

State of Texas

County of Brazoria

City of Freeport

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the City of Freeport, met in a regular meeting on Monday, July 7th, 2008 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: Larry L. McDonald
Clan A. Cameron
Jim Saccomanno
Ron Wise
Norma M. Garcia

Staff: Gary Beverly, City Manager
Wallace Shaw, City Attorney
Delia Munoz, City Secretary
Nat Hickey, Property Manager
Larry Fansher, Public Works Director
Jeff Pynes, Police Chief
John Stanford, Fire Chief
Lee Cameron, Economic Development Director
Bob Welch, Finance Director
Pinkey Hartline, Golf Course Director
Mary Stotler, Main Street Director

Visitors: Cele Damian Rene Damian
Roddy Mohler Joyce Adkins
Wright Gore, III Diane Williams
Angel Kant Lila Lloyd
Pixie Floyd Michelle Kent
Dorothy Pirrung Jim Pirrung
Eric Hayes Rosa McDonald
Larry Shaefer Judy Shaefer
V. L. Scott Louie Jones
Ronald Theriot John Smith, III
Brenda Laird Joaquin Damian
Skip Pratt Kenny Kouches
Cathy Williams Lila Diehl
Sandra W. Wicke Margorie Clark
Sandra Leavey Gary Pohl
Mingo Marquez Rosemary Bravo
Grady Pennington Bobby Bass

Barbara Mohler
Helen McQuaig
Gregg Frazier
Annette Sanford
Gilbert Cuellar
Charlie Hawkins
Maria Rosas
Dave Knuckey

Jerrard Thomas
Johnny McQuaig
Susie Wise
Alonzo Martinez
Ronnie Quinn
Lorenzo Gomez
Chip Gentry

Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor McDonald at 6:00 p.m.

Invocation.

Pastor Robert Willis from Family Life Church offered the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor McDonald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consideration of the approval of the June 16th, 2008 Council Minutes.

On a motion by Councilman Cameron, seconded by Councilman Saccomanno, with all present voting "aye", Council unanimously approved the June 16th, 2008 Council Minutes.

Attending Citizens and Their Business.

Larry Shaefer property owner stated the county has debris and concrete on his property, wanted to make sure it would be removed at the end of the project.

V. L. Scott, 1703 W. 5th Street asked if Council to investigate 4th and Hickory looked like a junk yard was developing.

Public Hearing: To consider designating the following described real property located within the corporate boundaries of the City as a reinvestment zone for the purpose of entering into an agreement with the owner of owners thereof granting tax abatement.

Mayor McDonald opened the Public Hearing at 6:08 p.m., and announced the following described real property located within the corporate boundaries of the City as a reinvestment zone for the purpose of entering into an agreement with the owner or owners thereof granting a tax abatement on Lots 5 through 20, Block 39, Lots 5 through 16, Block 40, and Lots 39A and 40A, of the Freeport Townsite, according to the map or Plat thereof recorded in Volume 2, page 95 of the Plat Records of Brazoria County, Texas, known locally as 102 W. 8th Street, Freeport, Texas.

Joyce Adkins complained that the description of the property is insufficient. Mayor McDonald read the legal description of the property to audience.

There being no further questions or comments, Mayor McDonald closed the public hearing at 6:11 p.m.

Consideration of the approval of Ordinance No. 2008-2203 designating improvements to land located within the incorporated limits of said City as a reinvestment zone to be known as the Concepts West Reinvestment zone and providing for its initial term and the renewal thereof.

On a motion by Councilman Cameron, seconded by Councilman Saccomanno, with all present voting "aye", Council unanimously approved Ordinance No. 2008-2203 designating improvements to land located within the incorporated limits of said City as a reinvestment zone to be known as the Concepts West Reinvestment zone and providing for its initial term and the renewal thereof.

Consideration of the approval of replacing any or all members of the Freeport Economic Development Corporation of the City of Freeport.

Louie Jones of 1424 N. Ave. F, a current member of the Economic Development Corporation, thanked Council for having an opportunity to serve on the EDC board. He discussed the contributions of the EDC in the past decade in the City of Freeport.

Ronald Theriot of 630 W. 8th St. a current member of the Economic Development Corporation discussed how hard the EDC had worked and hated to see a decline in the progress. He hoped that Council would reconsider his appointment.

John Smith III of 1415 N. G, President of the Economic Development Corporation, thanked Council and was very proud of the revitalization in Freeport. Lots of progress has been made and asked that it continue.

Wright Gore III, 301 W, Brazos passed a hand out on appointing new EDC members. He stated that EDC has mismanaged public money, property and people. The EDC has kept secrets from the people that pay its bills. Also stating that the EDC has proven that it doesn't represent the City of Freeport.

V. L. Scott of 1703 W. 9th has seen the City's growth and decline. He has seen the City's progress because of the EDC. He knows the members to be honorable people.

Lila Lloyd of 1620 N. Ave. T. said that Mr. Gore has just passed out propaganda against the City. Some individuals wanted to tear things down. She said that for many years the Gore's were privileged. The City has ordinances to accommodate their business, and now they were against the City.

Angel Kant of 1115 W. Broad, stated that the City did not need the Gore's property to move forward, but that the lawsuits between the City and the Gore's concerned her.

Joyce Adkins of 102 N. Ave. C., stated that the EDC had brought in crooks and bankrupt people that didn't mow their property. She said that if the City Attorney, City Manager(s) and Council had done their jobs, the City would not be in this mess. City Council had two EDC members and they never gave reports.

Brenda Laird of 1005 N. Ave. B. has taught school in Freeport for 26 years. She has seen a lack of pride and lack of hope in the kids. The Entry Way, Marina come in, then Freeport began to blossom, and things improved. The EDC has brought tremendous change to Freeport.

Councilman Saccomanno stated that it was a huge mistake to replace the members of the E.D.C.

On a motion by Councilman Cameron, seconded by Councilman Wise, with all present voting 3 to 2, Council approved replacing all members of the Freeport Economic Development Corporation of the City of Freeport. Councilman Saccomanno and Councilwoman Garcia opposed.

Consideration of the approval of replacing any or all members of the Freeport Planning Commission of the City of Freeport.

Councilman Saccomanno said replacing the members of the Planning Commission would be a major disruption

On a motion by Councilman Wise, seconded by Councilman Cameron, with all present voting 3 to 2, Council approved to replacing all the members of the Freeport Planning Commission, with the exception of Diane Williams, Chairman to remain. Councilman Saccomanno and Councilwoman Garcia opposed.

Consideration of the approval of Ordinance No. 2008-2204 amending the Budget for fiscal year 2007-2008 .

On a motion by Councilman Cameron, seconded by Councilman Saccomanno, with all present voting 4 to 1, Council approved Ordinance No. 2008-2204 amending the Budget for fiscal year 2007-2008. Councilman Wise opposed.

Consideration of the approval of a request from Main Street to hold a Fun Run on August 24th, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. to honor those who have fallen in Operation Iraqi Freedom, beginning at the Veteran's Memorial and follow the river.

On a motion by Councilman Saccomanno, seconded by Councilman Cameron, with all present voting "aye", Council approved a request from Mary Stotler, Main Street to hold a Fun Run on August 24th, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. to honor those who have fallen in Operation Iraqi Freedom beginning at the Veteran's Memorial and follow the river.

Consideration of the approval of a request from Pastor, Behling & Wheeler, LLC to place a 8 x 24 temporary mobile office, at 906 Marlin Lane for temporary storage of field equipment and files, for a one year period.

On a motion by Councilman Cameron, seconded by Councilman Saccomanno, with all present voting “aye”, Council unanimously approved a request from Pastor, Behling & Wheeler, LLC to place a 8 x 24 temporary mobile office, at 906 Marlin Lane for temporary storage of field equipment and files, to include a \$300.00 renewal fee for one year period.

Consideration of the approval of a request from Port Freeport to install and maintain a temporary guardhouse, 4’ wide x 6’-4”, at the intersection of F.M. 1495 (Navigation Blvd and SH 36), for a one year period.

On a motion by Councilman Cameron, seconded by Councilman Saccomanno, with all present voting “aye”, Council unanimously approved a request from Port Freeport to install and maintain a temporary guardhouse 4’ wide x 6’-4”, at the intersection of F.M. 1495 (Navigation Blvd and SH 36), to include a \$300.00 fee for a one year period.

Consideration of the approval of an Interlocal Agreement with Brazoria County and the City of Freeport for widening the West Ramp of FM 1495 and the Pine Street Bridge.

This item was tabled.

Consideration of the approval of advertising the sell and setting a bid date on Block 661, Lots 1 thru 12, Velasco Townsite, known as North Ave. G.

On a motion by Councilman Cameron, seconded by Councilman Wise, with all present voting “aye”, Council unanimously approved Nat Hickey’s recommendation to advertising the sell and approved August 8th, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. to received bids for the sale of Block 661, Lots 1 thru 12, Velasco Townsite, known as North Ave. G.

Consideration of the approval of advertising the sell and setting a bid date on Block 661 Lots 13 thru 24, Velasco Townsite, known as North Ave. G.

On a motion by Councilman Cameron, seconded by Councilman Wise, with all present voting “aye”, Council unanimously approved Nat Hickey’s recommendation to advertising the sell and approved August 8th, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. to received bids for the sale of Block 661, Lots 13 thru 24 Velasco Townsite, known as North Ave. G.

Consideration of the approval of selling the City’s interest on Block 88, Lots 12A, 13, 13A, Freeport Townsite, known as West 8th Street.

On a motion by Councilman Cameron, seconded by Councilman Wise, with all present voting 3 to 2, Council approved selling the City’s interest on Block 88, Lots 12A, 13, 13A, Freeport Townsite, known as West 8th Street. Councilman Saccomanno and Councilwoman Garcia opposed.

Consideration of the approval of selling the City's interest on Block 6, Lot 18-S/2 Freeport Townsite, known as 502 East 7th Street.

On a motion by Councilman Cameron, seconded by Councilman Wise, with all present voting 3 to 2, Council approved selling the City's interest on Block 6, Lot 18-S/2 Freeport Townsite, known as 502 East 7th Street. Councilman Saccomanno and Councilwoman Garcia opposed.

Consideration of the approval of selling the City's interest on Block 2, Number 2, Lot 28, Bridge Harbor Subdivision, Tax Id # 2190-0193-000.

On a motion by Councilman Cameron, seconded by Councilman Wise, with all present voting 3 to 2, Council approved selling the City's interest on Block 2, Number 2, Lot 28, Bridge Harbor Subdivision, Tax Id # 2190-0193-000. Councilman Saccomanno and Councilwoman Garcia opposed.

Consideration of the approval of selling the City's interest on Block 2, Number 2, Lot 6, Bridge Harbor Subdivision, Tax Id # 2190-0172-000.

On a motion by Councilman Cameron, seconded by Councilman Wise, with all present voting 3 to 2, Council approved selling the City's interest on Block 2, Number 2, Lot 6, Bridge Harbor Subdivision, Tax Id # 2190-0172-000. Councilman Saccomanno and Councilwoman Garcia opposed.

Consideration of the approval of selling the City's interest on Block 2, Number 2, Lot 16, Bridge Harbor Subdivision, Tax Id # 2190-0182-000.

On a motion by Councilman Cameron, seconded by Councilman Wise, with all present voting 3 to 2, Council approved selling the City's interest on Block 2, Number 2, Lot 16, Bridge Harbor Subdivision, Tax Id # 2190-0182-000. Councilman Saccomanno and Councilwoman Garcia opposed.

Consideration of the approval of selling the City's interest on Block 692, Lot 3, Velasco Townsite, known as 1120 North Ave. O.

On a motion by Councilman Cameron, seconded by Councilman Wise, with all present voting 3 to 2, Council approved selling the City's interest on Block 692, Lot 3, Velasco Townsite, known as 1120 North Ave. O. Councilman Saccomanno and Councilwoman Garcia opposed.

Consideration of the approval of signing and replating Block 506, Lots 11 & 12, Velasco Townsite, to be known as Lot 1, Antonio Leija Subdivision, 4 South Gulf Boulevard.

On a motion by Councilman Cameron, seconded by Councilman Saccomanno, with all present voting "aye", Council unanimously approved signing and replating Block 506 Lots 11 & 12, Velasco Townsite, to be known as Lot 1, Antonio Leija Subdivision, 4 South Gulf Boulevard.

Elected Official Report

No reports.

Work Session

Administration Report

No reports.

Discussion regarding SAFER Act Grant Funding for Freeport Fire & EMS.

Fire Chief Stanford presented summary and answered Council's questions on the SAFER Act Grant Funding for Freeport Fire & EMS and requested support in applying and accepting the Department of Homeland Safer Act Grant. The total amount of federal funding will be approximately \$870,000 with Freeport's share averaging \$200,000 per year during the grant period.

Council noted they wanted Chief Stanford to move forward with the application.

Discussion regarding Safety Inspections.

Council discussed the Safety Inspections and will send this item to the Planning Commission when the Planning Commission is populated with members.

Discussion regarding the role of the Planning Commission and the referrals to it from the City Council.

Mr. Shaw reviewed the role of the Planning Commission according to Charter 8.03 (d), (6). He covered the minimum standards in the code that the Planning Commission addresses.

Discussion regarding delinquent paving, mowing, demolition, and other liens.

Gary Beverly said that documentation did not exist for some mowing, paving, demolition and other liens. The City has difficulty proving the work was done. Mr. Beverly recommended that the City look at releasing mowing liens prior to 10-1-2002 and keeping the liens that had documentation. Councilman Cameron suggested using 1-1-2003 as the cut off date, would be more logical.

Council instructed Mr. Beverly to move forward and bring it back on a formal session.

Discussion regarding garbage rates and Waste Management.

Gary Beverly advised council of the rate changes from Waste Management, due to fuel increases and an inflation rate increase. He advises that they are also due inflation (CPI) rate adjustment in November.

Council agrees that the cost to citizens not be increased.

Discussion concerning appointing qualified person(s) on the following Boards and Commissions.

- Planning Commission
- Library Board
- Historical Commission and Main Street Advisory Board
- Board of Adjustments
- Urban Renewal Board
- Beautification/Parks & Recreation Committee
- Economic Development Corporation
- Senior Citizens Commission

This item was tabled to July 14th, 2008 for a special meeting.

Adjourn

On a motion by Councilman Cameron, seconded by Councilman Wise, with all present voting "aye", the meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Delia Munoz
City Secretary

Larry L. McDonald
Mayor