

State of Texas

County of Brazoria

City of Freeport

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the City Council of Freeport, Texas met on Monday, April 6, 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
Brenda Miller-Ferguson, Human Resource Director via teleconference
LeAnn Strahan, Freeport Destination Director via teleconference
Chris Motley, Freeport Fire Chief
Ray Garivey, Freeport Police Department Chief
Billy Shoemaker, Code/Permit Director, via teleconference

Visitors: Via Teleconference

James Thomas
Lila Diehl
Shky McGinty

Vander Williams
Nick Irene (Facts Newspaper)

Call to order.

Mayor Brooks Bass called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was conducted was by Mayor Bass.

Mayor Bass spoke about the recommendations from the CDC. He said that the CDC is recommending that we wear mask when we are out, or in a confined space. The CDC said that the virus can spread with close proximity, with speaking, coughing, and sneezing. Mayor Bass said that the City of Freeport is operating, and the City employees are doing a fantastic job, and we will get through this.

Citizen's Comments

There were no citizens comments.

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

Proclamation of the City of Freeport designating April 2020 Fair Housing Month.

Mayor Brooks Bass read the proclamation of the City of Freeport proclaiming that April 2020 as Fair Housing Month.

Presentation by Brazoria County SPCA.

Mayor Bass passed this item.

Emergency management briefing COVID-19.

Freeport Fire Chief Chis Motley spoke to council about the changes that have been made with the Freeport Fire and EMS department. He said that the departments have been split to divide the personnel into two locations. One location is at the Service Center and the other is still at the station. Mayor Bass asked what the reason for this is and Chief Motley said that this will help with the number of personnel being exposed to a call. Chief Motley said that there are daily afternoon conference calls. He said that they have inventory at the fire department, hand sanitizers and mask if other departments are in need of these they just have to call. Chief Motley said the city is doing the recommendations from the Brazoria County Health Department and the CDC. Mayor Bass asked if Chief Motley was the first contact other than himself or Mr. Kelty if there were a positive result of COVID-19 in the City of Freeport. Chief Motley said that his Deputy Chief is the one that is receiving these calls. Mayor Bass asked what is protected information? Chief Motley said this is the patient information to identify the patient. This information may be shared with the first responders. Councilwoman Loeza asked if there are a series of questions that are asked when calls come in. Chief Motley said yes, there are a series of questions that are asked this is so EMS will know what level of personal protective equipment (PPE) to wear. Mayor Bass asked what safety plans are gone over with your staff? Chief Motley said that the previous information is just reiterated. Mayor Bass asked if there is anything that the City can do, that isn't already being done? Chief Motley said no, not at this time.

Freeport Police Chief Ray Garivey spoke to council about the things that the Freeport Police Department is doing, he said that calls for service are down. This means that they are not getting called out for disturbances. Chief Garivey said that he is proud of our residents. He said that the officers have mask, gloves and sanitizers in all units. Chief Garivey said that the officers are keeping distance from each other. Chief Garivey said that the PD has installed a Ring doorbell so that they may ask a series of questions to the residents before going out to speak with them. Mayor Bass asked what the idea was with having more police presence out on the streets? Chief Garivey said to have more visibility, he said that he has the detective division in uniform and on the streets. He said that they are split in half, half is on nights, and half are on days. Mayor Bass asked what are you doing when you are wearing your coveralls? Chief Garivey said that they are taking care of projects at the Police Department, he said with calls being down they can take care of the City that takes care of us. Councilwoman Loeza asked if there are calls of people having large get togethers at their homes? Chief Garivey said yes and there is a \$2000 fine that can be issued if you are in violation to the Order. Councilwoman Loeza asked about the basketball nets that are at the parks, she asked if this is something that the city should take down, as the City of Houston did? Chief Garivey said that if a couple of people want to go and play basketball then do it. The problem begins if there are large groups playing.

City Manager Tim Kelty said that he has spoken with some employees today and one of the things that he keeps stressing to the City employees is that we are essential employees. This is because we provide a service to the public. We need to make sure that our city residents have sewer and water, and that they

feel safe, parks are still open, and they must be maintained. Mr. Kelty said at this point all city employees are still working in the city. Some have gone to shift work with rotating shifts. This is to help if one employee gets sick, they don't all get sick. He said that we will take care of our employees, so that they can take care of the public. Mr. Kelty thanked the Mayor for providing lunch on Friday for the City employees.

REGULAR SESSION

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

On a motion by Councilwoman Loeza, seconded by Councilman Cain, with all present voting "Aye"5-0 Council unanimously approved the meeting minutes from March 20, 2020 Emergency Meeting and from March 23, 2020.

Consideration and possible action on Resolution No. 2020-2625 a resolution providing a temporary amendment to the Freeport Personnel Policy Handbook.

City Manager Tim Kelty presented to council Resolution No. 2020-2625 this resolution will allow adoption of changes to the Freeport Personnel Handbook, regarding emergency leave. Mr. Kelty said that two of the changes to the policy will be temporary changes. These are the result of Federal Legislation mandate. Mr. Kelty said that the third policy change addresses a need in our personnel policy, the emergency event leave policy was previously designed for hurricane situations. This policy will allow full time employees to have a negative sick leave balance up to 80 hours, with reimbursement of balance through future accruals or cash payment. Mr. Kelty said that the permanent addition to the City's Personnel Policy will allow this to the first responders as well. Mr. Kelty said that the first two policy changes are required, and the third is a cleanup to the personnel policy. Councilwoman Loeza asked if the employee would have to deplete their vacation or sick time, before these 80 hours were given. Mr. Kelty said yes, they will have to use their personal time before they could use these hours. Councilwoman Loeza asked how part time employees time would work. Assistant City Manager Stephanie Russell said that under the Federal Mandate for part time employees there is a percentage as well. Councilman Green asked if the Federal Mandate will supersede anything that the city has done? Stephanie Russell said yes.

On a motion by Councilwoman Loeza, seconded by Councilman Green, with all present voting "Aye"5-0 Council unanimously approved Resolution No. 2020-2625, a resolution providing a temporary amendment to the Freeport Personnel Policy Handbook

Consideration and possible action approving Resolution No. 2020-2623 to designate authorized signatory for Hurricane Harvey Disaster Recovery Program Contract.

Freeport Fire Chief Chris Motley presented to council Resolution No. 2020-2623 he said that this resolution will designate authorized signatory's for Hurricane Harvey CDBG contract. He said that this is a grant project. Mayor Bass asked what this money will be used for. Chief Motley said that these funds will replace the inlet screen at the sewer plant, that was damaged during Hurricane Harvey.

On a motion by Councilwoman Loeza, seconded by Councilman Yates, with all present voting "Aye"5-0 Council unanimously approved Resolution No. 2020-2623, a resolution designating signatory for Hurricane Harvey CDBG contract.

Consideration and possible action approving Resolution No. 2020-2624 adopting required Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-DR) Civil Rights Policy

Freeport Fire Chief Chris Motley presented to council Resolution No. 2020-2624 a resolution adopting required CDBG-CR Civil Rights Policy. Chief Motley said that this resolution is brought by the Grant writer and what it does is allows the Mayor to sign documents, this is for the same project that was just adopted.

On a motion by Councilman Yates, seconded by Councilman Cain, with all present voting “Aye”5-0 Council unanimously approved Resolution No. 2020-2624 adopting required Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-DR) Civil Rights Policy.

WORK SESSION:

Mayor Bass said that these are interesting times, he said that each day is different. He said though the numbers vary on the COVID-19, we are still increasing. Mayor Bass said that the County Judge stressed today that we need to do the basic things, wash your hands, do not touch eyes or nose, and if you must cough then cough into your elbow. It was also said that we need to follow the CDC recommendations, if you are out in public use the six feet distancing and to use a mask. Mayor Bass said that our city workers are courageous, they are out there every day. Fixing the roads, keeping the books, cleaning the parks, cleaning all city buildings. What these employees are doing is creating a safe spot for our residents. He said that the restrooms in our park are being sanitized, and this speaks volume of our city employees. He said as Mayor this makes him very proud of this fine city. He said that he encourages everyone to practice personal hygiene. Mayor Bass said that he wants to thank the residents of the city as well. Mayor Bass said that he had a young couple come to his home to return his sons wallet, he said that this why he lives in the City of Freeport.

Councilman Green said that the city workers are doing a tremendous job on Broad Street. He said that they have the curbs in, and he knows that the paving cannot be done until the curbs are complete. Councilman Green also thanked Chief Garivey and the officers for the help that they gave. Councilman Green said that the mirrors on the Levy was a great idea, but there was an accident and he recommends a yellow stripe to divide the lanes to prevent people from driving just down the middle. Mr. Kelty said that we will get this taken care of.

Councilman Cain said that he would like everyone to continue to support and pray for our first responders. He said to follow the recommendations of the CDC. Councilman Cain said that on the corner of Riverview and Acacia Circle it looks like a curb was taken out. He said he would like someone to go and look at this and to please get it cleaned up. He said that after the rain over the weekend it looks like some of the storm drains with the grating has substantial amount of debris, he asked if we can get the street sweeper to get these drains cleaned up.

Councilwoman Loeza said it looks like the trash has been picked up in her area. She said that there is an improvement. She said that on Ave D there is a vacant lot, and she is just curious who owns this lot. Mayor Bass said to get the address and we will find out. Councilwoman Loeza said that on the back of the Pawn shop there are dump trucks just parked there. She asked if they are just parked here or is this a business. Chief Garivey said that this is a business. She also said that there is still yard parking on Dixie and 5th Street, she said that you can tell these cars are not being used and they have been here for months. Councilwoman Loeza asked about the fencing that has been put up on the levy at the new river. City Manager Tim Kelty said that this is owned by Velasco Drainage District and they put the fence to stop illegal dumping, and to keep the homeless from living there.

Councilman Yates said that he has things that he would like to discuss, but he will put them off until another meeting.

City Manager Tim Kelty said that the roof at the Rec Center has been completed, he also said that the Public Works Crew repaired the problem on the edge of the Rec Center that was causing leakage into the Rec Center. This was all repaired and landscaped. Mr. Kelty said that the large pool project is moving forward.

Update on reports / concerns from Department heads

Freeport Fire Chief Chris Motley said that we will be going out for an RFP Grant Writer for a \$4.3 billion dollars for Hurricane Harvey funds for infrastructure and drainage.

Open session was closed at 7:03 pm and Council entered into Executive Session.

CLOSED SESSION:

Executive Session regarding economic development (Project Wing Tip) in accordance with Government Code Annotated, Chapter 551, Sections 551.087.

No action taken.

REGULAR SESSION

Mayor Brooks Bass opened regular session at 7:26 P.M.

Adjourn

On a motion by Councilwoman Loeza, seconded by Councilman Yates, with all present voting "Aye", Mayor Brooks Bass adjourned the meeting at 7:26 PM.

Mayor, Brooks Bass
City of Freeport, Texas

City Secretary, Betty Wells
City of Freeport, Texas