

State of Texas

County of Brazoria

City of Freeport

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the City Council of Freeport, Texas met on Monday, March 16, 2026 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: Danielle M Kelly, DPA, City Manager
Clarisa Fernandez, City Secretary
Ashlee Hurst, Finance Director
Toby Cohen, IT Director
Corey Brinkman, Police Captain
Chris Motley, Fire Chief
Maria Lopez, Main Street Coordinator
Loretta Cady, Interim Museum Director
Craig Graham, Police Lieutenant

Visitors: David McGinty Esmeralda Castillo
Melanie Oldham Matthew Castillo
Nicole Mireles Kelly Axtman
Sam Reyna Thomas Koole
Linda Marshall Ron Bachman
Manning Rollerson Margaret Bachman

Call to Order:

Call to Order - Jerry Cain, Mayor

Mayor Cain called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Freeport City Council to order at 6:01P.M. on March 16, 2026, 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.

Matters Subsequent to Posting.

City Manager Dr. Danielle Kelly stated that there were no matters subsequent to posting.

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.

Carmen Caballete addressed the council regarding the sudden cancellation of Zumba classes at the Freeport Recreation Center, expressing frustration and concern on behalf of the members who regularly attend these sessions. She explained that the cancellation of these four classes was communicated without early notice, attributing it to financial issues that the recreation center was facing. This abrupt decision left many participants, who had already paid for their monthly membership, feeling unsettled and unfairly treated. Ms. Caballete highlighted the significance of these Zumba classes to the community, emphasizing that approximately 40 members, including many elderly individuals, partake in these sessions. She noted that the classes offer valuable health benefits and serve as an outlet for stress relief, as well as an opportunity for social interaction and exercise. Ms. Caballete expressed frustration regarding the lack of communication from the office personnel regarding this matter. She expressed disappointment that no official notice was provided, either physically at the gym or on public platforms like Facebook, resulting in confusion among the members, some of whom remained unaware of the class cancellations. Stressing the importance of these classes for maintaining both physical health and community bonds, Ms. Caballete earnestly requested that the council reconsider their decision and take action to reinstate the classes.

Manning Rollerson addressed the council, focusing on the recent 14th Court of Appeals decision which ruled in favor of the Tilly and Marshall families against the Port of Freeport, citing there was no justifiable public path for the seizure of property. Mr. Rollerson talked about the city's handling of the East End historical district, stating that the area was improperly given away without clear and legitimate public pathways. He emphasized the need for the city to take accountability and rectify the situation by either recovering the land or providing appropriate compensation to the affected residents. Mr. Rollerson highlighted the significance of the court's ruling, stating it determined a crime had been committed against Freeport residents. He reported that the families involved are seeking to launch a class action lawsuit, aimed not only at the Port of Freeport but also potentially implicating the city. Mr. Rollerson appealed to the city to advocate for the residents' rights, suggesting that failure to do so could result in him personally suing the city, noting the city's inability to withstand such a lawsuit. He concluded by urging the council to align themselves with the citizens of Freeport, especially those from the impacted black historical district, and declared that accountability must prevail if justice is to be served.

Esmeralda Castillo spoke in support of reinstating the Zumba classes. She explained that her son, who was previously on medication, experienced significant health improvements after starting the Zumba program, leading to the removal of his medication. Ms. Castillo also mentioned that her own health had benefited from participating in the classes, with favorable outcomes in her medical evaluations, making her doctor very happy with her progress. She underscored the importance of the Zumba classes for both her and her son's health, suggesting that reinstating the program would continue to provide these valuable benefits to participants.

Sam Reyna addressed the council regarding the security measures implemented in the council chamber. Mr. Reyna labeled the measures as excessive and financially burdensome, alleging that they stemmed from what he described as Councilman Pena's imagined threats to his safety. He argued that the current setup makes the council chamber resemble a courtroom both in appearance and atmosphere. He suggested that if such measures align the space with courtroom standards, then rules like the removal of hats should be enforced, pointing out that Councilman Pena consistently wears his hat during city council meetings. Mr. Reyna noted that Councilman Pena removes his hat in actual courtrooms, underscoring his call for consistent decorum. In addition, Mr. Reyna directed his comments towards agenda items 4D and 4C. He highlighted the past interest expressed by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in acquiring city property for a new

administration building. His remarks indicated skepticism about the motivations behind the proposals, recalling previous instances where the Chamber sought property donations. Mr. Reyna further commented on Vernor Materials & Equipment Company's petition for release from the city's extraterritorial jurisdiction, expressing surprise that such a move, which seemed unfavorable for city integration, had taken so long to materialize. His commentary implied a critique of past city decisions and a call for accountability and transparency in current proceedings.

Finance Director Ashlee Hurst addressed the council, providing an update on an innovative initiative to engage the community in the upcoming fiscal year 2026-27 budget process. She announced the launch of a new community engagement tool available on the city's website, underscoring its role in facilitating easier communication between residents and city officials. Ms. Hurst described the tool as part of a broader effort to bring fresh perspectives and ideas into the city's financial planning by actively involving residents, business owners, and community stakeholders. This platform is part of the new OpenGov budget software previously approved by the council, enabling the city to collect diverse feedback and input from the public effectively. Ms. Hurst highlighted that the tool allows residents to participate in community feedback surveys, voting on ideas, and share their priorities for the city's future projects, which can cover a wide range of topics impacting Freeport. Residents can choose to remain anonymous or make their responses public, fostering an inclusive dialogue about the city's financial and strategic planning. She emphasized the administration's commitment to transitioning Freeport towards a more transparent and responsive government. Ms. Hurst stated this budget planning approach represents a significant departure from previous methods and underscores a new era of collaboration between city officials and residents. She encouraged all members of the community to take advantage of this opportunity to ensure their voices are heard in shaping the fiscal policies and priorities of the city for the next budget year.

Proclamations - Presentations and Updates

Employee Recognitions – Employee of the Month, Kelli Yates, Court Supervisor, Municipal Court- Dr. Danielle Kelly, City Manager

City Manager Dr. Danielle Kelly presented the employee of the month to Kelli Yates, Court Supervisor, Municipal Court.

Upcoming Events -

Move & Groove, Freeport Downtown, March 21, 7:30A.M.

Blue Santa Annual Golf Fundraiser, Freeport Golf Course, March 27, 7:00A.M.-4:00P.M.

Easter Eggstravaganza, Freeport Municipal Park, March 28, 9:00A.M.

Community Cleanup, 431 West 4th Street, April 18, 8:00A.M.

City Manager Dr. Danielle Kelly gave updates on upcoming events.

Consent Agenda:

Action regarding Minutes, March 2, 2026 - Clarisa Fernandez, City Secretary

Action approving the Monthly Financial Report through February 28, 2026 - Ashlee Hurst, Finance Director

A motion was made by Councilman Matamoros to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Councilman Rossow with all present and voting "Aye" 5-0. The Council unanimously approved the motion.

Business

Consideration and possible action awarding RFQ# 2026-01 - Heritage House Architectural & Design Services to Slate Architecture.

Finance Director Ashlee Hurst explained that Slate Architecture was the only respondent to the RFQ for Heritage House (Pixie House) architectural services. The proposal was thoroughly reviewed by city staff, including the City Engineer, City Manager, Building Official, Main Street coordinator, and herself, and deemed well-qualified. Slate Architecture's proposal was strong, and the firm would coordinate with the Texas Historical Commission to ensure historical preservation standards are met.

A motion was made by Councilman Davis to award RFQ# 2026-01-Heritage House Architectural & Design Services to Slate Architecture, seconded by Mayor Cain with discussion that followed.

Councilman Pena questioned why an RFQ was issued when he believed general contractors could provide scope assessments for free. He recalled that previous estimates for repairs came in around substantially less than the \$375,000 allocated from bond funds. Councilman Pena expressed concern that this approach might not utilize funds efficiently, suggesting that contractors might have already identified the necessary work. He stated that the project could perhaps proceed by gathering bids from general contractors instead to save on design costs.

Kelly Axtman from Slate Architecture presented their 30-year history and experience with historic buildings, explaining their qualifications. He outlined several building issues: foundation concerns, envelope problems such as windows and weather sealing, structural floor and stair issues, and needed mechanical/electrical/plumbing upgrades. Mr. Axtman emphasized the importance of a thorough assessment before construction, including a potential second egress requirement and ADA compliance review. He reported that they had a strong team, including a structural engineer and mechanical/plumbing experts, ready to take a detailed look at the building and suggested a multi-phased approach to renovation, prioritizing immediate needs like preventing water intrusion.

Councilman Davis supported moving forward with the proposal, noting the building's deterioration and the importance of doing the renovation correctly. He appreciated Mr. Axtman's identification of the second stairway safety issue, as it pointed to life safety improvements needed for future public use. Councilman Davis advocated starting the process to ensure the building did not continue to degrade further.

Councilman Matamoros sought specific reassurance about whether Slate Architecture had experience with non-residential historic buildings, and he raised concerns about the potential for project costs to exceed the \$375,000 bond allocation. He stated that there are several priorities within the city that also required attention.

Councilman Rossow focused on the immediate need to stop water damage, asking if the current budget could address at least the envelope issues to prevent further deterioration. He was interested in a

phased approach that would first protect the building from ongoing weather damage. Councilman Rossow acknowledged the need for a strategic plan to make the building usable but was primarily concerned about halting deterioration to protect prior investments in the property.

Mayor Cain stated the importance of balancing historic preservation, safety standards, and financial responsibility. He acknowledged the immediate need to protect the building from weather impacts while maintaining budget discipline.

Mayor Cain called the motion to a vote with all present and voting "Aye" 5-0. The Council unanimously approved the motion.

Discussion and Direction: Development of 2026 City Council Strategic Priorities.

City Manager Dr. Danielle Kelly presented the attached presentation titled "Exhibit A". She explained that the council members had each submitted their priorities, which had been organized into six overarching themes: infrastructure and utilities, public safety assets, youth recreation, economic development and tourism, municipal service delivery, and city facilities and public assets. Dr. Kelly outlined the detailed steps that are intended to follow this thematic organization. She clarified the purpose of the current meeting was not to finalize decisions but to begin shaping the council's direction. This initial framework will be taken to the community for broader input. The results of this engagement process, along with refined analyses and feedback, will then be returned to the council in a subsequent session on April 20th. This will allow the council to select top priorities that will guide the development of the 2026-2027 budget.

Consideration and possible action adopting Resolution No. 2026-3038 Granting a Petition for Release from Extraterritorial Jurisdiction by Vernor Materials & Equipment Co, Inc.

City Manager Dr. Danielle Kelly provided an explanation regarding the request from Vernor Materials & Equipment Co., Inc. to be released from the city's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). She noted that according to recent changes in state legislation, property owners now have an unconditional right to be released from a city's ETJ. Under Chapter 42 of the Texas Local Government Code, the city is legally obligated to grant such a release, and if the city does not act within the specified 45-day period, the release becomes effective automatically.

A motion was made by Councilman Matamoros to approve Resolution No. 2026-3038 as presented, seconded by Councilman Davis with discussion that followed.

Councilman Pena raised concerns about whether Freeport benefits from any ad valorem tax revenues from properties within the ETJ and inquired about the financial impact of the release. In response, Finance Director Ashlee Hurst clarified that taxes collected from ETJ properties are directed to the county rather than the city, indicating that Freeport would not experience a direct financial loss from the release of this particular property.

Mayor Cain called the motion to a vote with all present and voting "Aye" 4-1. The Council approved the motion. Councilman Pena voted "Nay".

Consider and take possible action to select alternate property substitution options and authorize all necessary actions to remove Open Space Program restrictions on the City-owned 25-acre tract located on Second Street.

Councilman Pena requested to discuss this item in executive session.

Melanie Oldham resides at 531 West Brazos Street. She addressed the council concerning the removal of open space restrictions from the specified parcel. Ms. Oldham, who has been attending city meetings for 18 years, conveyed apprehensions about the potential implications of such a move. She was particularly concerned by the possibility of losing public access along the river. Over the years, various proposals had emerged, such as the Hispanic Chamber's interest in developing a cultural event center and potential hotel developments, all of which sought river access, thus potentially restricting public usage. She highlighted the city's existing parkland deficits, reminding the council of the need to replace Lincoln Park, which had been sold in the past, and the undeveloped Clinton Wong land known as Houston Park. Ms. Oldham requested clarification regarding what Councilman Pena meant by the removal of Open Space Program restrictions. She expressed concern about whether this would result in the loss of public access to river areas, emphasizing the importance of such spaces, and she awaited further explanation.

Councilman Pena stated his vision, which sought to maximize the usage of the riverfront and enhance public access. He assured the public that the plans were intended to improve public access rather than restrict it,

signaling that there were big fun ideas coming down the pipe.

A motion was made by Mayor Cain to table this item (4D), seconded by Councilman Matamoros with all present and voting "Aye" 3-2. The Council approved the motion to table this item. Councilman Pena voted "Nay". Councilman Davis voted "Nay".

Consider and take possible action to establish the Shonda Marshall Public Service Civic Award, a posthumous award to be presented annually to a Freeport resident who has demonstrated exemplary commitment to public service in the City of Freeport.

Councilman Pena proposed the establishment of an award to honor Ms. Shonda Marshall. Despite facing significant challenges due to being both blind and deaf, Ms. Marshall remained an exemplary figure of public service, regularly attending city meetings, and actively participating in multiple boards. Councilman Pena emphasized her unwavering dedication, integrity, and transparency, which set an exceptional example for all citizens in Freeport. Her efforts represented a high standard of civic involvement, and Councilman Pena regarded her as a beacon for community engagement.

A motion was made by Councilman Pena to establish the Shonda Marshall Public Service Civic Award, a posthumous award to be presented annually to a Freeport resident who has demonstrated exemplary commitment to public service in the City of Freeport, seconded by Councilman Davis with discussion that followed.

Councilman Davis expressed strong support for the proposal, highlighting Ms. Marshall's remarkable ability to prepare and participate actively in civic matters despite her disabilities. He described her as an inspiration to everyone who knew her or witnessed her efforts. He endorsed the initiative to honor her legacy by naming the award after her, reinforcing the point that her service to the city was truly extraordinary.

Councilman Matamoros offered a slightly different perspective, suggesting the award be established as a more generic civic honor. He proposed that Ms. Marshall be recognized as the first recipient of this citizen of the year type of award, acknowledging her significant contributions. Councilman Matamoros pointed out that numerous other residents had also dedicated themselves significantly to the city's betterment over the years.

Mayor Cain echoed Councilman Matamoros' sentiments, agreeing with the idea of creating a broader award that recognizes outstanding citizens of Freeport. He noted that while Shonda Marshall was undoubtedly deserving of recognition, the award could also honor other citizens who have made substantial contributions to the community.

Mayor Cain called the motion to a vote with all present and voting "Aye" 3-2. The Council approved the motion. Mayor Cain voted "Nay". Councilman Matamoros voted "Nay".

Consider and take possible action regarding Freeport's City Branding Strategy.

Melanie Oldham addressed the council regarding the discussion on the city's proposed rebranding efforts. She expressed concern about the inclusion of the phrase "industry thrive" in the proposed vision of a versatile Texas city where coastal tourism, residential life, maritime commerce, and industry coexist. Ms. Oldham indicated that this language was troubling to her and questioned its meaning, suggesting that further clarification from Mr. Pena would be helpful. She referenced language in the proposal about eliminating negative perceptions of industrial activity and emphasized that while existing industry should remain and be good neighbors, additional industrial expansion may not be necessary. Instead, she advocated for supporting small businesses, increasing commercial development, and expanding housing. Ms. Oldham also highlighted the city's natural assets, such as the river and beach, as key components of its identity and future growth.

She concluded by reiterating the need for further discussion on what it means for industry to “thrive” within the community.

Councilman Pena spoke strongly in favor of rebranding Freeport, stating that the city’s reputation as an industrial wasteland needs transformation. He emphasized the importance of leveraging Freeport's coastal assets and proposed branding the city as Freeport Beach to immediately signal the city's unique coastal offerings. Councilman Pena's proposal aimed to combat outdated perceptions and pivot the city's identity toward being more dynamic and multifaceted. Councilman Pena also stated about the current Economic Development Corporation (EDC), alleging past corruption, cover-ups, and illegalities. He questioned the EDC's authority and effectiveness in handling citywide branding endeavors. Councilman Pena expressed disappointment that the EDC had not consulted the council regarding any rebranding initiatives they might have undertaken.

A motion was made by Mayor Cain to deny Freeport's City Branding Strategy, seconded by Councilman Matamoros with discussion that followed.

Mayor Cain stated about the EDC's ongoing collaboration with a company specialized in rebranding and wayfinding. Mayor Cain emphasized that it would not be fiscally responsible to hire another entity to conduct the same piece of work, stressing that the city should first review what the current contractor proposes before spending additional funds. He highlighted the importance of financial stewardship and suggested it was prudent to wait for the existing study's results before making further decisions on rebranding. This balanced approach aimed to utilize existing resources efficiently while considering future branding needs thoughtfully.

Mayor Cain called the motion to a vote with all present and voting "Aye" 4-1. The Council approved the motion. Councilman Pena voted "Nay".

Consideration and take possible action to waive the fee of the river place rental for the Brazosport high school prom.

Councilman Davis explained that Brazosport High School had reserved River Place for their prom when nonprofit rentals were free, but policy changes now required payment. The school did not budget for the fee and requested a waiver for this year, promising to budget for future events.

A motion was made by Councilman Davis to waive the fee for the river place rental for the Bazosport High School Prom, seconded by Councilman Matamoros with discussion that followed.

Councilman Pena offered to donate his annual council River Place reservation to the school.

Councilman Davis withdrew his motion.

Councilman Matamoros withdrew his second.

Work Session

Councilman Pena Ward A announcements and comments.

Councilman Pena expressed appreciation for the approximately 35 individuals attending the meeting online. He encouraged continued public participation in the city’s information-sharing and feedback processes, particularly regarding the branding initiative. He emphasized the importance of community input and suggested that the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) direct the branding firm to actively engage residents rather than relying solely on third-party concepts. Councilman Pena shared his own idea of

“Freeport Beach” as a potential branding direction while acknowledging that others in the community may have different perspectives that should be considered. He also took time to thank city staff for their efforts in preparing Freeport for spring break, including work along the river, beach, downtown area, and near the fishing pier on Second Street. Additionally, he expressed appreciation for the police department’s continued commitment to safety and security within council chambers. He noted that enhanced security measures, originally recommended by Chief Howell in October 2023, have contributed to a safer meeting environment, despite prior opposition from certain individuals. Councilman Pena commended the police department and staff for their dedication to maintaining a secure facility. In response to a prior comment comparing the setting to a courthouse, Councilman Pena remarked that he found the environment to be clean, safe, and appropriate for conducting meetings. He concluded by inquiring about the discontinuation of Zumba classes, asking staff for information on why they were stopped and when they might resume.

Councilman Davis Ward B announcements and comments.

Councilman Davis expressed appreciation to those at the meeting and those watching online. He also acknowledged and thanked representatives involved in replacing a fire hydrant on the south side, noting the improvement and expressing gratitude to those who helped prioritize and complete the work. Councilman Davis spoke about the importance of establishing a unified vision for the City of Freeport. He emphasized that even small efforts, such as beautification, can have a meaningful impact on the city’s progress. He noted that various boards and organizations including the Economic Development Corporation (EDC), Main Street, Planning and Zoning, and Beautification committees often operate independently, which can lead to fragmented efforts and hinder meaningful advancement. He stressed that bringing these groups together under a shared vision would allow the city to move forward with greater purpose and effectiveness. Councilman Davis identified beautification as a practical starting point, highlighting improvements such as enhancing medians, revitalizing Second Street, and adding lighting along the Brazos River to create a more welcoming and attractive environment. He explained that these visible improvements can foster community pride, improve public perception, and attract residents, visitors, and investment. Councilman Davis concluded by emphasizing the importance of unity in leadership, encouraging collaboration among stakeholders, and expressing hope that the community will work together to make Freeport a better place to live, visit, and raise future generations.

Councilman Matamoros Ward C announcements and comments.

Councilman Matamoros stated that he had recently returned from a family vacation in New Orleans, during which he followed the progress of the Brazosport High School boys basketball team. He expressed pride in the team’s accomplishments, noting their unity and success throughout the season. Although they fell short of winning the championship in San Antonio, he commended their efforts and representation of Freeport and Brazosport High School. Councilman Matamoros requested that the city consider issuing a proclamation at the next council meeting to honor the team’s achievements. He then raised several concerns related to Ward C. Councilman Matamoros reported issues in undeveloped alleyways, particularly between Avenue F and Avenue U, where debris such as a cut tree had been improperly discarded. He noted that these areas are critical for utility access, especially for power lines, and requested that city crews and code enforcement address the situation. Additionally, he highlighted concerns about street conditions, observing that increased traffic and heat are causing certain roadways to deteriorate. He specifically mentioned areas along Yellowstone between Avenue N and O, as well as other locations, and indicated he would provide a list for further review. He encouraged public works to address these issues early before they worsen and require more extensive repairs. Lastly, Councilman Matamoros brought attention to a drainage issue near Yellowstone and Avenue G, adjacent to a resident’s property. He noted that prior work may have been attempted but left incomplete due to wet conditions, resulting in standing water that has persisted for an extended period. He requested follow-up from the city, including communication with the resident, to ensure the issue is resolved.

Councilman Rossow Ward D announcements and comments.

Councilman Rossow expressed appreciation to both those attending in person and those watching online. He

acknowledged the importance of community participation and thanked residents for taking the time to be involved in the council meeting. He also voiced support for recognizing the Brazosport High School basketball team for their achievement in advancing to the state level. Councilman Rossow emphasized the difficulty of reaching that stage of competition and encouraged the city to formally honor the team, noting that their accomplishment is significant and deserving of recognition from the entire community. Councilman Rossow then shared information about his role on the Gulf Coast Transit District board, mentioning an upcoming meeting and highlighting the services provided across Brazoria and Galveston counties. He noted the availability and affordability of public transportation options, including accommodations for individuals with mobility needs, and encouraged residents to utilize these services to ensure their continued operation in the community. Additionally, Councilman Rossow spoke about his commitment to serving residents, stating that he has consistently made himself available to assist individuals with concerns or issues. He emphasized his willingness to help anyone in Freeport, regardless of precinct, and noted that he often collaborates with fellow council members and city staff to address community needs. He reiterated his openness to communication and encouraged residents to reach out to him for assistance.

Mayor Jerry Cain announcements and comments.

Mayor Cain expressed appreciation to those in person and those watching online. He noted that the meeting concluded in a timely manner and acknowledged the continued engagement of community members. He raised concerns regarding the discontinuation of Zumba classes, emphasizing the need to determine the cause and take steps to reinstate the program. He stressed the importance of providing adequate notice to residents when city programs are suspended, noting that a lack of communication can be frustrating for participants who arrive expecting services to be available. He encouraged the city to improve communication practices and work toward resuming the classes. Mayor Cain also commended the Brazosport High School basketball team for their successful season, recognizing that they came close to a championship and achieved something noteworthy. He supported the idea of formally honoring the team, suggesting a proclamation or similar recognition, and encouraged council members to provide input to ensure the recognition is done appropriately. Additionally, Mayor Cain addressed a prior comment regarding security measures at council meetings. He clarified that during the referenced timeframe in 2023, he was serving as a councilman, not as mayor. He explained that he had only one conversation with the Chief of Police regarding meeting security, during which the Chief affirmed her responsibility to ensure public safety and her authority to implement additional security if needed. Mayor Cain stated that he supported her decision-making and only expressed a preference regarding the positioning of officers within the meeting space. He concluded by clarifying that the conversation occurred approximately a year and a half ago and sought to correct the record on the matter.

City Manager announcements and comments.

City Manager Dr. Danielle Kelly informed attendees that RiverFest will take place on April 24th and 25th and shared that a new mascot a shrimp has been introduced to celebrate the city's shrimping heritage. Dr. Kelly noted that the city is hosting a naming contest for the mascot and encouraged residents to participate by submitting suggestions through social media, including Facebook and the recreation center. In addition, Dr. Kelly announced a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the wastewater treatment plant, scheduled for Wednesday from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at 931 East Floodgate Road. She highlighted that the project represents a \$5.9 million improvement to the city's wastewater system and invited the community to attend and celebrate the completion of the project.

Executive Session

Executive Session regarding a.) Texas Government Code, Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney) DOW IDA negotiations update.

Legal Consultation and Real Property Deliberations – All City Properties, EDC Lawsuits and ALL Ongoing

City Development Agreements (Councilman Pena)

There was no Executive Session.

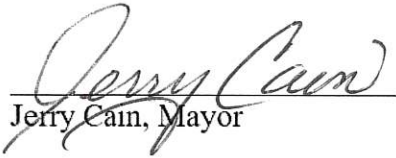
Reconvene into Open Session:


Take any action resulting from Executive Session.

Adjournment

Adjournment – Jerry Cain, Mayor

A motion was made by Councilman Matamoros to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Davis with all present and voting "Aye" 4-1. Mayor Cain adjourned the meeting at 8:44P.M. Councilman Pena voted "Nay".


Jerry Cain, Mayor


Clarisa Fernandez City Secretary

“Exhibit A”



**Council Visioning & Strategic Goal Setting
Positioning Freeport for Sustainable Growth**

March 16, 2026

- In preparation for the meeting, Councilmembers were asked to submit up to three strategic goals to help guide the City's future direction. Staff reviewed those submissions and identified several common themes that form the basis for this discussion.
- These priorities will ultimately help inform the City's FY 2026–2027 budget as we transition toward a Priority-Based Budgeting framework.



**Community
Priorities
for Freeport's Future**

**Public Safety
Assets**

**Youth
Recreation**

**Economic
Development
& Tourism**

**Municipal
Service
Delivery**

**City Facilities
&
Public Assets**

**Infrastructure
& Utilities**

Infrastructure & Utilities

Why This Matters

Reliable infrastructure protects public health, supports economic development, and ensures essential services operate effectively during both normal conditions and weather events.

Discussion Items Identified through Council Input

- Improve drainage reliability in flood prone areas.
- Address wastewater system performance during rain events.
- Evaluate lift station capacity related to future growth.
- Conduct a citywide infrastructure capacity and growth impact review.

Infrastructure
& Utilities

Community
Priorities
for Freeport's Future

Ensure the City's infrastructure can support future development and population growth, positioning Freeport for sustainable growth.

Public Safety Assets



Why This Matters

Reliable public safety infrastructure and equipment support effective emergency response and help ensure residents, businesses, and visitors can be served quickly during emergencies. Maintaining these assets and ensuring they are visible, functional, and aligned with current safety standards contributes to overall community safety and resilience.

Discussion Items Identified through Council Input

- Improve fire hydrant visibility through repainting and roadway location markers.
- Replace outdated roadway signage with current engineering-standard reflective signage.
- Identify opportunities to strengthen emergency response readiness through improved asset visibility and infrastructure coordination.



Reliable, visible public safety assets strengthen emergency response and community safety.

Youth Recreation Opportunities



Why This Matters

Youth engagement and recreational opportunities contribute to a healthy and connected community. Providing structured activities and accessible recreational spaces supports youth development, strengthens community relationships, and enhances overall quality of life for residents and families.

Discussion Items Identified through Council Input

- Evaluate the feasibility of developing a sports complex to support youth athletics and community events.
- Explore opportunities to establish a structured youth basketball league in partnership with local schools.
- Identify opportunities to expand youth recreation programming and structured activities.
- Strengthen partnerships with schools and community organizations to support youth engagement.



Expanding youth recreation opportunities strengthens community life and attracts families to Freeport.

Economic Development & Tourism



Why This Matters

Economic development and tourism expand the city's tax base, support local businesses, and create opportunities for long-term community investment. Strategic efforts to enhance Freeport's waterfront, downtown, and visitor attractions can strengthen the local economy while reinforcing the city's identity as a coastal destination.

Discussion Items Identified through Council Input

- Enhance the Freeport beachfront as a managed recreational and tourism asset.
- Explore redevelopment opportunities along the Brazos River waterfront.
- Activate downtown and waterfront areas through events and destination programming.
- Strengthen regional marketing and branding to attract visitors.
- Evaluate partnerships with private developers, industry, and community organizations.



Investing in tourism, waterfront assets, and downtown activity expands the tax base and supports economic growth

Municipal Service Delivery



Why This Matters

How municipal services are delivered directly impacts operational efficiency, service quality, and long-term financial sustainability. Periodically evaluating service delivery models allows the City to consider whether adjustments could improve accountability, responsiveness, and overall effectiveness for residents.

Discussion Items Identified through Council Input

- Evaluate the feasibility of bringing solid waste collection services in-house.
- Evaluate the feasibility of bringing water and wastewater utility services in-house.
- Assess equipment, staffing, and capital investment required to support potential service transitions.
- Consider long-term financial planning strategies to support potential service delivery changes.



Evaluating how services are delivered helps ensure Freeport can provide reliable, efficient municipal services as the community grows.

City Facilities and Public Assets



Why This Matters

Strategic management of municipal facilities and public assets helps ensure that City operations remain efficient while protecting long-term public investments. Evaluating facility needs and asset utilization supports effective planning for future operations and community service delivery.

Discussion Items Identified through Council Input

- Evaluate purchasing the current City Hall facility.
- Evaluate selling or redeveloping the former City Hall property.
- Assess long-term facility needs for municipal operations.
- Develop a long-term strategy for managing municipal facilities and public assets.



Strategic management of City facilities protects public investments and ensures municipal operations can support future growth.

Infrastructure + Public Safety +
Youth Opportunities + Economic Development +
Service Delivery + Strategic Assets

= **Sustainable Growth for Freeport**

- **Community Engagement**
- **Analysis of Community Feedback**
- **Council Review – April 20th**
- **Integration into FY 2026-2027 Budget**

Community input is an important part of the City's strategic planning process. Residents, businesses, and community organizations are encouraged to share their perspectives as we continue this discussion.

If your organization or community group would like to host a conversation about Freeport's future priorities, please contact the City Manager's Office. Your feedback will help inform the priorities that guide the City's future planning and upcoming budget development.

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