

State of Texas

County of Brazoria

City of Freeport

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the City Council of Freeport, Texas met on Monday, March 23, 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: Via Teleconference
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
Courtland Holman, Freeport EDC Director
Ray Garivey, Freeport Police Department Chief
Lance Petty, Freeport Public Works Director
Brenda Miller-Ferguson, Human Resource Director via Teleconference
Clarisa Molina, Freeport Administrative Assistant via Teleconference

Visitors Via Teleconference:

Vander Williams Jessie Parker
Manning Rollerson Eric Hayes
Amador Muraira

Call to order.

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

Citizen's Comments

Manning Rollerson said that he just found out that the elections were cancelled. He said that he did not get any notice. Mayor Brooks Bass explained to Mr. Rollerson that council called and Emergency Meeting per our Charter in regard to the postponing our elections. County officials said that we had to decide if the city was going to postpone the election or continue. Council voted at the Emergency Meeting on March 20 to postpone the city's General Elections for Ward A and C as well as the Charter Election with eight proposed amendments, to November 3, 2020.

Jessie Parker asked who can we report price gouging to? City Manager Tim Kelty said that the complaint will be filed with the Attorney General's Office.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Consideration and possible action on the approval of City Council meeting minutes from March 20, and March 23, 2020.

Consideration of approving agreement for specialized professional ambulance billing services with Emergicon for Freeport EMS.

Consideration of approving the renewal of the Hurricane Response Monitoring Contract.

On a motion by Councilman Yates, seconded by Councilman Green, with all present voting "Aye", 5-0 Council unanimously approved the Consent Agenda.

PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: Announcements by Mayor, City Council and/or Staff

There were no presentations/announcements.

REGULAR SESSION

Discussion and consideration regarding authorizing the City Manager to secure an electricity contract.

Assistant City Manager Stephanie Russell presented to council staff's recommendation authorizing the City Manager to secure at least 108-month term contract to not exceed 4.1 cents per kilowatt hour. Ms. Russell said that the City has a current contract that is \$0.0386/kwh with Engie Resources that will expire in August. Ms. Russell said that the City will be working under a cooperative contract, and that the rates change daily. She said that the goal is to secure a rate as close to our current rate. Mayor Bass asked if the price decreases with a longer-term contract? Ms. Russell said yes, and that staff recommends securing a longer-term contract.

On a motion by Councilwoman Loeza, seconded by Councilman Yates, with all present voting "Aye", 5-0 Council unanimously approved authorizing the City Manager to secure an electricity contract.

Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2020-2599 an ordinance ratifying, affirming and extending the Declaration of Disaster and Public Health Emergency for the City of Freeport.

City Manager Tim Kelty presented to Council an Ordinance to ratify, affirm and extend the Declaration of Disaster and Public Health Emergency for the City of Freeport. Mayor Bass said that this allows the City to receive reimbursement from the State. Mayor Bass said that once this is declared it can be done by the sole option of the Mayor. Mr. Kelty said that this Ordinance will put the declaration into place until council passes and ordinance to remove it. Mr. Kelty said some of the things that the City is doing to keep people safe is, the City's Rec Center, and Museum has been closed. The city has taken extra precaution by assigning some of city staff to do cleaning of door handles, stairs rails, and things that the public may come in contact with. Public meetings have been closed to the public, but the meetings have been made on teleconference so that the public can still listen and participate from a safe distance. The City's Golf Course, Parks and Beach is still open, and we are full staffed, city wide. Mr. Kelty said that staff recommends that this Ordinance be passed to extend the declaration that was adopted.

On a motion by Councilwoman Loeza, seconded by Councilman Cain, with all present voting “Aye” 5-0 Council unanimously approved Ordinance No. 2020-2599 an ordinance ratifying, affirming and extending the Declaration of Disaster and Public Health Emergency for the City of Freeport

Consideration of approving Freese and Nichols Engineering for authorization for Bryan Mound Sewer.

City Manager Tim Kelty presented to Council the consideration of approving action on task #9 with Freese and Nichols Engineering for the design for extension of sanitary sewer for the Department of Energy at Bryan Mound. Mr. Kelty said that last year City Council approved an agreement with the Department of Energy, Bryan Mound. He said that in this agreement each step we take we let them approve before we go forward. Freese and Nichols has developed an engineering proposal to development the design and specifications, the Department of Energy has reviewed this and has approved this proposal. Mr. Kelty said that under this agreement, the Department of Energy will reimburse the City 100% of the cost of all Engineering Design, ROW, and construction. Mayor Brooks Bass asked how long before the city receives reimbursement? Mr. Kelty said as each payment is made, we will submit for reimbursement, he said maybe forty-five day turn around.

On a motion by Councilwoman Loeza, seconded by Councilman Green, with all present voting, “Aye” 5-0, Council unanimously approved Freese and Nichols Engineering task #9, for authorization for Bryan Mound Sewer.

WORK SESSION:

Mayor Bass said that he is very proud of how the City workers have responded and has kept the City running. He said that the City must follow the Governor’s orders. Mayor Bass said that he, both Chiefs and the City Manager have been on calls every day with the County Judge. The Mayor also said that he has heard of no COVID-19 cases in the City of Freeport. Mayor Bass said to be mindful, be alert, and do not panic we will get through this.

Councilman Green said that he sees roads in Ward A are being fixed, and that the Street Department is doing a great job.

Councilman Cain said that he is impressed and proud that there are no positive cases in the City of Freeport. He said he wants to continue to stress the importance to use soap and water, hand sanitizer, keep social distancing. Mr. Cain said that we need to make sure that our first responders and city employees have the items that are needed. Councilman Cain said to remember our local businesses, you can pick up orders to go. Local stores he said are restocking.

Councilwoman Loeza asked about the heavy trash pickup around the City. She said that there is a lot of trash on the roads, and it looks horrible. Tim Kelty said that he will check into this. Councilwoman also asked what business is going into the building across from the Arlan’s Shopping Center. Mr. Kelty said that there is a Dialysis Center moving there.

Councilman Yates said that he has seen trash being picked up, but there is a lot to be picked up.

City Manager Tim Kelty said that this last month the application was submitted to the Texas Water Development Board. He said that this is for about 12 million dollars’ worth of water and sewer improvements. This is the preliminary application; the full application will be submitted in September. He said that we should be eligible for 30 percent to be grant funded, and the remainder with a very low

interest rate. Mr. Kelty said that he appreciates staff. Mr. Kelty also welcomed Lance Petty, the city's new Public Works Director

Freeport Fire Chief Chris Motley addressed Council about the COVID-19. He said that we have been very diligent with working with the County and other partners. Chief Motley said last Monday was the city's first Emergency Meeting, Dr. Anderson was in our meeting. Dr. Anderson was able to answer questions. We have had safety meetings with our employees explaining what the Corona Virus is, how to prevent it and information to take home to families. Chief Motley said that events have been cancelled, and there are daily conference calls with the Department of Health this is where the daily stats come from. Chief Motley said stay calm, stay healthy, take care of yourself. Social Distant, wash hands. He said that this will be a slow process, it is not like a hurricane with an eye and you know where it will go, and when. Chief Motley said to please follow all the guidelines.

Freeport Police Chief Raymond Garivey addressed Council he said that the PD is open for business. Chief Garivey says if call allows, they will ask that the caller step outside. He said that they are trying to take calls over the phone and keep people out of the Department. Chief Garivey said that the jail is not closed, if you break the law you will still go to jail. He thanked the ladies from Parks Department on the outstanding job of cleaning the facilities every two hours.

Update on reports / concerns from Department heads

Open session was closed at 6:52 pm and Council entered into Executive Session.

CLOSED SESSION:

Executive Session regarding a.) economic development (Projects 2019-2 and 2019-3) and b. Attorney Consultation (Possible Litigation) and, c. Deliberation about Real Property (Project 2020-1) in accordance with Vernon's Texas Government Code Annotated, Chapter 551, Sections 551.071, 551.072, and 551.087.

No action taken.

REGULAR SESSION

Mayor Pro Tem Sandra Loeza opened regular session at 7:43 P.M.

Adjourn

On a motion by Councilman Cain, seconded by Councilman Green, with all present voting "Aye", Mayor Pro Tem Sandra Loeza adjourned the meeting at 7:44 PM.

Mayor, Brooks Bass
City of Freeport, Texas

City Secretary, Betty Wells
City of Freeport, Texas