

STATE OF TEXAS)(

COUNTY OF BRAZORIA)(

CITY OF FREEPORT)(

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Planning and Traffic Commission of the City of Freeport, Texas met in a regular meeting on **Tuesday, April 28, 2009 at 6:00 P.M.** at the Police Department Conference Room, 430 North Brazosport Boulevard, Freeport, Texas to discuss the following:

Planning Commission:

**Diane Williams, Chairperson
Eric Hayes
Roberto Caceres
Reuben Cuellar
Alonzo Martinez
Joyce Adkins**

Visitors: Gilbert Arispe
 Melissa Farmer
 Nat Hickey
 Wallace Shaw
 Chief John Stanford, Jr.
 Lt. Allen Lawson

Visitors: Ray Olivarez
 Rosa McDonald

Open Meeting.

Ms. Diane Williams called meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Invocation.

Mr. Rueben Cuellar opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of Minutes.

Mr. Eric Hayes moved to accept the minutes for March 24, 2009, seconded by Mr. Rueben Cuellar, unanimous vote for approval.

Discuss/review the scope of the Planning Commission duties and procedures.

Ms. Diane Williams explained to the Board members that the Planning Commissions sole responsibility was to make recommendations to the City Council and that the final decision was with the City Council. She went on to explain that things that were not on the agenda could not be discussed and that they had to follow the correct procedures during the meetings.

Discuss/consider request by Ms. Dolores Olivarez to have speed bumps placed on North Avenue O, due to speeding vehicles.

Mr. Ray Olivarez of 1310 North Avenue O told the Planning Commission that vehicles were driving in the neighborhood at speeds of up to 50 to 60 miles per hour and that there needed to be some kind of solution to the problem. He suggested that maybe there needed to be signs posted of the speed limit, children at play signs or speed bumps placed on the street.

Fire Chief John Stanford, Jr. told the Commission that although he sympathized with the residents, that speed bumps would add undue liability on the City and that it would also slow down response time to emergency vehicles and could cause injury. He also explained that the Code of Ordinances stated that if no signage was present, that the speed limit was automatically 30 miles per hour. He stated that he would prefer not to have them placed on any streets and that if they did, they would end up being placed all over town.

Lt. Allen Lawson of the Freeport Police Department agreed with Chief John Stanford about the City being held liable over the speed humps. He stated that he had done research on speed humps and had found case law where a city had been found liable for bodily injury and car damage from people driving over these speed humps. He said what needed to be done was that there needed to be more patrolling of these areas to see if that would cut down on the speeding. He stated that he would have more police patrol placed over in this neighborhood.

Mr. Reuben Cuellar made a motion to have a study done on placing signage on Avenue M and O, seconded by Mr. Roberto Caceres, unanimous vote for approval.

Discuss/consider request by Ms. Alyssa Rivera to have speed bumps placed on North Avenue M, due to speeding vehicles.

Ms. Diane Williams asked that Ms. Alyssa Rivera be informed of the Planning Commissions decision to have a study done on signage being placed in the neighborhood and that more police patrolling would be done.

Further discussion/consideration on the need to place stop signs at Yellowstone and Avenue O.

Lt. Allen Lawson explained to the Planning Commission that the Police Department wanted to have 3-Way stop signs placed on Yellowstone and Avenue O to slow down speeding traffic.

Mr. Alonzo Martinez made a motion to send recommendation to City Council to have a 3-Way stop sign placed at Yellowstone and Avenue O, seconded by Mr. Eric Hayes, unanimous vote for approval.

Report by Mr. Gilbert Arispe: Progress on vessel removal. Landscape Irrigation Program Ordinance.

Mr. Gilbert Arispe updated the Planning Commission on the progress of the vessel removals. He told them that he was working with Mr. Bill Grimes and the lawyer for the General Land Office, Mr. Mark Havens. He told them that the General Land Office will be reimbursing the City after the removal of the vessels. He stated that there was an Interlocal Agreement between the City and the General Land Office that was going to be on the next City Council Agenda and that then the City could move forward with removing the vessels.

Mr. Gilbert Arispe brought to the Planning Commissions attention that the Building Department had received a letter about a Bill that had been passed in 2009 titled "Landscape Irrigation Program." It mandates that populations greater than 20,000 adopt a landscape irrigation ordinance. He stated that since we are below that, that he just wanted to bring it to their attention and that if there was anything they wanted to do, that we could gather more information and discuss it at a later date.

Adjourn.

Mr. Eric Hayes made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Alonzo Martinez. Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

These minutes read and approved this _____ day of _____, 2009.

Diane Williams, Chairperson