

State of Texas

County of Brazoria

City of Freeport

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the City Council of Freeport, Texas met on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 6:00 PM at the Freeport, Police Department, Municipal Court Room, 430 North Brazosport Boulevard Freeport Texas for the purpose of considering the following agenda items:

City Council:

- Mayor Brooks Bass
- Councilman Jeff Pena
- Councilman Jerry Cain
- Councilman George Matamoros
- Councilman Winston Rossow

Staff:

- Lance Petty, City Manager
- David Olson, Interim City Attorney
- Clarisa Molina, City Secretary
- Cathy Ezell, Finance Director
- Toby Cohen, IT Manager
- Donna Fisher, Human Resource Director
- Chris Motley, Fire Chief
- Robert Johnson, EDC Director
- Jennifer Howell, Police Chief

Visitors:

David McGinty	Sam Reyna
Ronald Woodruff	Melanie Oldham
Manning Rollerson	Desiree Pearson
Karla Clark	Kenny Hayes
Pamela Dancy	Nicole Mireles

THE MEETING IS BEING HELD FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Bass called the meeting to order at 6:00P.M.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Invocation and Pledge was led by Councilman Rossow.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Manning Rollerson said he had several concerns and one of his major concerns was what was going to be on the agenda later on about the pump station and the building of the community of the East End. He said we need the infrastructure and homes in Freeport. He said when it comes down to the water system he does not care because it has been numerous years upon decades that it should have been done. He said there was no excuse for it. Mr. Rollerson said every piece of urban land that was in the city is gone. He said every contract that was done in the City to bring homes to the City, there are no homes, and there is not one home that has been built

between 2012 and 2016 under the last administration and under the MUD projects. He asked where the homes are? He said there were no homes, but now they were going to take the money from the East End, that the City was kindly to help the people that lost everything they had and get the money and fix the water system. He said no to that. He said to get the streets and new homes because there are no homes. He said the population has been decreasing since 1979. He asked how many people are here now? He said 10,000 in the whole city. He asked where are the homes at? He said those are lies and bad contracts that these people need to be held accountable for. He said he expects an answer from his Mayor regarding the six deaths in the City from fentanyl. He said there was an overdose at the high school, and why hasn't one of the Council that are elected to the City said anything about the deaths of these young people and fentanyl deaths in the community? He asked why had not one of the Council brought this up? He asked why the Council had not said anything about it? He asked if we are not important enough that the citizens should know about children and bad drugs in the community? He said that he could not get a phone call from the Council. He said this goes across the board and every last one of them is responsible for every single person in the City not only their ward, but the decisions they make are the decisions they make for everyone. He said when one person die in the City then you see two people, three people, and when it gets to six people dead that should be a concern especially when it comes to drugs in this community. He said to the Council that none of them had the Christianity to come out and say there are deaths in the community and the children are overdosing. He said and they have little babies. He asked who is going to raise those babies?

Sam Reyna resides at 2002 North Avenue G. He said he submitted a cadidate packet for Mayor and he received a letter from the City. He said the letter said "Mr.Reyna this serves as a notification that after legal review of your application for a place on the ballot for a general election for a city, school, or other political subdiivnsions and in accordance with the Texas Election Code, Section 141.001-A (4), and as interpreted by Attorney General's opinion which was filed in 2019 as a convicted felon, you are not eligible to run for public office". He said this summary was filed in 2019. He said the subsection 141.001-A (4) to be eligible as a candidate for a public office, a person must not have been finally convicted of a felony from which the person has not been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disabilities. He said the result in disabilities is the one that given the First Court of Appeal problems but the First Court of Appeal has always been ruling on behalf of the appellant because fo the resulting disabilities and is not claryfing enough. He said that has been amended by House Bill 1316 two years after the Attorney General filed his opinion in 2021. He said in Section 141.001 (A), election code is amended to read as follows; to be eligible to be a candidate for, or elected or appointed to a public elective office in this State, a person must not have been convicted of a felony, or if so convicted, has a fully discharged that person's sentence including any term of incarceration, parole or supervision, or completed a period of probation ordered by any court. He said his papers show he was fully discharged and that is what house bill 1316 says. He said his discharged date was April 12, 2019. He said this was when he was fully discharged. Mr. Reyna said his sentence started in 1994 and was discharged in 2019. He said his sentence was for 25 years. He said he has fully completed his sentence and is fully discharged. He said his obligation to the state is final. Mr. Reyna said he wants his name on the ballot.

PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Presentation by the EDC regarding Parks Improvement.

Presentation by the EDC regarding Parks Improvement was given by EDC Director Robert Johnson.

EDC Director Robert Johnson said the total for the Parks Project is \$610, 232.70. He said for Peppermint park it would be \$123,218.00, Arrington park \$196,927.90, and Stephen F. Austin park \$290,086.80.

Mayor Bass asked if there has been any interest from industry partners that are willing to invest yet? EDC Director Robert Johnson said he heard of one of them that is willing to invest but has not given a dollar amount yet, but is going through channels at their work to find out exactly how much they can give. Mr. Johnson said

he gave this business the opportunity to invest in and just take on one park, and that is what is being hoped for, but he is not sure that they will do that. Mr. Johnson said they are looking for a park sponsor and then get their name on a plaque type of thing. Mayor Bass asked if there would be any money used from the EDC budget for this? EDC Director Robert Johnson said there is \$400,000 earmarked toward the Park project, and he is hoping not to have to use that.

Manning Rollerson said all the equipment at Peppermint Park is brand new. He said Peppermint Park was redone under Tim Kelty. He said this was the last park that just got completed last year. He said the new toy equipment is not needed on Peppermint Park because it was just done.

Karla Clark resides at 411 Sailfish. She asked if there is \$400,000 for the parks budget in the EDC and this is going to cost \$610,000 where is the other going to come from? She asked if it is going to come from the City and who is going to maintain these parks afterwards if this were done? EDC Director Robert Johnson said the money will hopefully be coming from the business community to help sponsor the parks, and are hoping to not have to spend any of the \$400,000 on the parks, and instead go to the area businesses and get those funds to cover the whole project. City Manager Lance Petty said the City will maintain the parks. Mr. Petty said they are currently being maintained by the City and will continue to maintain the parks after the projects are finished.

Pamela Dancy resides at South Front Street. She said she is for the Parks for the children. She said at the last EDC meeting Mr. Petty had stated that he had gone over and talked to some of the businesses and she would like to know the outcome of that. She said apparently they have not committed. She said she may be mistaken but she always thought the EDC money was supposed to be on something profitable. She said when it is given to restaurants they bring money into the City. She said she was not sure if things have changed but she could be incorrect, but she always thought it had to be profitable when the EDC money is spent. Interim City Attorney David Olson said he thinks the primary objective of EDC was at some point to encourage development that would bring primary jobs but parks and other public infrastructure are permissible projects by the EDC by statute. City Manager Lance Petty said he has met with Phillips 66, LNG, and still have others scheduled.

Melanie Oldham resides at 1206 West Broad said she just wanted to mention that the Brazoria County Petrochemical Council put money together and built a new playground at Surfside and it is all recyclable and really nice material. She said she is not sure if they have talked to the Brazoria County Petrochemical that way everybody will care about Freeport enough to put a little bit of money like Phillips and Dow back. She said this is just a suggestion but also to talk to the governmental affairs people of each of these industries because they are given a sum of money that they can spend each year on project that would be good for like the City of Freeport.

Councilman Pena said Mr. Johnson had mentioned there was \$400,000 in the budget for the EDC that was earmarked for potential use on these parks projects and is just trying to understand how they are determining what thresholds need to be met and what requirements need to be met so that in fact the \$400,000 is either used or not used? EDC Director Robert Johnson said this will be evaluated after they are done talking to all the businesses and see how much money they have and either have to scale the project back or obligate those funds. Councilman Pena asked so what he is saying is that they will make every effort to go out to private industry and get their governmental affairs and for that matter the City's money and whatever is not supplementing the entirety of the project then the EDC money will be used? EDC Director Robert Johnson said yes or will scale the project back. Councilman Pena said the sacred cow of do it for the kids is always great and he appreciates that. He said he would like to see there be in a decision matrix in advance so that it helps to determine whether or not to use this money for these parks. He asked and said he is curious if it is not used for the parks what would the \$400,000 be used for? He asked would it just go back to the general fund? EDC Director Robert Johnson said yes. Councilman Pena said when he thinks about what Mr. Johnson and Mr. Rollerson just said about the Peppermint Park it almost seems like maybe it has not really vetted which parks need what and so the budget needs to be adjusted, and would like to see if this could be done for the next

presentation. EDC Director Robert Johnson said Mr. Kelty, Mr. Petty, and himself went to those parks and looked at the equipment and the state of the equipment was bad. Councilman Pena said so it is his understanding that the toys and equipment that was put in last year has a life expectancy of one year. City Manager Lance Petty said there has not been new equipment put in Peppermint Park since he has been here in the last five years. Councilman Pena asked what is the equipment Mr. Rollerson was referring too? Mayor Bass said he would have to ask Mr. Rollerson after the meeting. City Manager Lance Petty said what is being referred to as new is the newer playground structure that is down there and had trouble getting parts for that. Mr. Petty said the slides have broken and things like that and it is nearly impossible to get replacement parts for it. Mr. Petty said the City had put in equipment throughout the City that were mismatch equipment so it is very difficult to get the replacement parts for. Councilman Pena asked if these proposals are being solicited in terms of pricing and equipment from contractors or vendors that provide a one stop solution so that they are not scrambling for parts down the road? EDC Director Robert Johnson said this was part of the objective was to get equipment that you can easily get parts to and have a consistency from, so they are not a bunch of different lines of equipment and try and chase all over to find parks. Councilman Pena said so this has been talked into consideration and asked so the pricing for toys and equipment that is already been vetted to be a one stop shop and has a life expectancy of how many years? Councilman Pena said these are the things that he is interested in to make sure that if in fact any city tax dollars are being spent on any of these projects that there is a return on the investment in terms of value and the usability of it all. Councilman Pena said he liked the idea that Mr. Johnson had mentioned the naming rights, and certainly a lot of corporations will use their governmental affairs and to just have the naming rights and for that matter even private citizens who want their names on those parks to also be used and is also hoping to see what list of corporations and contacts that the EDC has already reached out to and for that matter what other organizations they have also reached out to that are not simply corporate but as Ms. Oldham had described, the Brazoria County Petrochemical Company or the Petrochemical organization. He said he thinks it is probably a nonprofit but they probably have monies there and is just curious as to make sure and is almost certain that there is more money out there and hoping that they can show that the EDC has done their due diligence and actually meeting with these organizations and corporations. He said there are plenty of them, and they have a lot of industrial money millions if not billions of dollars. He said even the Port being asked to pitch in as they just had their taxes cut because they are very profitable. He said so hopefully they would also want to contribute to this community and the families in the households too. He said to also invite additional real estate residential development as well as commercial. He said with all that said he is curious what Mr. Johnson's thoughts were on how this particular project cultivate in business development and if that is the primary purpose of the EDC. EDC Director Robert Johnson said a Type B corporation can do a quality life project and this would fall squarely under the category of quality life project. Mr. Johnson said it has been shown in studies that parks bring money to a community and makes cities more livable etc. Councilman Pena said this makes sense to him in terms of what the Type Corp B or the Type B Corporation EDC structure actually allows for but he wants to make sure that they lean on the corporate partners because this whole endeavor which was driven by Mr. Matamoros as per Mr. Johnson own words said was put forward to the Council last year as a corporate sponsored endeavor so he would like to see if in fact due that and come to fruition with those dollars versus public dollars unless the Council should decide that this is what they want to put the park money to and for that matter do a budget adjustment for a parks department to actually do this versus the EDC funds. He said he would like to see the EDC not to reach for the lowest bar to spend money, to show that they are having some impact in the community. Councilman Pena said there are many tools at our disposal on the EDC and money is one of them but they are many other tools in terms of the relationships that were supposed to forge with the corporate partners and with the nonprofit organizations and he would like to see that and for that matter even the private citizens. He said he knows that the family for the Arrington Park that had promised previously to donate he thinks it was \$10,000 for the fence on the perimeter of that park reaching back out to them so that they might want to contribute that or follow through with that. Councilman Pena said he is glad that this is being talked about and this is the feedback he hopes that is taken into consideration.

Proclamation of the City of Freeport declaring April 2024 Fair Housing Month.

Mayor Bass signed Proclamation of the City of Freeport declaring April 2024 Fair Housing Month.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Consideration and possible action on the approval of City Council Meeting Minutes, from February 5, 2024 and City Council Workshop Minutes, from February 12, 2024.

Consideration and possible action on the approval of road closures for the Spring Festival hosted by Outriggers on March 9, 2024.

A motion was made by Councilman Matamoros to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilman Cain with all present voting "Aye" 5-0 council unanimously approved the Consent Agenda.

COUNCIL BUSINESS – REGULAR SESSION:

Consideration and possible action on approving Resolution No. 2024-2837 update on Brazosport Water Supply Corporation Reservoir and Resolution Supporting the Project.

City Manager Lance Petty said BWA has filed an application for financial assistance under the Texas Water Development Fund for an amount to not exceed \$2,500,000.00 and has filed an abridged application under the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas ("SWIFT"). He said the City recommends support for the Brazos Water Supply Corporation Reservoir project.

Mayor Bass said he does not have any concerns and understands this is something that must be done.

A motion was made by Mayor Bass to approve Resolution No. 2024-2837 update on Brazosport Water Supply Corporation Reservoir and Resolution Supporting the Project, seconded by Councilman Matamoros with 4-0 vote motion passed. Councilman Pena abstained from the vote.

Manning Rollerson said making a decision without the citizens about the water. He said to the Mayor he needed to do better. He said he rushed through this without the input of the citizens. Mayor Bass said he drinks the water every day. Manning Rollerson said he does not drink the water because it makes his children sick.

Consideration and possible action to approve a construction contract with Wharton Smith, Inc. for the CDBG-MIT 22-085-047-D300 for \$13,744,500.00; Authorizing the Mayor to execute all necessary documents.

Finance Director Cathy Ezell said the City of Freeport went out for BIDs on the wastewater treatment plant renovations and Wharton Smith was the lowest bidder with the total renovations costing \$13,744,500. She said the City is awarding the entire contract per the requirements of GLO grant. She said the City of Freeport applied for this grant a while back and had \$4.9 million in construction. She said this is short by \$8,794,500, and per the GLO regulations the contract must be approved at its entire amount.

Mayor Bass said it definitely more than doubled by 120% above the original estimate. Finance Director Cathy Ezell said yes, and that is what they are finding in a lot of the construction projects. Ms. Ezell said this is not the only city in this position, and a letter has been written to the GLO, not only the City of Freeport but also Freese and Nichols the engineer of the project, to request additional funding. She said the fact that this is not the only city in this position and some cities are not doing the projects because they cannot come up with the additional funding and there may be additional funding on the table. Ms. Ezell said two letters have been submitted to the GLO. Mayor Bass said this is not a though one and has to be done. Mayor Bass said the waste water treatment plant is sufficiently deficient that we have been lucky the last few years in regard to the folks in Austin and this has to be done and there is money for it. Mayor Bass said he would rather use the \$8.8 million for other projects, but can not think of any project greater than securing the wastewater treatment plant where all the wastewater goes. Finance Director Cathy Ezell said this is where Mr. Petty and her stand as well as they have discussed this at length and felt that the use of those funds was pertinent in this instance to get this wastewater treatment plant back up and running.

Melanie Oldham said it seems like years and years it has been talked about fixing the wastewater treatment plan and it must be done. She said she was not clear of the \$8.8 million if any of that money is from the selling of the East End park and the right of ways. She said because she thought that was going to the infrastructure for a new subdivision. Mayor Bass said most if not all of it is coming from the money from the East End sale of the property to the Port of Freeport. Melanie Oldham asked if new infrastructure was not designated when they did the contract with the port? Mayor Bass said no the park had to be put in there but other than that it was undesignated. Melanie Oldham said this was dissapointing. Mayor Bass said yes but the wastewater treatment plant must be done because if the State of Texas comes down upon us it will not be good.

Councilman Cain asked on the BID of the \$13,744,500 when this was looked at the last time, when the scope was changed, there was one with the electronics in just a panel and one with the electronics in a room? Finance Director Cathy Ezell said at this time they are still working through that to create a possible change order to submit to the GLO. Ms. Ezell said there is a possibility for a change order with those respects and it will have to go through the process to be approved by the GLO, but in order to move this foward the way the GLO and HUD especially, the contract must be awarded in its entirety and then submit an application for a change order after the fact. Ms. Ezell said it is allowed to submit a possible change order to the GLO that does not decrease the scope of the project by 25% but they have come up with alternatives and know possibly which route to request.

A motion was made by Mayor Bass to approve the construction contract with Wharton Smith, Inc. for the CDBG-MIT 22-085-047-D300 for \$13,744,500.00; Authorizing the Mayor to execute all necessary documents, seconded by Councilman Cain with discussion that followed.

Councilman Pena asked with the 25% savings what is being lost in terms of infrastructure to this project? Finance Director Cathy Ezell said at this time they have not come up with the full scope, but it will not be jeopardizing what this project was. Ms. Ezell said this project is changing possibly instead of being the panels enclosed in the building they are going to be outside. Ms. Ezell said most of the work is still going to be done and it is just scaling back on some of the electronics possibly. Ms. Ezell said it is not going to change the package plant, it is not going to change the feeding system to the package plant, the electricity to the package plant, or the chlorination system to the package plant. Ms. Ezell said it is not going to change the big ticket items. Ms. Ezell said when Freese and Nichols engineered it there is a second phase of what the renovations of the Wastewater Treatment Plant 2 and part of what they did is some of the electrical work that is slated for Phase 2 it was wrapped up in Phase 1. Ms. Ezell said that may be the only difference and it will not be any different from the original Phase 1 it will just be part of the possibly electrical that was considered Phase 2 then they were going to try to wrap it into this. Councilman Pena said he is just trying to understand and get a real clear understanding before he can vote to approve this in terms of the "big ticket items". He said when buying a car everybody understands that they want that anti-lock brake system that has seatbelts, airbags, and all the safety meaures. He said he wants to make sure that there is all of the safety measures. David Hunn with Freese and Nichols said earlier it was talked about taking out the chemical system and using the existing system, but decided that was taking out too much and the new chemical system is needed. Mr. Hunn said all they are looking to change is to get rid of the building. Mr. Hunn said the electrical equipment in the building, moving the electrical equipment specific to the new plant closer to the plant rather than having before having a new building that served both the new plant and the old trickling filter plant but just scaled this back to get this to help get within budget. Mr. Hunn said everything else is essential, and at one point it was looked at to not replacing the chemical system and talked to Mr. Petty and everyone agreed that it was the right decision to include that although it reduces the savings that were intially looked at. Councilman Pena asked and said he wanted to make sure that safety or functionality is not being compromised with this approach? Mr. Hunn said no they are not compromising safety or functionanilty. Councilman Pena said he will go back to his automobile analogy. Councilman Pena said there is an LS package or the DX package. Councilman Pena asked if the DX package was being looked at? Mr. Hunn said on the electrical side yes, but he would not compare electrical

equipment like parking your car in a garage versus under a carport. Councilman Pena asked if it will be under a carport or will it have its own housing? David Hunn said it will be inside with weatherproof panels on a slab with a canopy over it rather than being in an enclosed building. Councilman Pena said and without doing any reverse algebra he asked what the total amount is of that 25%? Mr. Hunn said the 25% is a cap. Councilman Pena said so looking at about 3.4 million. Mr. Hunn said no that is the cap that if they got to the 25% they would be compromising safety and operations so they are just limited and cannot exceed 25% per GLO rules. Councilman Pena asked in terms of the 13.744 that will give us the wastewater treatment plant that is needed not only to serve the community as it is in its size in capacity now but is there room for growth, because it is talked about putting in infrastructure for parks, infrastructure for sewer and streets, and everything else, but have to make sure that it is also going to be there for the growth that is being hoped and planning for? Mr. Hunn said it is not expanding the current capacity and it does not enlarge the permit. Mr. Hunn said right now it is well under the permitted flow. Mr. Hunn said right now the trickling filter plant is not operational and that is .6 MGD of the total 2.25 MGD, but these improvements are just to bring the plant up to good operating conditions. Mr. Hunn said it is not a permit amendment, and they are not building additional capacity but instead replacing current capacity. Mayor Bass said and current capacity can include additional capacity. Mr. Hunn said yes, it is not bumping up against the capacity. Councilman Pena said this is a very interesting point then if it is being said that it is only utilizing 40% of the potential capacity that is great if it became then there is room for growth but if there is 75% or 80% of capacity well that is not really good because if it is going to be replaced then it does not allow for much growth especially if trying to do those city blocks of residential development over there on the OA Fleming space and for that matter any of the other infill development that is also trying to promote with the 25 foot lots. He said it is very important to understand this collectively because this is very important and this is why Manning Rollerson got kicked out of there because these are the issues that matter most the wastewater, the water that we drink. Councilman Pena said since he has been here and it has not been 50 years but it just took him six or seven years for people to tell him that sewer is coming up in their sinks and sewer is coming out of their tub. He said he completely agrees that this is very important but it just trying to understand where do we go from here and where are we really and wants to make sure that the residents are aware that all that is being done is fixing the current problem but it does not afford the ability to grow or if there is room for growth he would like some numbers to that. Mr. Hunn said he does not have that offhand but the grant money required to replace in-kind, and the grant money would not have applied for betterment in other words building a larger plant. Mr. Hunn said this was talked about at the time doing the duns they talked about building a concrete plant for different options but the grant money was just for in-kind for storm mitigation or replacement of last year. City Manager Lance Petty said as Mr. Hunn said currently it is not bumping close to the capacity of the plant and the trickling filters not in service which is an additional 600,000 gallons a day, and so when the trickling filter is put back in you are utilizing the 600,000 gallons of the trickling filter that you did not have prior to the improvements. Mr. Petty said as far as getting close to the permit requirements it is not going to be close to it right now and can handle more development. Councilman Pena said if this project is kicked off and goes to completion he asked the timetable on this? Mr. Hunn said it will not go underway have a construction kick off meeting at end of April and are looking at a year of construction, so looking to wrap this up in April or May of next year 2025. Councilman Pena asked by summer 2025 the City of Freeport sewer system should be up to code brand new? Mayor Bass said except all the lines running through it that are not replaced but yes. Mr. Hunn said the package plant will be replaced, and the old trickling filter plant which is .6 MGD of the total and the new package plant is 1.6 MGD and the package plant is .65 for a total of 2.25MGD. Mr. Hunn said so they are replacing the package plant at 1.6 million gallons a day should define that and but the trickling filter plant is still inoperable which is the second package and is to go back and repair it. Councilman Pena asked so this is just the first phase and first package that is being taken care of? Mr. Hunn said yes. Councilman Pena said he wants to make sure that what they are trying to do here is not only fix what is broken but wants to make sure that we do not pin ourselves in a corner. Councilman Pena asked if the repairs for \$13.7 million allow for the new system to expanded upon either modularity or other wise or are pinning ourselves in the corner that next time will have to spend \$20 million and scrap this one just to fit the demand of future development? Mr. Hunn said the funds were for replacement in-kind and this plant is stand alone there is no design provisions. Councilman Pena asked so no availability or the scope of the project

was never to look at it to expand it? Mr. Hunn said correct. Mayor Bass asked because the scope of the project already included additional expansion because we were not using what we were supposed to be using? Mr. Hunn said yes.

Melanie Oldham said she knows there is a Port Commissioner in attendance. She said the tenants of Port of Freeport have used the wastewater treatment plant for decades and she knows in negotiations over and over they have been asked to put in some money on this wastewater treatment plant. She said if Port Freeport wants to start being a good neighbor and improve their ESG environmental social governance score this would be a time to do it.

Councilman Pena said this is a good comment from Ms. Oldham.

Councilman Matamoros thanked Mr. Petty for explaining all of this in the Workshop which made it a lot easier to understand. He said when they agreed to the port settlement we wanted to better our infrastructure. He said this is a way that we are going to better the infrastructure. He said yes there was different ideas on how to better the infrastructure but this is the most pressing need and that is why we are going to utilize the funds not already allocated for projects for this infrastructure. He said he just want it to be known that they are living up to their words that they will be using this for infrastructure.

Mayor Bass called the motion to a vote, with all present voting "Aye" 5-0 council unanimously approved the motion.

Consideration and possible action approving Resolution No. 2024-2838 amending the City of Freeport Policy Handbook Chapter 3-Employee Appointments revising Section 3.03 Application Process.

Human Resource Director Donna Fisher said to the Council to authorize a revision of the application process in the policy manual to allow current employees to apply for a promotion or transfer before a position is advertised to the public.

Councilman Pena asked if this particular document or resolution had been reviewed and approved by Olson and Olson. Human Resource Director Donna Fisher said yes, Brian Begly with Olson and Olson went over the policy and in fact made a revision to her revision. Councilman Pena said he knows the personnel policy is trying to be changed to give preference to City employees to open positions, and he thinks that it is a good idea in certain circumstances and not such a good idea in other circumstances. Councilman Pena said the memo currently says we must advertise the position before they can provide someone with those positions for the police and fire departments. He said the current policy says that they take applications from employees for five days and if nobody applies internally, then they can be opened up to the public. Human Resource Director Donna Fisher said that if none of the applicants are qualified, it would also be opened up to the public. Ms. Fisher said this was the revision that was not in the red line copy, but it is in the final copy. Councilman Pena asked if there was a copy of the final copy? Ms. Fisher said it was in the packet. She said the way the final copy reads if no current city employee applies for the position or if no current city employee meets the minimum qualifications, then it is opened up to the public. Councilman Pena said he thinks, in a different way, he does not have a problem with this and thinks it is a good idea maybe in the police department and fire department, but in the rest of City Hall he thinks it can pose a lot of problems. Councilman Pena said basically you get somebody who is an admin and then all of a sudden the position for assistant city manager becomes open and then they can just step in and apply for it. Human Resource Donna Fisher said they would have to meet the minimum qualifications. Mayor Bass said then they would have to be hired. Councilman Pena said he does not want to be put in a position where an employee can say they thought they were qualified and then there is a lawsuit because they were not hired. Councilman Pena said he is wondering if the language can be amended such that it gives the City more flexibility literally in the language of the memo that does not have line stipulate that it should be granted to the employees. Human Resource Donna Fisher said the policy does not say that, but they can apply in advance but then after five days if the department director feels that they are not qualified or if no one applies and they decide to apply after the five days it is open to the general public. Ms. Fisher said it is

letting the employees apply in advanced and it is not a guarantee of a position it is just an advance change to get their application in. Councilman Pena said he is just trying to make sure that this does not open up any kind of liability. Councilman Pena asked if Mr. Olson had a chance to review this himself and if he saw that there was any kind of discrepancy or conflict of language that might put the City at a legal disadvantage? Interim City Attorney David Olson said he has reviewed it and has talked to Brian Begly about it and in no way does this create a property interest in a potential job this just essentially gives somebody in-house the opportunity to submit their application but in no way this gives them any kind of rights or obligates the City in any way to hire that individual. Mr. Olson said there can be somebody qualified for the position but it is still discretionary upon whoever is hiring for that position whether they want to hire that person just like any applicant. Councilman Pena said in case it is a lifeguard employee and they basically want to be employed as the assistant city manager and so or the parks director, and then the City Manager says he likes that person they are not qualified but he is going to hire them. Councilman Pena said he wants to make sure the City is protected in terms of the residents and the taxpayers to making sure that there is not systems in the ordinances or resolutions on how to hire that is going to allow for either some political hiring or nepotism hiring or otherwise but so always hiring for the most qualified person. Human Resource Director Donna Fisher said for someone to be hired it is required to have four signatures which include the department director, finance director, city manager, and herself. Interim City Attorney David Olson said at the end of the day this does not change the way people are hired. Mayor Bass said there is nepotism rules. Interim City Attorney David Olson said this really only changes the way people in house can apply for the position but as far consideration ultimate hiring for that position does not change a thing.

A motion was made by Councilman Matamoros to approve Resolution No. 2024-2838 amending the City of Freeport Policy Handbook Chapter 3-Employee Appointments revising Section 3.03 Application Process, seconded by Councilman Cain with all present voting "Aye" 4-1 motion passed. Councilman Pena voted "Nay".

First reading of Resolution No. 2024-2839 for consideration for the demolishing of the building located at 208 West Park Avenue.

Karla Clark resides at 411 Sailfish. She went down to the area on Park Drive Street and asked how many of those places down there are up for sale, for rent, or for lease? She said there are three buildings there altogether and the one that is being projected to be torn down, and if she is not mistaken, the three that the EDC owns are right there together. Ms. Clark asked if any of those buildings are habitable, or would it be better to just tear down the three of them? She said she knows the cost is quite a bit for tearing down, and she understands that it is a lot to dispose of things, and that is a lot of what you are charged with. She said the building used to be cheaper than actually tearing down to dispose of the property. She said she had not seen anybody showing any interest in these properties.

EDC Director Robert Johnson said the two buildings on 212 and 210 West Park are in fine condition. He said they are in condition to be refurbished and maintained and would also caution against demolishing buildings that are extant from the historic preservation Main Street perspective. He said those buildings are perfectly fine but 208 is falling in on itself, and it is a safety hazard at this point. Mayor Bass said he would like to see it torn down and maybe get somebody in there that has a restaurant with an open air plaza next to it. EDC Director Robert Johnson said he has a prospect right now very carefully considering 212.

Mayor Bass read Resolution No. 2024-2839.

Councilman Pena said earlier in the year Mr. Johnson was standing before the Council asking to approve another study for one of the Main Street experts out of UTSA. Councilman Pena asked what was the amount that was approved? EDC Director Robert Johnson said the study without the design guidelines was \$30,000 and with the design guidelines it was \$70,000. Councilman Pena said the \$70,000 was approved. EDC Director Robert Johnson said the EDC is covering \$30,000. Councilman Pena said he still sees it as taxpayer money and so he wants to make sure to talk to that point. Councilman Pena said there is the EDC money and the EDC

money is not a slush fund where we just go willy nilly breaking the rules here and there or get really aggressive with the rules and push them to get the little pet projects. Councilman Pena said he is okay with some pet projects that make sense to the overreaching goal of the City's push for growth for development and vibrancy. He said things need to be done differently. He said he thought it was voted on to allow UTSA to do a study to help understand what the best strategy is going forward. Councilman Pena asked why are buildings being torn down before they even come back with their response? Councilman Pena said might as well go ahead and say to stop and hold that check because we are going to do what we want and how we see fit. Councilman Pena asked how are these decisions being done if it is being said we are not the experts on this so we hired experts yet they are still making decisions that the experts are getting paid for to make. EDC Director Robert Johnson said in the pre study meetings with himself and Ana this building was discussed with Dr. Ian Cane from UTSA. Mr. Johnson said this was also brought up to the attention of the Main Street program in Austin. Mr. Johnson said this building is a safety hazard and needs to come down. Mr. Johnson said he is loathe to tear any building down with his historic preservation background but this one absolutely needs to come down before it comes down upon somebody. Councilman Pena said with this building he had various contractors look at it. Councilman Pena asked if engineers looked at this recently. EDC Director Robert Johnson said yes. Councilman Pena said he thought last year the EDC was getting BIDs on remodeling those and were getting engineer reports as well. EDC Director Robert Johnson said yes and in this round of contractors that submitted BIDs they were for 208 specifically and had them submit a BID for demolition and a BID for refurbishment and wanted to compare the two and refurbishment was astronomical. Councilman Pena asked if he had a number on the refurbishment? EDC Director Robert Johnson said no but he will get it to him. Mayor Bass said that is actually not part of the consideration for the demolishing of the building located on 208 West Park Avenue. Councilman Pena said what is germane to his question is in terms of this particular topic is the structure, and it is being said it is unsafe. Councilman Pena asked if there is any literature that says it is unsafe? Councilman Pena said two and a half years ago there were various contractors that came forward that provided estimates to refurbish the whole three buildings that the EDC owned, and all three of them that included the roof, front facades, bathrooms, and the kitchen that were going to be used and planned for those spaces. Councilman Pena said what it did not include however was the alley and the infrastructure the City would end up having to fix to make sure that those particular buildings would not get flooded at the next rainstorm. Councilman Pena said what is crazy to him is that almost whatever the engineers are being told to tell us that is what they will say, and sometimes the lawyers will do the same thing. He said so he is thinking if we are telling these guys to just say what it is going to take to take it down. Mayor Bass asked if Mr. Johnson told the engineers to have this building torn down? EDC Director Robert Johnson said no. Mayor Bass asked if the engineers came forth and said that this building needed to come down because it was unsafe? EDC Director Robert Johnson said the engineers did come forth and say that it needed to come down because it was unsafe. Councilman Pena said he would be very interested in seeing that report at the next reading if possible. Mayor Bass said that will be fine and thinks it should be brought forward. Councilman Pena said it is interesting that there has been a lot of subjectivity in terms of what buildings need to be torn down and he is with Mr. Johnson on this and does not see why any building in downtown needs to be torn down that is structurally sound. Councilman Pena said the construction company that was looking at that space the 208 had evaluated the roof structure and they basically said all that has to be replaced is the trusses and were given a price and it was a net \$300,000. EDC Director Robert Johnson asked what price was given to him? Councilman Pena said he would forward the estimate to him. Councilman Pena said it was close to about \$360,000. Councilman Pena said where he is going with this is that Mr. Johnson is saying that the particular structure is unsound but he had never heard any of those conversations from any of the other contractors and engineers that had been there to see the space itself. Mayor Bass asked if Councilman Pena had said it was two and a half years ago he had said they looked at it? Councilman Pena said maybe two years ago, but he would also say that last year there was a set of contractors that looked at it and were looking at that space in the posture of how to save it and how to make it happen. He said nobody came out categorically saying the sky is falling on this run for the hills and do not even get near the sidewalk because this might fall on you. He said nobody said any of that but they were beams that were sticking out about seven feet long and the City required them to shave those off because they were cantilevered over the sidewalk. Mayor Bass asked if the costs was \$360,000 at that time too or is that two

years ago? Councilman Pena said that his point is he does not think it is double or tripled he would hope not he has seen math like that before. Mayor Bass said to just look at the wastewater treatment plant that went from \$5 million to \$13 million in two years. Councilman Pena said he is just concerned that this building is being framed as being unsafe when in fact it can be preserved and when he looks at this roof and the conversations that they had then were simply replace these beams and there was never any circumstance or any conversation about 208 and 210 share a wall and if this wall or roof is taken out the wall can easily fall over into 208. Councilman Pena said same thing with White's Cafe if those supports are taken out it might also potentially fall over into the 208 space and then there is another problem because now the structural integrity of 210 has been compromised. He said so now they are all these questions of is this going to be demolished or how is it going to be done to have supports on the walls. He said he has a lot of questions and maybe they will be answered later but the first question is if it is really unsafe and unsalvageable. Councilman Pena said the answer before was always categorically it is salvageable and is curious why they are leaning on this to demolish buildings. He said buildings are trying to be preserved like the theater, pharmacy, bank building, and even City Hall. Mayor Bass asked if the theater had its roof work on yet or does it still have a big hole? Councilman Pena said he is not familiar with the status of that particular project at this point.

Mayor Bass said Mr. Johnson has a lot of homework to do. Mayor Bass said he would like to see the engineer's report as well. He said to Mr. Johnson if there is not one to get one. Mayor Bass said Councilman Pena had legitimate questions.

Consideration and possible action on approval of Individual Project Order #1 Kimley Horn East End Lift Station relocation.

City Manager Lance Petty said the Freeport City Council authorized entering into an agreement with Kimley Horn to serve as the City's Engineer. He said the attached Individual Project Order #1 is for the re-location of the east end lift station and re-location of the water transmission line. Mr. Petty said the re-location of this lift station and water main is required per the agreement with Port Freeport for the acquisition of the east end property. He said once this is approved and all the engineering has been done on it, it will be brought back and will have to BID out that project for approval. He said the engineering cost for the sewer and water was \$360,000.

Mayor Bass asked if this had to be done? City Manager Lance Petty said yes.

A motion was made by Councilman Cain to approve Individual Project Order #1 Kimley Horn East End Lift Station relocation, seconded by Councilman Rossow with discussion that followed.

Councilman Pena asked if the \$360,000 was strictly for the engineering and not for the actual cost of the structure? City Manager Lance Petty said correct. Councilman Pena asked what the anticipated total cost is? Mayor Bass said hopefully less than 1.2, as it had been anticipated for quite a while. Councilman Pena said he is really glad that when they were having these negotiations with the Port that they did not take the offer that was being passed around for \$400,000 a baseball field and that in fact held to the gun so that they could get the \$8.9 million and potentially even more. Councilman Pena said he is glad they had the opportunity to force the Port's hand to give the City of Freeport a decent amount of money for the East End but is not sure if it was the full value but is hoping those moneys get well spent in a timely manner.

Mayor Bass said he appreciated Councilman Pena all he did in the negotiations.

Mayor Bass called the motion to a vote, with all present voting "Aye" 5-0 council unanimously approved the motion.

Consideration and possible action approving the Interlocal Cooperation Contract between the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas, an agency of the State of Texas and the City of Freeport Court.

Finance Director Cathy Ezell said due to the changes occurring in the 88th Legislative Session, the DPS revised

the Failure to Appear contract. She said the following changes have been made to the contract: changes to language and restructuring of the original Interlocal Cooperation Contract (ICC) to provide clarity regarding the specific responsibilities held by each party, inclusion of indigency into the program as mandated by House Bill 291, 88th Legislative Session, and language to account for future changes to the current statute, either federal or state, ensuring that the ICC remains in compliance with the latest legal requirements until a revised ICC is available. Ms. Ezell said, basically, this is a contract between the City Municipal Court and the State of Texas that allows them to put a driver's license on hold on those people who have failed to appear in court. She said if they have not appeared, the information is released to DPS, and they put a hold on their license, and they can not renew their license. She said they would have to clear up their court fines and fees before they can pull off the hold on their driver's license and this comes from the state of Texas.

Mayor Bass asked if this is something that is necessary? Finance Director Cathy Ezell said yes.

A motion was made by Mayor Bass to approve the Interlocal Cooperation Contract between the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas, an agency of the State of Texas and the City of Freeport Court, seconded by Councilman Pena with all present voting "Aye" 5-0 council unanimously approved this motion.

Consideration and possible action to adopt Resolution No. 2024-2840 to designate authorized signatories for the Community Development Block Grant - Mitigation Program (CDBG-MIT) General Land Office (GLO) state contract 24-065-007-E164.

Finance Director Cathy Ezell said this Resolution sets up the signatories for the new grant for the water pumping station. She said this has to be done with every grant and this resolution sets up those signatories, and it is required per the grant.

A motion was made by Mayor Bass to approve Resolution No. 2024-2840 to designate authorized signatories for the Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation Program (CDBG-MIT) General Land Office (GLO) state contract 24-065-007-E164, seconded by Councilman Cain with all present voting "Aye" 5-0 council unanimously approved this motion.

Consideration and possible action approving the Lead and Copper Field Service Line Verification Agreement with Ameresco.

City Manager Lance Petty said this request is for approval of the required Lead and Copper Field Service Line Verification in the amount of \$225,000.00 with Ameresco, per the EPA/TCEQ requirements with a submittal deadline of October 16, 2024. Mr. Petty said the Ameresco is part of the cooperative purchasing program that does not require advertising for services through a BID process. He said the project would be funded by additional revenue from bulk water sales. He said to date, the City currently has \$273,389.00 to allocate from the additional revenue to fund this project. He said the City advertised this project and one came in at \$3 million and one was \$166,000. He said the contractor BID for \$166,000 gave him a call and questioned his BID and this was the first time that he completed this project and did not accept those BIDs. Mr. Petty said Ameresco does these projects all the time and this was presented at the workshop as well.

Mayor Bass asked City Manager Lance Petty to tell the public what it means by line verification? City Manager Lance Petty said per the state requirements, you have to verify all of your lead. Mr. Petty said if there are any lead copper lines what they do is go out in every single meter box that there is and clean it out, dig out both sides of the meter box, and verify the type of service that they have. Mr. Petty said they take photographs of all that and there is an app that is downloaded into the system, which this will all be downloaded into the app and then sent over to the engineers and once completed they send it over to TCEQ for verification. Mayor Bass asked what they are verifying? City Manager Lance Petty said lead and copper lines. Mayor Bass asked what if we had them? City Manager Lance Petty said we would be required to issue notices to the homeowners and then also be required to come up with a replacement plan. Mayor Bass asked how much this would cost? City Manager Lance Petty said he was not sure.

Councilman Cain asked in the replacement lines is the City required to replace up to the meter or to the house? City Manager Lance Petty said on the private side it would have to go all the way to the house.

A motion was made by Mayor Bass to approve the Lead and Copper Field Service Line Verification Agreement with Ameresco, seconded by Councilman Matamoros with discussion that followed.

Councilman Pena said he thought at the workshop Ameresco was going to do a sampling first. Mayor Bass said the sampling is going to be on the water meters. Mayor Bass said this is the project plan that was talked about with the water meters where they would do a sampling of 68. Councilman Pena asked if the sampling can be done on these? City Manager Lance Petty said no because they are right at 3,500 that will be tested. Councilman Pena asked if the other two BIDs were discarded because? City Manager Lance Petty said one was \$3 million and the other one is \$166,000 and the contractor did not want to do it for \$166,000 he realized he did not BID that correctly. Councilman Pena asked if they underbid it? City Manager Lance Petty said yes. Councilman Pena asked how would he know that? City Manager Lance Petty said because going off of the BID he went against in the advertisement and this would have been his first project to do a job like this and there was a lot of unknowns for him.

Mayor Bass called the motion to a vote, with all present voting "Aye" 4-1 motion passed. Councilman Pena voted "Nay".

Consideration and possible action approving Freeport Fire/EMS & BISD Affiliation Agreement for Unpaid Work-Based Learning.

Fire Chief Chris Motley said staff recommended approving the Freeport Fire/EMS and BISD affiliation agreement for an unpaid work-based learning agreement with the school. He also said his second recommendation was to authorize the Fire Chief to sign the agreement. He said the affiliation agreement supports a new program with Brazosport Independent School District. He said BISD is teaching Prehospital care to emergency medical technicians. He said there is a shortage of about 70,000 EMTs, so they are addressing that in the workforce through the program. He said this allows high school students to test with the National Registry for an EMT license, so they can work anywhere in the USA. He said once they get the national registry they are able to transfer it to the State licensing DSHS just to be able to practice here locally as part of the program. Mr. Motley said a student license licensed an EMT can continue their education through an advanced EMT which the Council has seen there when recognizing employee of the month. He said in order for the EMT student to complete their certification, the EMT student has to work in a clinical setting on an ambulance and in the hospital program provided by BISD must have an affiliation agreement for students to complete the infield clinical setting. He said Freeport Fire/EMS has a current affiliation agreement with Brazosport College. He said an EMT student must complete forty-eight hours of EMS clinical rotation and twenty-four hours of hospital clinical rotation. He said this affiliation agreement will allow BISD EMT students the opportunity to complete their EMS clinical rotation here in the community.

A motion was made by Mayor Bass to approve the Freeport Fire/EMS & BISD Affiliation Agreement for Unpaid Work-Based Learning and authorize Fire Chief Chris Motley to sign, seconded by Councilman Matamoros with discussion that followed.

Councilman Cain said he is in full of this program but wants to make sure that the students in Brazosport are able to be on this program at Brazosport? Fire Chief Chris Motley said it is who has been accepted to the program and he does not know any details past this affiliation agreement but they can have a strong discussion as well. Councilman Cain said he wants to make sure that our students here are afforded the same as the students in other schools in the BISD. Fire Chief Chris Motley said he would address this with Chief Praslicka, and he is not sure how the students are picked but it was filled up pretty quickly once it was offered.

Mayor Bass called the motion to a vote, with all present voting "Aye" 5-0 council unanimously approved the motion.

Mayor Bass said to Fire Chief Chris Motley he would like an update when they start coming through and would like to meet some of them.

Fire Chief Chris Motley said yes he is hoping they are the future employees.

Consideration and possible action to adopt Resolution No. 2024-2841 regarding Civil Rights, which includes the following policies:

- Citizen Participation Plan and Grievance Procedures;
- Section 3 Policy;
- Excessive Force Policy;
- Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Standards Plan;
- Section 504 Policy and Grievance Procedures;
- Code and Conduct Policy; and
- Fair Housing Policy.

For the Community Development Block Grant - Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) program for GLO state contract 24-065-007-E164.

Finance Director Cathy Ezell said this is another one of those resolutions and policies that they adopt with every one of the grants that were brought forward, the other two GLO grants and this GLO. She said it is required by the GLO and the HUD so that these policies are in place. She said these policies have been updated with all the changes and stuff that have come through. Ms. Ezell said staff recommended the approval of this resolution and policies.

Mayor Bass asked if the community development block grant plan for the GLO State contract number is the same throughout? Finance Director Cathy Ezell said yes, there must be a resolution for the different things, but it is all for the same grant. She said this is the grant for the water pumping station on Avenue F the \$1.8 million grant.

A motion was made to approve Resolution No. 2024-2841, seconded by Councilman Pena with all present voting "Aye" 5-0 council unanimously approved this motion.

Consideration and possible action to approve the commitment of additional funds up to \$8,794,500 for the CDBG-MIT 22-085-047-D300 project.

Finance Director Cathy Ezell said this is up to the full amount possible, which she had said they will possibly submit and the change order should be less but in order for HUD and GLO to move forward with this, that is why it is worded up to not an exact dollar amount because it could be less.

A motion was made to approve the commitment of additional funds up to \$8,794,500 for the CDBG-MIT 22-085-047-D300 project, seconded by Councilman Cain with all present voting "Aye" 5-0 council unanimously approved this motion.

WORK SESSION:

The City Council may deliberate and make inquiry into any item specifically listed as a Subsection under the itemized Sections A-F below, an item appearing on the City Council agenda for this meeting, on matters related to community events, or on matters that are not within the jurisdiction of the City for consideration by City Council. The City Council may not deliberate on any City matters not specifically disclosed under this Work Session or on this posted City Council Meeting agenda. City Council members and the Mayor always reserve the right to request that a matter be placed on a future agenda for consideration.

Councilman Pena Ward A announcements and comments.

Councilman Pena thanked everyone that attended the meeting, spoke out, and participated. He said he had a couple of questions based on the comments but also had some other questions that other residents have reached out to him about in the last couple of weeks. He said the first question was Mr. Reyna had asked or brought and presented that he could run for Mayor and is curious if they are going to rely on his personal legal research to consider that he might be right? He said, and if so, because he actually put his application in before the deadline. Councilman Pena asked if he would actually be able to run? Mayor Bass said this is something that could be on an agenda item and probably would be on the next agenda, but he would get an answer for Mr. Reyna pretty quick regarding this. Councilman Pena asked in terms of the first reading for all the parks how much was spent on those renderings by AID Architects? EDC Director Robert Johnson said he believes the City spent \$10,000 on the renderings for the parks. Councilman Pena asked if it came out of the parks budget? City Manager Lance Petty said yes. Councilman Pena asked Mr. Olson if any side conversations during the Council meeting between fellow Councilmen or Council and city staff or, for that matter, the Council and City Attorney are allowed to be whispered or not on the mic or should everything be recorded and live. Interim City Attorney David Olson said it is all public. Councilman Pena asked, so how is it ensured that the dialogue is made public and kept public? Councilman Pena asked if they said no side conversations or stop the meeting to make sure that those conversations are on the mic. Interim City Attorney David Olson said we do our best to keep everything recorded. Councilman Pena said he just keeps seeing more and more of it in terms of dialog between the Mayor and City Manager before and the Mayor and Interim City Attorney and is curious as residents on what is going on. Mayor Bass said they are discussing Councilman Pena. Councilman Pena said let it be out in the open.

Councilman Cain Ward B announcements and comments.

Councilman Cain thanked everyone that came out and those who spoke up in citizens' comments. He said he would like to remind everybody that Friday is Fathers and Daughters dance going on at the Riverplace. He said, unfortunately, he would be on call this weekend, so nobody had to watch him dance. Councilman Cain also said on Saturday there is Share the Love Community Resource Fair in the Downtown from 9:00AM-2:00PM. He said this event will be informative and there will be a lot of different resources Downtown that many of the people in the City may not be aware that there is and may be able to take advantage on some things. Councilman Cain said to Mr. Petty he appreciated the workshop that was put on. He said for those that do not know, typically, the Council gets the packet sent to them via email on Friday afternoon, so they have Friday afternoon, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and up to 6:00PM to go over the packet to try to absorb it and try to get as much education as they can that is on the packets. Councilman Cain said last week Mr. Petty had a workshop where they went over some of the stuff that was going to be on the agenda, so they were able to have an understanding upfront of what was going on and some of the reasoning behind what was on the agenda. He thanked City Manager Lance Petty and said this was very beneficial.

Councilman Matamoros Ward C announcements and comments.

Councilman Matamoros thanked all the residents that attended in person, viewed online, made comments on citizens' comments and agenda items. He said he would like to invite everybody to the City meetings there are for the workshops. Councilman Matamoros thanked Mr. Petty for the workshop. He said he would also like to invite everybody to the EDC meetings. He said you will hear a lot of things that they talk about when they have projects and will gain knowledge. He said, thus, when items come to the Council you already have an idea of what has been discussed. He said there are exciting things going on in Freeport such as the Daddy Daughter Dance and the Community Block Fair. He said he just wanted to say to the residents of Freeport to get involved they do not try to hide things from anybody. He said he does not hide anything from anybody. He said if anybody has any questions please go to him, and he will speak with you.

Councilman Rossow Ward D announcements and comments.

Councilman Rossow said he agrees with everyone about the people online and the people attending that came out to the meeting, especially the ones that made this a good meeting and said a lot of positive things. He said it

was Black History Month and about nine more days. He said the MLKCC paid for everyone that wants to go see the museum and see the black history exhibit that is in Downtown Freeport. Councilman Rossow said you have till April the 3rd to register to vote, and he would love for everyone to take somebody to the polls. He said voting is important. He said when you look at how many people are registered to vote and how many people actually vote you will be surprised, and it is unbelievable. He said concerning the deaths in the area and the three that he knows of, there was someone there tonight to make the Mayor and the Council look bad. He said he wanted to spread some news that his wife and himself donated quite a sum for one of the funerals. Councilman Rossow said they raised money to bury them. He said he knows two of the three that most people know of and have no relation to him, but he was asked to help and he did. He said he helped in both of those incidents and asked to spread the news. Councilman Rossow said when they receive an untruth they should react in some kind of way and as Council, Mayor, Lawyers they have no reason to try to make anyone look bad. He said they do what they do because they want to do it.

Mayor Brooks Bass announcements and comments.

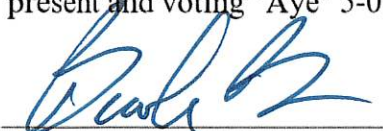
City Manager Lance Petty announcements and comments.

City Manager Lance Petty said March 9th is the moving date for City Hall. He said this information is going out, so everyone can see it. Mr. Petty said April 27 is going to be the first community clean up. Councilman Pena said he had asked at the last meeting if he could get a copy of the lease before being executed and asked if the lease had already been executed? City Manager Lance Petty said yes. Councilman Pena asked if he could get a copy of it? City Manager Lance Petty said yes.

ADJOURNMENT:

Adjourn

A motion was made by Councilman Matamors to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mayor Bass with all present and voting "Aye" 5-0. Mayor Bass adjourned the meeting at 7:44P.M.



Brooks Bass, Mayor



Clarisa Molina, City Secretary