

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 16, 2007, at the Freeport Police Department, Municipal Court Room, 430 North Brazosport Boulevard, for the purpose of considering the following agenda items:

City Council: Larry L. McDonald
 Clan A. Cameron – absent
 Jim Saccomanno
 John Smith, III
 Norma M. Garcia

Staff: Ron Bottoms, City Manager
 Wallace Shaw, City Attorney
 Delia Munoz, City Secretary
 Gary Beverly, Finance Director
 Larry Fansher, Public Works Director
 Nat Hickey, Property Manager
 Jeff Pynes, Police Chief
 Doug Caffey, Building Inspector
 Larry Ellis, Code Enforcement

Visitors: Sandra Shaw Wayne Shaw
 Edith Fisher Richard Rangel
 Rene Damian Cele Damian
 Paul Damian Wright Gore, III
 Bobby Joe Casale Larry Schaefer
 Judy Schaefer Eric Hayes
 Lila Diehl Rosa McDonald
 Cathy Williams Angel Kant
 Jason Montier William Howard
 Candance Kasserman Lila Lloyd
 Carmen Bottoms George Elizondo
 George Matamores Abel Garcia
 Jerry Meeks Dorothy Pirrung
 Jim Pirrung Frances Schultz
 Angela Kant Vicki Melass
 Jim McEntire Wallace Neeley
 Diane Williams

Call to Order.

Mayor McDonald called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Invocation.

Pastor Abel Garcia from the First Baptist Church offered the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor McDonald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consideration of the approval of the July 2, 2007 Council Minutes.

On a motion by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Garcia, with all present voting "aye", Council unanimously approved the minutes of July 2, 2007.

Attending Citizens and Their Business.

Angela Kant of 115 W. Broad asked how she was in violation of the open meeting s act. Mr. Shaw explained in detailed how it could be violated. He also explained to her the procedures of getting on an agenda and/or executive session.

Jim McEntire of 727 W. 12th Street stated that for the last 10 years or so, he has tolerated and complained about the care of premises of 803 W. 12th Street. He would like the Mayor to sign a letter from the Brazoria County so they can go in and cleanup. The residence was not livable.

Bobby Casale of Bridge Harbor reminded Council that he would be at the budget workshops, wants to protect homeowners from the appraisal district.

Wright Gore, III of 301 W. Brazos, believed that the conference room at City Hall was too small for the budget workshop, suggested the budget workshop be held in the Council Chambers, at the Freeport Police Department, Municipal Court Room.

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 or owners thereof granting a tax abatement:

Bridge Harbor, F. J. Calvit, Division 8
Lot 93, Brazoria County

Mayor McDonald opened the public hearing at 6:14 p.m. Cathy Williams asked what was the purpose of the tax abatement. Mr. Bottoms stated that the City offers a residential tax abatement on improvements that are over \$5,000.00 and the owners of Lot 93 were building a new home and submitted an application for tax abatement.

There being no further questions or comments, Mayor McDonald closed the public hearing at 6: 17 p.m.

Consideration of the approval of Ordinance No. 2007-2168 designating Lot 93, Bridge Harbor, as a reinvestment zone to be known as the William Howard and Candace Kasserman for improvements on Lot 93, Bridge Harbor.

On a motion by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Garcia, with all present voting “aye”, Council unanimously approved Ordinance No. 2007-2168 designating Lot 93, Bridge Harbor, as a reinvestment zone to be known as the William Howard and Candace Kasserman for improvements on Lot 93, Bridge Harbor.

Consideration of the approval of Resolution No. 2007-2150 granting a tax abatement agreement to William Howard and Candace Kasserman.

On a motion by Councilman Saccomanno, seconded by Councilman Smith, with all present voting “aye”, Council unanimously approved Resolution No. 2007-2150 granting a tax abatement agreement to William Howard and Candace Kasserman.

Consideration of the approval of bids and awarding the contract on the deck for RiverPlace project.

On a motion by Councilman Saccomanno, seconded by Councilman Smith, with all present voting “aye”, Council approved Mr. Bottoms’ recommendation to approve the bids and award the contract on the deck for RiverPlace project to the lowest bidder, Forbes Construction for \$99,010.73.

Consideration of the approval of Resolution No. 2007-2147 reappointing John Smith, III, Carlos Martinez, Louie Jones, and appointing Mark Wessels to the Economic Development Corporation of said City.

On a motion by Councilman Saccomanno, seconded by Councilwoman Garcia, with all present voting, 3 to 1, Council approved Resolution No. 2007-2147 reappointing John Smith, III, Carlos Martinez, Louie Jones, and appointing Mark Wessels to the Economic Development Corporation of said City. Mayor McDonald opposed.

Consideration of the approval of Resolution No. 2007-2149 reappointing Willie Rains, and appointing Freddie Brenk, Dorothy Pirrung, Tobey Davenport, and Joyce Adkins to the Charter Review Commission of said City.

On a motion by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Saccomanno, with all present voting “aye”, Council unanimously approved Resolution No. 2007-2149 reappointing Willie Rains, and appointing Freddie Brenk, Dorothy Pirrung, Tobey Davenport, and Joyce Adkins to the Charter Review Commission of said City.

Consideration of the approval of purchasing Block 18, Lots 13 thru 18, Freeport Townsite, known as 414-422 East Broad.

On a motion by Councilman Saccomanno, seconded by Councilman Smith, with all present voting “aye”, Council unanimously approved purchasing Block 18, Lots 13 thru 18, Freeport Townsite, known as 414-422 East Broad.

Consideration of the approval of purchasing of 10/16th un-divided interest on Block 617, Lot 5, Velasco Townsite, located on North Ave. M.

On a motion by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Garcia, with all present voting “aye”, Council unanimously approved purchasing 10/16th un-divided interest on Block 617, Lot 5, Velasco Townsite, located on North Ave. M.

Consideration of the approval of AT&T placing a new fiber optic in Freeport from 1021 Broad Street to FM 1495 and CR 723, along the city’s right of way.

On a motion by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Saccomanno, with all present voting “aye”, Council unanimously approved AT&T request to place new fiber optic in Freeport from 1021 Broad Street to FM 1495 and CR 723, along the city’s right of way as long as it does not impact or interfere with future utilities.

Elected Official Report

Councilman Saccomanno reported on the Main Street Historical activities. He received a letter from the Velasco Drainage District that FEMA is requiring recertification of the levees. The levees need to be recertified or will be removed from the flood zone maps. Presently there is no funding. Mr. Bottoms said letters had been set to legislatures to address this issue.

Mayor McDonald, Councilwoman Garcia and Councilman Smith attended the groundbreaking ceremony of the Veterans Memorial at Freeport Municipal Park. Also the Veterans Memorial Fish Fry Fundraiser on July 14, 2007. Both of the events were well attended. She received email from the Tim and Kathy Dennis, declining to build their dream house in Freeport.

Mayor McDonald closed the formal session and opened the work session at 6:38 p.m.

Work Session

Discussion regarding water and sewer utilities to Bryan Beach Subdivision.

Dan Rucker discussed establishing feasibility of Freeport extending water to Quintana Island. Also, discussed establishing the feasibility of the City of Freeport participating in a Sanitary Sewer System provided by Coastal Bend Property Development for customers in the Bryan Beach subdivision. Rene Damian of Damian & Damian Associates updated

council on the latest drawings and cost estimate. He stated that Quintana Island had lost their Mayor and City Secretary and that this will be addressed with their new council.

Discussion concerning a beach dune protection ordinance.

Angela Sunley with the Texas General Land Office discussed the beach dune protection plan and the requirement to adopt an ordinance by September 2007, which needs to be approved by the Texas General Land Office.

Presentation by Edith Fisher, Director of Tourism of the Brazosport Convention & Visitors Council promoting and request for continued funding.

Edith Fisher, Director of Tourism of the Brazosport Convention & Visitors Council promotes the Brazosport Area as a convention and leisure designation. She stated that the beach is one of the biggest draw to the area. She requested Council to continue funding the Brazosport Convention & Visitors Council. Diane Williams of 1223 W. 2nd Street, stated that Freeport was not in the Texas Tourism Magazine and asked how Freeport could be included in the publication.

Financial review of the 3rd quarterly report of fiscal year 2006-2007.

Gary Beverly reported on 3rd quarter financials. As of 6/30/07 we have \$10,186,685 in cash, with \$774,769 restricted. Revenues are up 6.4% from last year and are on budget. Expenses are up 4.0% and are on budget. Projected cash as of 9/30/07 is \$3,719,098, because of the City Loan to the EDC for the Marina Project. The City has spent \$1,020,709a in capital expenditures, and has \$6,043,000 in debt outstanding.

Discussion concerning Commercial and Residential Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria.

Mr. Bottoms discussed the current application for commercial and residential tax abatement guidelines and criteria. The deadline to review and approve a new application for tax abatements in the City is September, 2007. Mr. Bottoms had other templates from other cities for review. The City of Freeport is the only City that offers a residential tax abatement, he recommends removing the residential application.

Councilman Saccomanno stated that tax abatements be used to draw new businesses and not after the fact.

Adjourn

On a motion by Councilman Saccomanno, seconded by Councilwoman Garcia, with all present voting "aye", the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Delia Munoz
City Secretary

Larry L. McDonald
Mayor

