

State of Texas

County of Brazoria

City of Freeport

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the City Council of Freeport, Texas met on Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at 6:00 PM at the Freeport Council Chamber located at 430 North Brazosport Blvd., Freeport Texas for the purpose of considering the following agenda items:

City Council: Mayor Jerry Cain
Councilman Jeff Pena
Councilman Jarvis Davis
Councilman George Matamoros
Councilman Winston Rossow

Staff: Dan Pennington, Interim City Manager
Jennifer Howell, Police Chief/Assistant City Manager
Chris Duncan, Interim City Attorney
Clarisa Fernandez, City Secretary
Toby Cohen, IT Director

Visitors:	David McGinty	Eric Hayes
	Sandra Leavey	Sam Reyna
	Sandra Wood Wicke	Nicole Mireles
	Ron Bachman	Diane McCleester
	Gary Guerrieri	Con McCleester

Call to Order:

Call to Order - Jerry Cain, Mayor

Mayor Cain called the Special Meeting of the Freeport City Council to order at 6:01P.M. on November 5, 2025, declaring a quorum was present.

Invocation - Councilman

Councilman Rossow led the Invocation.

Pledges - Pledge of Allegiance to the United States; Pledge of Allegiance to the State of Texas.

Councilman Rossow led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and the Pledge of Allegiance to the State of Texas.

Audience Participation – Anyone who has registered to speak prior to the meeting being called to order and desires to address the City Council will be heard at this time, or during the discussion of an item listed on the agenda. These forms are located by the City Secretary. After completing the form, give it to the City Secretary. She will give it to the Mayor. The Mayor will call on you when that item is presented, once a motion has been made by Council then public participation will not be allowed. You will have four (4) minutes to make your comments regardless of the number of agenda items to be addressed.

Ron Bachman addressed the Council regarding proposed changes to Ordinance 155.1109. Mr. Bachman stated that he resides at 96 Dolphin Lane in Freeport and expressed concern about misleading and prejudicial statements in the meeting agenda. He urged the Council to focus on what is best for the City's future when

considering revisions to the ordinance. Mr. Bachman explained that Ordinance 155.1109 has been in place for several years and was originally intended to relieve the City Council from routine property-related requests and to prevent lengthy debates that extend meetings late into the night. As a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, he stated that the Commission gives serious consideration to all requests, weighing them against applicable codes and ordinances while striving to balance property owners' rights with the protections afforded to other citizens. He cautioned that amending Ordinance 155.1109 to allow certain requests to bypass the Planning and Zoning Commission and go directly to the City Council could lead to potential conflicts of interest and reduce transparency in City government. Mr. Bachman added that such a change would increase the Council's workload by requiring members to interpret incomplete or poorly written requests and to address complex zoning issues typically reviewed by the Commission. Mr. Bachman further explained that the Planning and Zoning Commission's recent denial of a request to rezone more than 300 acres from R-2 and MH to industrial zoning was based solely on the merits of the request. He clarified that the historical ownership of the property, including the name Wong, was never discussed. He noted that the Commission would have preferred to consider rezoning a portion of the property, but no representative of the property owner was present. Given the limited information provided, the Commission determined that approving the request would not be in the best interest of the City.

Gary Guerrieri resides at 99 Dolphin Lane. He expressed concern about recent trends in City decision-making. He noted that, given the importance of current issues, he had expected greater public attendance but hoped that citizens would be following online. Mr. Guerrieri remarked that recent meetings had taken on the tone of a soap opera and suggested that a power play appeared to be influencing City matters, benefiting those in positions of authority more than the general public. He stated that he had heard claims that certain boards, including the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Economic Development Corporation (EDC), were composed of appointees who continued to have oversight over projects they were involved in. Mr. Guerrieri voiced concern about efforts to bypass or override long-term board decisions and to reduce the number of votes required for final approvals, which he viewed as an attempt to consolidate control among fewer individuals. Mr. Guerrieri concluded by urging that officials be judged by their actions rather than their words, emphasizing that statements made in meetings should be consistent with subsequent conduct.

Con McCleester stated that he resides in Freeport and shared his personal thoughts concerning the City's zoning process and master plan. He explained that the Planning and Zoning Commission is responsible for creating and maintaining the City's ten-year master plan, which is reviewed every five years. He noted that new zoning regulations and maps were approved in 2022 as part of that plan, and that these changes resolved several long-standing issues, including spot zoning and nonconforming uses. He emphasized that the members of the Planning and Zoning Commission, along with City Code Enforcement, provide informed recommendations to the Council and are highly qualified in interpreting the City's zoning codes. He further addressed discussion surrounding the three-quarters supermajority requirement for certain zoning approvals or denials, explaining that such provisions are common and supported by state legislation, including Senate Bills 1524 and 840. Mr. McCleester clarified that the Planning and Zoning Commission does not hold greater authority than the City Council, as the Council appoints its members and retains final voting power. Mr. McCleester emphasized the importance of maintaining zoning integrity, noting that industrial development should not be placed adjacent to residential neighborhoods. He stated that commercial zoning is intended to serve as a buffer between residential and industrial areas and warned that changing long-established residential zones to industrial would be a mistake.

Diane McCleester resides at 97 Dolphin Lane. She thanked the Council for allowing her to speak and noted that several residents from the Dolphin Street area were present. She expressed concern about proposed changes to zoning regulations, as well as potential adjustments to the duties of the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Board of Adjustments. Ms. McCleester stated that the Planning and Zoning Board is a regulated part of the City structure that enforces land use and real estate regulations. She explained that the Board helps guide community development to ensure that land use aligns with the community's vision and

that zoning decisions serve the public interest. The Board, she said, strives to maintain a balance between property owners' rights and the rights of the public to live in safe, secure, and orderly neighborhoods. She noted that the Council appoints members of the Planning and Zoning Board, which follows specific decision criteria outlined in Ordinance 154.502. Ms. McCleester emphasized that accurate and complete information is critical for making sound decisions and that boards are established to ensure such informed deliberation. She cautioned that uninformed decisions are rarely the right ones. Addressing a discussion about supermajority voting requirements, Ms. McCleester explained that a supermajority is not about power but about ensuring that Planning and Zoning decisions are made thoughtfully and with due care. She stated that individual requests should not override broader community interests and that any reversal of a Planning and Zoning a no vote should be carefully researched to determine how such a change would affect the City's master plan, zoning, and residents.

Eric Hayes resides at 1507 West Broad Street. He expressed surprise at seeing the proposed zoning-related item appear on the Council agenda. He stated that, aside from one individual, Councilman George, no other Councilmembers had attended recent Planning and Zoning Commission meetings. Mr. Hayes referenced a previous comment from Councilman Davis, who had noted that citizens could reach out to him directly. Mr. Hayes emphasized that the same principle applies to the Planning and Zoning Commission if Councilmembers disagreed with the Commission's actions or decisions, they could attend meetings or communicate directly with the board rather than attempting to change established procedures through Council action. Mr. Hayes explained that the Commission recently issued a unanimous four-to-zero recommendation on a rezoning matter, noting that one board seat remains vacant more than thirty days past due for appointment. He stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission exists to provide procedural oversight and to make recommendations that protect the long-term interests of the City. He cautioned against removing the existing safeguard that requires a supermajority for Council action, contrary to the Commission's recommendation. Mr. Hayes argued that eliminating this requirement would allow a simple three-vote Council majority to alter zoning ordinances that could affect the entire City of Freeport. He concluded that such a change would reduce the balance and oversight intended by the City's zoning process.

David McGinty resides at 521 West Broad Street. He stated that his comments were not intended to show disrespect but to express his personal thoughts and beliefs regarding the matter. He characterized the proposed change, which would alter how the City Council may overturn decisions made by City boards and commissions, as a power play designed to allow certain individuals to achieve their desired outcomes regardless of prior recommendations. Mr. McGinty referred to prior discussions by other speakers regarding the technical aspects of the Planning and Zoning process and explained that he wished to address a different concern. He stated that the current proposal was connected to the Wong urban renewal property and alleged that the intent was to benefit a particular individual seeking control of that land. Mr. McGinty asserted that the individual in question was a land speculator with no intention of constructing housing or developing the property as promised. He further stated that past assurances had not been fulfilled and that rezoning actions would only serve to enable additional broken commitments. Mr. McGinty questioned whether engaged citizens were wasting their time volunteering for City service if their recommendations could be disregarded, expressing concern that the Council could choose to replace citizen boards entirely to retain control over all decisions. Mr. McGinty concluded by stating that, in his view, the proposed amendment was intended to bypass established rules and protections to favor private interests.

Andrew Dill resides at 132 Brazos Landing Court. He questioned why these provisions had become controversial only after a recent zoning request involving Clinton Wong, noting that the rules had not previously been disputed. Mr. Dill stated that, during an August 20th meeting in the City Manager's office with Mr. Pennington and City Attorney Chris Duncan, he was initially told that one of the referenced rules did not exist until it was later located in the City's code. He stated that subsequent discussion and correspondence with the City Attorney led to a new proposal to eliminate an additional section of the ordinance. Mr. Dill expressed frustration, suggesting that continual review of the zoning code was being

used to justify removing longstanding procedural safeguards. Mr. Dill also addressed a statement contained in a City memo claiming that the Planning and Zoning Commission held more power than the City Council, clarifying that he had never made such a statement. He affirmed that the Commission serves at the pleasure of the Council and that members can be replaced at any time. He criticized the proposed procedural changes, asserting that their purpose was to reduce the number of votes required for rezoning approval. He referenced language from the proposed ordinance, which stated that the amendment would serve the "health, safety, morals, and general welfare" of the City's inhabitants. Mr. Dill questioned this assertion, suggesting instead that the amendment would consolidate power in the hands of fewer people and remove important checks and balances within the City's governance process. He further expressed concern that the changes could allow residential land to be converted to industrial use with the approval of only three Councilmembers, that a few thousand dollars given to certain members could improperly influence such decisions. In closing, he stated that he had compiled a growing list of residents including names, addresses, and contact information who had signed a protest petition against the proposed changes. Mr. Dill noted that many of these individuals reported never receiving formal notice regarding the zoning matter, but said they would now be informed.

Sandra Wood-Wickey stated that she has lived in Freeport for most of her life and has previously served on the City Council. She expressed concern that recent actions and proposals by the Council were a slap in the face to the volunteers who serve on City boards and commissions. She emphasized that Councilmembers are responsible for appointing the right people to these positions, demonstrating both respect and trust in their service. Ms. Wood-Wickey commended Planning and Zoning Commission member Eric Hayes, noting that she has known him since birth and is impressed by his knowledge, dedication, and the time he devotes to understanding City regulations for the benefit of the community. She stated that it would be wrong to allow three Councilmembers to override the recommendations of a larger group of volunteers who have spent time and effort studying the issues. She urged the Council to consider how their actions will appear to the public and to recognize the hard work of those who contribute to making the City a better place. Ms. Wood-Wickey concluded by saying that while she does not always agree with zoning decisions, the current process provides important checks and balances, and she asked the Council to reflect carefully and pray on it before making changes.

Business

Discuss and take possible action to retain and appoint the position of city attorney.

Discuss and take possible action to amend ordinance section 155.1109

Councilman Pena began by thanking those in attendance and acknowledging members of the public watching the meeting online. He also thanked his fellow Councilmembers for attending the special meeting, noting that the meeting could have been avoided had the matter been included on the regular Monday agenda.

A motion was made by Councilman Pena to discuss and take possible action to amend ordinance section 155.1109, seconded by Councilman Davis with discussion that followed.

Councilman Pena began by thanking residents for attending the special meeting, noting the participation from multiple wards and the additional attention from those viewing online. He stated that public involvement and transparency were critical to Freeport's progress and emphasized that the purpose of the meeting was to clarify the intent of the proposed ordinance change. He explained that the amendment was not intended to reduce transparency or limit public input but rather to remove unnecessary political, uninformed, biased bureaucracy and create a more efficient, democratic process. Councilman Pena explained that the authority to make zoning and policy decisions is vested equally among all five members of the City Council, who were elected and entrusted by the residents of Freeport to act on their behalf. He emphasized that the change under discussion was simple housekeeping and that it would not alter the existing zoning

procedures that require public notification and resident input. Councilman Pena expressed concern that some community members and board representatives were operating with incomplete or biased information, which he said had contributed to delays in local development. He cited the saying, "If you keep repeating the same thing and expect a different result, that is called insanity," to illustrate his belief that those same individuals had been gatekeeping the process and preventing progress. He reiterated that all existing public notice requirements and zoning processes would remain in place under the proposed ordinance and that residents would continue to be informed of any zoning changes. Councilman Pena said that the amendment would not permit unilateral decisions by the Council but would maintain transparency and accountability in the City's governance. He stated that claims suggesting otherwise were completely incorrect and described such information as misrepresentations of the intent behind the ordinance. He reiterated that all residents would continue to be informed and have the opportunity to participate in the zoning process. He further remarked that the proposed change was not intended to diminish public involvement but to streamline procedures by removing unnecessary bureaucratic barriers. Councilman Pena stated that the amendment would consolidate administrative authority within the elected Council, rather than City boards, while still maintaining transparency and accountability. He acknowledged the dedication and experience of current board members, noting that many had served the City for years and contributed valuable input. However, he explained that his intention in proposing the change was to ensure that final decision-making authority rests with the City Council, which is directly accountable to the voters. Councilman Pena added that residents directly affected by any zoning proposal would continue to have the right to petition the City, and that if 20 percent of nearby property owners filed a protest, a supermajority vote of the Council would still be required for approval. He described a recent conversation with Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman Andy Dill concerning a 300-acre parcel of urban renewal property. Councilman Pena said that Mr. Dill had expressed concerns about certain development proposals and the community's reaction to them. He recounted advising Mr. Dill to take a proactive approach by reducing conflict and encouraging open communication between residents, the Council, and developers. Councilman Pena stated that he urged Mr. Dill to help organize a community meeting that would bring together key stakeholders to discuss development plans constructively. He added that such collaboration would allow the City to gather meaningful input while avoiding unnecessary confrontation and misinformation that could discourage future investment. He emphasized that the goal of this effort was to replace drama with transparency, proactive discussion, and accountability. Councilman Pena commended Mr. Dill's commitment to serving the public interest and expressed appreciation for his diligence in researching and understanding the issues before the City. He concluded by saying he valued both citizen engagement and the Planning and Zoning Commission's continued involvement in supporting informed decision-making. Councilman Pena stated that he had encouraged Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman Andy Dill to serve as a representative for a citizen group engaged in discussions about local development projects. He explained that while the decision to include Mr. Dill in future meetings would rest with the full Council, he valued Mr. Dill's initiative and his commitment to ensuring that the public remains informed and involved in City matters. He commended both Mr. Dill and the residents who dedicate time to studying and understanding the City's development processes. Councilman Pena emphasized the importance of residents being fully informed, adding that the current discussion was not about a single project but about addressing long-standing issues that have slowed Freeport's progress. He referenced old grievances and indicated that he intended to discuss, at a later date, what he described as past instances of graft involving former City officials and mayors, which he said had hindered development in the community.

Councilman Davis began by thanking all attendees for their participation and reaffirming the Council's respect for residents and volunteers who serve on City boards and commissions. He commended Planning and Zoning Commission members, including Mr. Eric Hayes and Chairman Andy Dill, for their dedication and for the time they invest in studying regulations and procedures that support the City's operations. He stated that the Council had not discussed removing any board members and believed that all were performing their duties responsibly. Councilman Davis emphasized the importance of transparency, communication, and collaboration between the Council, City boards, and the public. He supported the idea

of Planning and Zoning holding meetings with community members to promote mutual understanding and encouraged greater resident involvement in decision-making. He acknowledged that both the Council and residents could improve communication and stated his commitment to being more proactive in that effort. He clarified that the ordinance under discussion was not intended to approve any specific industrial zoning or development and that it should not be interpreted as such. Councilman Davis noted that he did not agree with annexing or rezoning property to industrial use and stated that the matter before the Council concerned procedural improvements, not the approval of specific developments. Councilman Davis further addressed confusion surrounding petitions circulated among residents. He explained that some citizens may have misunderstood the nature of the proposal and stressed the importance of sharing accurate information and facts. He encouraged residents to speak directly with Councilmembers to ensure they receive clear explanations. He also called for greater collaboration between residents, developers, and the Council, suggesting that open dialogue could help prevent misinformation and foster constructive solutions. He stated that the community must work together to reach agreements that reflect the best interests of Freeport as a whole. Councilman Davis said that the agenda item did not concern approving a 300-acre rezoning request, as some residents believed. He urged the public not to misinterpret the discussion and emphasized that the Council remained committed to transparency, fairness, and informed decision-making for the benefit of all Freeport citizens. Councilman Davis stated that while the City Council could meet with the developer to discuss and negotiate issues related to proposed developments, the matter under consideration at the meeting did not involve approving any specific zoning change. He emphasized that the Council was not voting to approve the rezoning of approximately 300 acres, as some members of the public had suggested. He expressed his commitment to honesty and transparency, stating that he had been truthful in his communications with both residents and colleagues and that he appreciated the same candor in return. Councilman Davis said that despite differences of opinion, the Council and the public remained on real grounds of mutual respect and understanding. He reiterated that the current agenda item did not concern the approval of any industrial project or specific development and urged residents not to misinterpret the discussion. Councilman Davis noted that some individuals in the audience had mischaracterized the purpose of the meeting and stressed that the Council's discussion should focus on facts rather than speculation. He concluded by reaffirming his position that the Council was acting responsibly and transparently and that no zoning approvals were being decided at that time.

Councilman Matamoros stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission is composed of five appointed members, though one position is currently vacant, leaving four active members: Mr. Hayes, Mr. Dill, Mr. Saccommano, and Mr. Bachman. He commended each member for bringing a unique and valuable perspective to the board, noting that they come from diverse professional backgrounds. He emphasized that such diversity allows the board to consider different viewpoints and collectively determine what is in the best interest of the City. Councilman Matamoros explained that the item recently considered by the Planning and Zoning Commission involved a request to change a property's zoning classification from residential to industrial. Councilman Matamoros explained the distinction between light industrial and heavy industrial zoning categories, noting that light industrial typically involves manufacturing, small distribution centers, and packaging, while heavy industrial includes chemical manufacturing, mining, and power production. He stated that these distinctions were a source of concern for the Planning and Zoning Commission, which had carefully researched and considered its decision on the recent rezoning request. He reiterated that the Planning and Zoning Commission does not hold ultimate authority in zoning decisions, as all zoning changes must still be approved by the City Council. He confirmed this through a procedural question to City Attorney Chris Duncan, who affirmed that final approval rests with the Council. Councilman Matamoros then referred to the agenda item's background statement, which suggested amending the ordinance to reaffirm Council's ultimate authority over zoning changes without requiring prior Planning and Zoning review. He expressed concern that such language appeared to diminish the role of the Planning and Zoning Commission and undermine the system of checks and balances established in City governance. He reflected on Freeport's history, noting that the City was formed in 1957 through the merger of Velasco and Freeport, and that many capable leaders over the years had shaped its charter and procedures to ensure fairness and

accountability. He cautioned that disregarding these long-standing processes would be shortsighted and could erode the structure of local government. Councilman Matamoros warned that removing the oversight of Planning and Zoning could lead to unregulated development, comparing it to Houston's free-for-all zoning environment. He emphasized that while he may not always agree with members of the Planning and Zoning Commission, he respected their opinions and the important work they perform for the community. Councilman Matamoros stated that the Council already holds ultimate authority and that further amending the ordinance would be unnecessary, short-sighted, foolish, asinine, and, a murder to our democracy. He concluded by stating that he would vote accordingly.

Mayor Cain asked City Attorney Chris Duncan to clarify which portions of the ordinance were being amended, specifically referencing Section A of 155.1109. Mr. Duncan confirmed that only that section was being modified and that the existing language regarding Planning and Zoning's ability to initiate written requests for text amendments would remain unchanged. He explained that the Planning and Zoning Commission may propose amendments by submitting a written request to the City Manager or City Council, after which the item would be placed on a meeting agenda, discussed, and voted on before being forwarded to the City Council with a recommendation. Mayor Cain then asked for clarification about the wording change from City Council to City Council member in the proposed amendment. Mr. Duncan explained that under state law, any change to a zoning regulation such as reclassifying property from R-1 to R-2 or redefining zoning categories must follow the standard procedural process. This process requires review by the Planning and Zoning Commission, the issuance of public notices to affected property owners, the holding of a public hearing, and a formal recommendation sent to City Council, which then makes the final determination. He emphasized that this procedure always applies when changes involve zoning regulations. Mr. Duncan further noted that Chapter 155 of the City's Code of Ordinances contains additional local requirements not mandated by state law. For example, a previous amendment, Section 155.1108, established a supermajority voting requirement, which exceeds the standard state requirement of a simple majority. These locally created provisions were added by City Council in 2021 and are considered extra requirements beyond those required under Texas law. He clarified that the proposed amendment under discussion applies only to these locally adopted procedural provisions—not to state-mandated zoning regulations. The change would allow an individual Councilmember to place proposed amendments to such provisions on the agenda for consideration. If a matter is not governed by state law or does not require Planning and Zoning review, a single Councilmember could initiate discussion and potential modification of those procedural requirements. Mr. Duncan reiterated that the amendment does not alter or bypass the legally required zoning procedures established by state law. Mr. Duncan emphasized that it was important for both the City Council and the public to fully understand the language, meaning, and effect of the proposed amendment before any vote was taken. He noted that transparency and open deliberation were essential so that citizens could observe the Council's discussion and clearly understand what the proposed change would and would not do. He explained that under the current ordinance, any change to provisions in Chapter 155 of the City Code must be referred back to the Planning and Zoning Commission. He further noted that the amendment under discussion would not only apply to the supermajority voting requirement previously established under Section 155.1108, but also to other additional requirements adopted by Council in 2021 that go beyond what is required by state statute. He reiterated that state law generally requires only a super majority vote for Council action, and that it is uncommon for other cities to impose a supermajority requirement. Mayor Cain sought clarification on the wording change in the proposed amendment from "City Council" to "City Council member." He asked whether this wording would allow a single Councilmember to place an item on the agenda for discussion. City Attorney Duncan confirmed that the revised wording would permit any one Councilmember to request that an item be placed on a City Council agenda for consideration. He explained that, as a matter of standard procedure, when a Councilmember wishes to place an item on an agenda, the request is typically made through the City Manager's office or the City Secretary. The item is then forwarded to the City Attorney, who prepares the necessary documentation and ordinance language to reflect the Councilmember's intent. Mr. Duncan emphasized that his role as City Attorney is administrative and non-political his responsibility is to ensure that the proposed language accurately reflects the intent of

the requesting Councilmember, regardless of whether other members or the public agree or disagree with the proposal.

Mayor Cain expressed concern about the proposed wording that referred to a City Council member instead of City Council as a whole. He noted that in the past, Council rules required at least two Councilmembers to sponsor an item for placement on the agenda. He questioned whether the new language could conflict with those procedures and whether it would allow a single Councilmember to place an item on the agenda independently. City Attorney Duncan confirmed that, as written, the amendment would allow any individual Councilmember to request that an item be placed on the agenda for consideration. He explained that if the Council later reinstated a two-member requirement, this section of the ordinance would also need to be revised to maintain consistency. Leaving conflicting language in place could create procedural confusion, he said, and any inconsistency between the City Code and Council rules would need to be resolved through an additional amendment. Interim City Manager Dan Pennington asked City Attorney Chris Duncan if he could put it such as it is worded that it goes under the current rules of putting stuff on the Council, so when the rule changes it changes. Mr. Duncan said yes or it could be changed to say or requested by the Councilmembers pursuant to the rules in effect for placing items on the agenda.

Councilman Pena amended his motion.

City Attorney Chris Duncan also addressed a separate provision in the proposed amendment, explaining that the final sentence "All other changes may be approved by a majority vote of the City Council" applied only to those portions of Chapter 155 that were not governed by state law. He stated that most of Chapter 155 deals with zoning regulations, which must always follow state mandated procedures through Planning and Zoning. However, procedural provisions or extra requirements added locally in 2021 could be amended directly by a majority vote of the Council. Mr. Duncan said that clarification was intended to ensure consistency with state law and to preserve Council's authority to modify its own local procedural rules while maintaining transparency and avoiding confusion. Mayor Cain stated that he fully supports adhering to all requirements mandated by state and federal law. However, he emphasized that the City of Freeport operates as its own entity and that certain local rules and practices may differ from those followed in other municipalities, such as Austin, Lake Jackson, or Angleton. He concluded by stating that he was comfortable with the ordinance as currently written and believed it appropriately reflected the City's needs and local governance structure.

Councilman Davis stated that he was glad City Attorney Chris Duncan had explained the details of the ordinance, noting that it helped clarify several questions and misunderstandings. He emphasized that the amendment under discussion did not change the entire ordinance or alter any provisions required by state law, but only addressed a specific section that had been modified by a prior City Council in 2021. He noted that, just as a previous Council had exercised its authority to adopt the prior version, the current Council also had the right to make revisions it believed were in the best interest of the City.

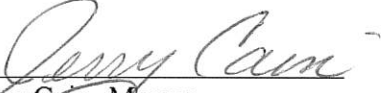
Councilman Pena reflected on the importance of progress and the need for change within the City of Freeport. He noted that while the founding fathers of the country, the state, and the city were well-intentioned, their original frameworks were not without flaws. Using historical examples, he referenced the Civil Rights movement and changes to property tax laws as instances where evolving circumstances required reform. He also discussed Freeport's local history, explaining that the City's political structure once limited representation by design, with minority residents historically concentrated in specific areas. He observed that subsequent changes to the City's voting and governance system, including the establishment of ward-based representation, were made to ensure that all citizens could have their voices heard and bring forward new ideas and perspectives. Councilman Pena stated that he believed the City was now ready for change and residential and that the proposed ordinance amendment would help advance residential growth and development in Freeport.

Councilman Pena amended his motion and said he would like to amend his motion with the modification that City Attorney Chris Duncan brought up so that it complies with the Mayor's concern, seconded by Councilman Davis with all present and voting "Aye" 2-3. The motion failed. Mayor Cain voted "Nay", Councilman Matamoros voted "Nay", Councilman Rossow voted "Aye".

Adjournment

Adjournment – Jerry Cain, Mayor

A motion was made by Councilman Matamoros to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Davis with all present and voting "Aye" 5-0. Mayor Cain adjourned the meeting at 7:28P.M.



Jerry Cain, Mayor



Clarisa Fernandez, City Secretary