of those. He said that going through the RFQ process, the Engineering cost are reimbursable under the Grant Program.

Mayor Bass asked if this is approved and funds are awarded, we will be reimbursed? Ms. Russell said not necessarily the application fees, there will be cost for the application.

Councilwoman Loeza asked what the cost is to hire the firm? Ms. Russell said we will go into negotiation for the said services. She said this is just to award the firm. Councilwoman Loeza asked why staff recommends this firm? Ms. Russell said there was a team of four reviewers, and it is based on a set of criteria. The criteria came from the GLO of how to review professional services. She said that Freese and Nichols came out the highest scoring.

Councilman Yates asked what happened to the Engineering Company that we use to use all the time? Ms. Russell said Mercer has merged with Lynn Engineering Company, but they are working on some of our current projects for the GLO.

On a motion by Councilwoman Loeza, seconded by Councilman Green, with all present voting “Aye” 5 -0, Council unanimously approved Resolution No. 2020-2645 to hire an engineering firm to complete application and project implementation for CDBG-Mitigation (MIT) funding through the General Land Office.

Discussion and direction regarding updates to the FY2020-2021 Budget.

Ruben Renobato 1507 West 2nd, spoke to council about his concerns to the proposed budget. He said that the community needs new roof tops. He handed out to council copies of two proposals. The first one is the City’s 2020 Bond Spending proposal, and the second is an alternative proposal which he prepared. He talked about the improvements that were on the City’s proposal, for each year, and he explained the alternative plan and how it will reimburse the city. When and if the City puts the money to work now. He said that this will generate a substantial return. He said that we have a responsibility to our citizens, and the tax payers. He asked that council consider revising the administration proposal.

Assistant City Manager, Stephanie Russell presented to council the discussion and direction regarding updates to the FY2020-2021 Budget. She said the purpose of this item is to re-visit the proposed budget, and to recap some of the changes that staff was directed to make.

Mayor Bass said that the softball fields are in a sad and dangerous condition. He said that he is requesting that the replacement of the lights and poles. He said that he knows that this is not budgeted but it desperately needs to be so. City Manager Tim Kelty said that they are working on quotes to get these repairs done. Tim Kelty said that there may be Grant Funding that can help pay for this. Mayor Bass said that he would like to have a safety audit done.

Mayor Bass said that Mr. Renobato proposal needs some attention from staff, he asked that staff get with him and speak with him.

Councilman Roy Yates said that he wants to compliment Mr. Renobato on his time spent on the report. He also asked about the repairs to the museum, and the money that was previously spent. Mr. Kelty said that there should be a report on the next Council Meeting for the repairs that need to be done. Mr. Yates asked if the City spent money on the improvements. Mr. Kelty said that he believes most of the previous work was done through the museum fund.

Adjourn

On a motion by Councilwoman Loeza, seconded by Councilman Yates, with all present voting “Aye”, 5-0 Mayor Brooks Bass adjourned the meeting at 6:54 PM.

Mayor, Brooks Bass
City of Freeport, Texas

City Secretary, Betty Wells
City of Freeport, Texas