

State of Texas

County of Brazoria

City of Freeport

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the City Council of Freeport, Texas met on Wednesday October 26, 2022 at 5:30 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 Jeff Pena  
Councilman Jerry Cain  
Councilman Mario Muraira  
Councilman Troy Brimage Not Present

Staff: Tim Kelty, City Manager  
Betty Wells, City Secretary  
David Olson, City Attorney  
Laura Cramer, GIS  
Jennifer Howell, Police Chief  
Clarisa Molina, Assistant City Secretary/Administrative Assistant

Visitors: Pam Dancy  
Joseph Penfield  
Kenny Hayes  
Shonda Marshall  
Eric Hayes  
George Matamoros  
Manning Rollerson  
Syd Falk  
Ruby Marshall  
Raul Ramirez

**Call to order.**

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

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Invocation was led by City Manager, Tim Kelty, Pledge was led by Mayor Bass.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS:**

Joseph Penfield spoke on the downtown zoning ordinance that has been adopted. He said he is surprised this went through Code, Planning and Council, and no one caught this ordinance would throw people from their homes. He said no one has asked the hard questions. He thinks council jumped the gun on this. He said this needs to be looked at again.

Manning Rollerson spoke to council of the article that was in the Facts newspaper. He spoke of the tax dollars being wasted on the investigations. He said the owners in Downtown are not doing anything to

fix up their buildings. Mr. Rollerson said there is a problem with the representation of the residents in the East End by Council. He spoke on Councilman of Ward D missing the City Council meetings.

Pam Dancy spoke to council about her Councilman in Ward D missing meetings. She said he needs to be removed from council. She also spoke of the importance of the ordinance in item #4. She spoke of the article in the paper of Troy Brimage selling his business. She said she feels like council just wants to sweep the accusations against Mr. Brimage under the rug

## **COUNCIL REGULAR AGENDA**

Discuss and take possible action for a Joint Public Hearing and take action on an ordinance to amend the zoning ordinance to permit residential development on the 1st floor in the Downtown District.

Councilman Pena presented to council the possible action for a Joint Public Hearing and take action on an ordinance to amend the zoning ordinance to permit residential development on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor in the Downtown District.

A motion to approve ordinance as written with the amendment of adding a ten-day mailer notice to all property owners in the Downtown District, within 200 feet of the Downtown District boundary lines. Seconded by Councilman Muraira. There was discussion that followed.

Mayor Bass called the motion for a vote. With all present voting 3-1 motion failed. Councilmen Cain, Muraira, and Mayor Bass voted “Ney”

Consideration and possible action on Resolution, establishing guidelines for persons submitting specific redistricting proposals and providing comments.

Syd Falk with Bickerstaff, presented to council a Resolution, establishing guidelines for persons submitting specific redistricting proposals and providing comments.

A motion was made by Councilman Cain to approve Resolution, establishing guidelines for persons submitting specific redistricting proposals and providing comments, seconded by Mayor Bass. With all present voting “Aye” 4-0 council unanimously approved Resolution establishing guidelines for persons submitting specific redistricting proposals and providing comments

Consideration and possible action on Resolution adopting criteria for use in 2022 Redistricting Process.

Syd Falk presented to council, a Resolution adopting criteria for use in 2022 Redistricting Process.

A motion was made by Councilman Cain to approve Resolution adopting criteria for use in 2022 Redistricting Process, seconded by Councilman Muraira. With all presenting voting “Aye” 4-0 council unanimously approved Resolution adopting criteria for use in 2022 Redistricting Process.

Drawing Session by Bickerstaff for the Redistricting of Wards in the City of Freeport

Syd Falk and Sherry with Bickerstaff, presented to council a drawing session for the Redistricting of Wards in the City of Freeport. Mr. Falk said the city is 16% out of balance between the population of the largest and smallest Ward. The Federal Standard is that you must be less than 10%. He said Ward A is the least populated at 10.5 % below the ideal, and Ward B being the most populated at 5.84 % over the ideal size. Bickerstaff suggested to council an example plan to get started with.

There was discussion by council and Mr. Falk on the Wards and the red line boundary for the Census blocks.

It was pointed out that the Redistricting Citizens Advisory Committee had met

George Matamoros asked about his Ward, and how would he vote? He said he now votes in Ward C. Mr. Falk said it will be Ward D, if the proposed redistricting is approved.

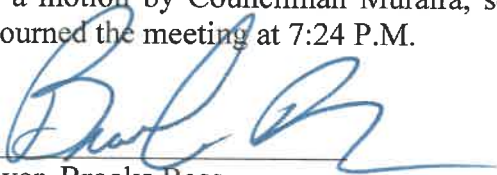
Councilman Pena Proposed a desire to have Velasco be the dividing line between Ward A and Ward B. Mr. Falk explained that takes too much population from Ward B and leaves the City out of Balance. Councilman Pena proposed leaving the line along Velasco but extending long strip into now Ward A between the North Side of 12<sup>th</sup> street and the South side of 11<sup>th</sup> street extending from Velasco to Magnolia. When modeled, it showed that this option did provide balance amongst the Wards. It was pointed out however that this left a long strip on 2 streets with half the residents in Ward A and half in Ward B, and both moved voters from Ward A into B and from Ward B into Ward A.

It was agreed that this would become option 2, with Bickerstaff's original recommendation as option #1

There was discussion on getting the plan complete. Then a Public Hearing can be scheduled. The goal to adopt the new Ward Map, is by December 2022.

#### Adjourn

On a motion by Councilman Muraira, seconded by Councilman Cain, with a 4-0 vote, Mayor Bass adjourned the meeting at 7:24 P.M.



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Mayor, Brooks Bass  
City of Freeport, Texas



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City Secretary, Betty Wells  
City of Freeport, Texas