

State of Texas

County of Brazoria

City of Freeport

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the City Council of Freeport, Texas met on Monday, March 18, 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- Not Present
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
Rudy Ragle, Interim Public Director
Jennifer Howell, Police Chief
Chris Motley, Fire Chief
Ana Silbas, Main Street Coordinator

Visitors:	David McGinty	Kenneth Hayes
	Sam Reyna	Con McCleester
	Nicole Mireles	Diane McCleester
	John Garza	Carol Parker
	Becky McDonald	Mark Parker
	Keith Stumbaugh	Karla Clark
	Pamela Dancy	

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:

Main Street Coordinator Ana Silbas said on behalf of the Freeport Historical Commission and Main Street Advisory Board she wanted to give another reminder regarding the Community Visioning Session next Tuesday, March 26 at the Freeport River Place. She said it was going to be from 5:30P.M.to 7:30P.M., and

light refreshments would be served also. She said this is in preparation to prepare for the Downtown comprehensive plan and historical design guidelines. Ms. Silbas said the topics of exploration will include historic preservation, public realm, economic revitalization, programming and housing as well. She said this is in conjunction with the Freeport Economic Development Corporation as well as with the City of Freeport. She thanked the Council for helping to move this initiative forward and hopes to see the Council there.

Becky McDonald resides at 922 West Fifth Street. She said she lives directly across the street from the church and catty corner from the house raid that happened on the 22nd with the SWAT. She said her question was that the Pastor had told her he had put the eviction in to have the renters evicted, which is the church's house that they own. She said there were still many people in that house, and she was told he had cut the water off. She asked if there were so many people living in that house with no water and if that is not an issue that the City should address? Ms. McDonald said there are at least 10 to 15 people in that house every day. She said she works from home, and she sees it all day. She said another issue was she does not know how many police officers there are in Freeport. She said she moved to Freeport a year ago in July but in West Fifth Street is like a free for all. She said the street has a regular 30 to 35 miles per hour but it is race day race night. She said she has neighbors and they all have children around them and no police presence in her street except for that day and it has been three weeks this Thursday since that happened. She said there had been one police car on her street that she has seen. She said that is not to say she has been there every day and spotted it but she is saying if the presence could be done that would help tremendously by cutting that trouble down that there is until they are evicted. Ms. McDonald asked if the Council knew how long an eviction takes place? She said she had been told he went to court on the 11th which is a week ago today. She asked if the Council knew how long that eviction until it is enforced? Mayor Bass asked for the address? Ms. McDonald said she wants to say it is directly next to the church it is either 919 or 929 West 5th Street but it is where the raid happened on 2/22 with the SWAT and every other agency at 12:00P.M.

Nicole Mireles resides at 2002 North Avenue G. She said she told her Council representative she was going to be nice. She said all she was asking was heavy haul trash all over her neighborhood. She said all the streets over on Avenue G and H and all that area there have large hauls that have not been picked up. She said she knows she has a lot of weeds in her front yard and is working with her weeds as far as fertilizing her yard and she takes pride in her yard but where she put some stuff out there it had killed her grass. She said she does not know what day of the month they are supposed to go or not. She said she knows they are getting ready to have the City wide cleanup. She said she is old to pick up all that. Ms. Mireles said she already picked up once and put it on the side on the curb. She asked the Council to look into that and see what is going on with that and she would appreciate it.

Dianne McCleester resides at 97 Dolphin Lane. She said her presentation had a lot of tax code numbers but she thinks it helps the presentation bring out the facts. She said she thinks the City is losing quite a bit of money from not doing HOT tax. She said HOT tax could be beneficial to the City of Freeport. She said the tax can be used for multiple projects in coastal cities. She said Freeport is a coastal municipality. Ms. McCleester said the State Tax Code 351.001 Chapter Eight Section Three A states "a home-rule municipality that borders on the Gulf of Mexico and has a population of less than 80,000" can collect so much money. She said and depending on the percentage of tax collected that can be used for beach maintenance, lifeguards, golf course, and parks. She said there is a new bill in the House 550 that within a mile of a hotel could be used for sewage drainage and other things but it is still sitting in the house. She said that cities under 35,000 can collect HOT tax on their extraterritorial jurisdiction in section 351.0025 but can exceed 15% combined between the State and the City. She said Treasure Island is in the ETJ of Freeport and has over 100 short term rentals. She said Freeport is looking at possibly 100 to \$200,000 on these short-term rentals. She said Freeport Hotel Occupancy Tax Ordinance Section 2-354 states the words, terms, and phrases used in this section are as defined in V.T.C.A. Tax Code 351.103 or as may later be defined in other statutes. She said Tax Code 156.001 states in "in this chapter, "hotel" means a building in which members of the public obtain sleeping accommodations for consideration. The term includes a hotel, motel, tourist home, tourist house, tourist court, lodging house, inn, rooming house, or

bed and breakfast". Ms. McCleester said but in September 1st, 2015 section B was added to House Bill 1905 states "for purposes of the imposition of a hotel occupancy tax under this chapter, Chapter 351 or 352, or other law, "hotel" includes a short-term rental. In this subsection, "short-term rental" means the rental of all or part of a residential property to a person who is not a permanent resident". She said AirBnB and verbal host can go into their accounts and check their transaction history to find out how much they owe the City. Ms. McCleester said HOT tax is not a tax for residents and it is not a tax on their owners, it is a tourist tax. She said a host collects the tax and remits those funds to the City or State. She said if a hosts pays State tax they owe the City of Freeport Hotel tax. Mayor Bass asked Interim City Attorney David Olson to look into this.

Sam Reyna resides at 2002 North Avenue G. He said the minutes from the last council meeting item 11 on the agenda discussion and clarification pertaining to candidate application for May 4, 2024 election. He said two Council Members sent the City Manager a text to place that item on the agenda but it was not transcribed that way. He said the text read discussion and possible action, and not discussion and clarification. He said the City Manager modified the item without notifying the two Council Members and when confronted about the modification he said he was following the advice of the City Attorney, who depends on the opinion of the Attorney General and not the law. Mr. Reyna said the minutes from the last meeting said Councilman Pena asked Interim City Attorney David Olson if anything and everything Mr. Reyna had just described changed his legal opinion, Interim City Attorney David Olson said no, Councilman Pena asked any particular reason why, Interim City Attorney David Olson said he had Paige Bailey on his office jeopardized this Attorney General's opinion to see if there was any court of appeal decision that would overturn and there is not. Mr. Reyna said on page 5 of the handout that he gave to the Council it reads the ambiguity of the current wording this word means that related from the resulting disabilities held up a Houston City Council election for over a year. He said till the Third Court of Appeals that is why he mentioned the Third Court of Appeals last time because he had read it from the handout. He said Cynthia Bailey prevailed in the lawsuit when the Texas First Court of Appeals. He said to Interim City Attorney David Olson this is what he was talking about that he did not have knowledge about. He said it allowed her to remain on the ballot. He said in the opinion issued Chief Justice Sherry Radack and Justices Russell Lloyd and Julie Countiss said Renee Jefferson-Smith, who placed third in the November 5, 2019 general election and contested Bailey's eligibility, did not prove to the Houston mayor's office that Bailey was ineligible. He said she was eligible and that is what the First Court of Appeals ruled that she was eligible and put back on the ballot. He said Mr. David Olson had also said that he does not know what list and he does not work on lists or article from news reports and he worked on case law. Mr. Reyna asked Interim City Attorney David Olson if he had received any case laws that would give a clarification of released from the resulting disability if the courts had not been able to do it? Mr. Reyna said discussion and clarification that is really an insult to his intelligence he is not an attorney but he had worked for some real good attorneys. He said he worked for Jerry Buch and got in some of his best cases. He said the chemical spills in the water wells in El Campo, BP oil spills in the Gulf worked from Brownsville all the way to Mississippi. He said he worked for Russell Harrington doing the same thing doing Jones act work, shrimp boats. He said there was a lot of activism back in the days. He said then he worked for John O'Quinn he said he worked for him Jones act and maritime law. Mr. Reyna said he was a licensed pilot for Armstrong Marines out of Houston worked out of Galveston taking crew members to the first platform when it first started drilling for oil in the Gulf and they would get hurt and he would go over there and pick them up. He said he would bring them to shore and he made sure they had an attorney's card in their pocket. He said he did a lot of paralegal work for O'Quinn he was hard and hollered too much but he paid good and cash no money trail. Mr. Reyna said he is no rookie to the law and for them to say discussion and clarification. He said if they want to give him any clarification give him clarification on Senate Bill 466. He said he was given clarification on House Bill 1316 which when he went back later to do research and he read it passed the Senate and it died in the committee across the hall the same thing happened to 466. He said on page 7 this was a bill that was introduced by Pat Fallon and states "his bill would've removed the words "or otherwise leased from the resulting disabilities" essentially making it possible for convicted felons to run only if they had been pardoned. Mr. Reyna said just like 1316 it went across the hall it passed the senate but it went across the hall and it died in the committee so back to square one. He said release from resulting disabilities nobody can give a good interpretation of the clause. He said it is too late for

him to be put on the ballot and has filed a lawsuit and not against the chamber but the State of Texas. He said so other citizens like himself that have completed their sentences will be eligible. He said to the Mayor that he did contact some other attorneys from Angleton and contacted Perry Stevens and he was interested and said he was running out of time but recommended him with Lena Clemons and they do not have no constitutional law or election code laws experience, and so they told him his only option would be to go to Houston. He said he talked to Sam Lee and told him the same thing. He said so he contacted attorneys in Houston and all the way to San Antonio and he can not afford them they were very expensive. He said he went ahead and filed a lawsuit on his own. He said he was not an attorney but he knows the law and said he thinks he had done a pretty good job. He said all he had to do is just type it up and take it to an attorney let him proof read it and file it so this does not happen again to other citizens.

Keith Stumbaugh said he is the spokesperson for the Concerned Citizens of Freeport. He said every election year since 2015 the CCF has hosted candidate forums that provide an opportunity for the candidates running for city office to publicly express their positions on various issues facing Freeport and its citizens. He said the CCF hosts these candidate forums as a public service to the voting citizens of Freeport so they can learn more about the candidates who if elected will be making decisions affecting them. He said they believe that informed voters make for better City government. Mr. Stumbaugh said this year's forum will be held on Saturday, April 6th at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall at 1600 West Broad Street at 10:00 in the morning. He said this year in addition to the City candidates the two runoff candidates for County Commissioner Precinct 1 will also be invited to participate. He said the invitation letters of the candidates were mailed today and hope that all the candidates can participate in this year's forum. Mr. Stumbaugh said as always the public is invited and light refreshments would be served. He said the CCF anticipates a successful and productive event.

PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Presentation by Texas Police Chief Association for the Freeport Police Department.

Christella Rodriguez is the Police Chief for the Bay City Police Department and on behalf of the Texas Chiefs Police Association she presented an accreditation certification to the Freeport Police Department.

Presentation by Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins, and Mott L.L.P. regarding Collections.

Mike Darlow with Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, LLP, presented to the Council the collection of delinquent taxes, court fines, and fees.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Consideration and possible action on the approval of City Council Meeting Minutes, from March 4, 2024.

A motion was made by Councilman Matamoros to approve the City Council Meeting Minutes, from March 4, 2024, seconded by Councilman Cain with all present voting "Aye" 4-0 council unanimously approved the motion.

Consideration and possible action by City Council approving the sale of trust property located in the 400 Block of North Avenue F (Velasco Townsite, Block 571, Lot 4.

Mayor Bass said his concern or idea of bringing this off the consent agenda into the regular session is that this is an action that was not approved by the administration. Mayor Bass asked if this was correct? City Manager Lance Petty said correct. Mayor Bass asked why? City Manager Lance Petty said the Brazoria County Tax Office contacted the City and had said this gentleman made an offer on the property for \$3,280 and the land value right now is \$11,720. Mr. Petty said this is a 25ft lot and the gentleman does not own the properties next to it, so he would not be able to develop this lot into a residential home without owning adjoining property. Mr. Petty said at this time, the staff was not comfortable approving this as presented.

A motion was made by Mayor Bass to deny the sale of the trust property at this time located in the 400 Block of North Avenue F, seconded by Councilman Matamoros with all present voting "Aye" 4-0 council unanimously approved the motion.

COUNCIL BUSINESS – REGULAR SESSION:

Consideration and possible action approving Ordinance No. 2024-2725 regarding city ordinance curfew.

Police Chief Jennifer Howell said this is not our decision anymore because legislation has decided to take that away from the City, so there could no longer be an ordinance setting up the juvenile curfew. She said she got with Mr. Olson to file to have this removed from the ordinance.

Mayor Bass said this is straight forward. He said he thought Republicans are supposed to be less governmental interference, but they sure are interfering in a lot of local government stuff.

A motion was made by Mayor Bass to approve Ordinance No. 2024-2725 regarding city curfew which will remove the provision concerning regulating the curfew of 18-year-olds and younger, seconded by Councilman Cain with all present voting "Aye" 4-0 council unanimously approved the motion.

Consideration and possible action approving Ordinance No. 2024-2726 for possible revision of Ordinance No. 2019-2567 establishing the City's Ethics Policy for all Elected and Appointed City Officials and all City Employees.

Human Resource Director Donna Fisher said the ethics ordinance is to be reaffirmed every year. She said the ordinance that was brought to the Council six weeks ago or so, she had taken back to the original 2019 language. Ms. Fisher said the only exception to that was the addition of the ethics training session. She said this was basically except the section on training, the original ordinance that had been approved every year since 2019.

A motion was made by Mayor Bass to approve Ordinance No. 2024-2726 for possible revision of Ordinance No. 2019-2567 establishing the City's Ethics Policy for all Elected and Appointed City Officials and all City Employees, seconded by Councilman Rossow with discussion that followed.

Councilman Matamoros asked why go back to this ordinance and not the previous one? He said he did some research and the City of Sugar Land ordinance had more teeth that stood up to a court challenge. Human Resource Director Donna Fisher said in order to get this reaffirmed she pretty much took it back to the 2019 language but can look at amending it some more but atleast the training section is going to be in it. Ms. Fisher said the way it was presented six weeks ago was not going to make it through.

Mayor Bass called the motion to a vote, with all present voting "Aye" 4-0 council unanimously approved the motion.

Consideration and possible action approving Resolution No. 2024-2849 for annual re-affirmation of Ordinance No. 2024-2726 establishing the City's Ethics Policy for all Elected and Appointed City Officials and all City Employees.

A motion was made by Mayor Bass to approve Resolution No. 2024-2849 for annual re-affirmation of Ordinance No. 2024-2726 establishing the City's Ethics Policy for all Elected and Appointed City Officials and all City Employees, seconded by Councilman Matamoros with all present voting "Aye" 4-0 council unanimously approved the motion.

Consideration and possible action approving Resolution No. 2024-2850 appointing a member to the Freeport Economic Development Board.

City Manager Lance Petty said currently the Economic Development Corporation has a vacancy due to the

resignation of Councilman Matamoros whose term is due to expire on May 31st, 2024. He said this appointment would be to fill out the remainder of this term and would be up for consideration for reappointment to a new 2-year term at that time. Mr. Petty said at the time this memo was prepared, the City received applications from: Melanie Oldham, Ronnie Martin, and Karla Clark. He said another application was also received from Michelle Moreno. Mr. Petty said the EDC is the most active board in Freeport appointed by the City Council, and current membership on the board includes: Josh Mitchell, Sandra Loeza, Mark Parker, Shonda Marshall, David McGinty, Kenneth Tyner.

Ronnie Martin said the reason he put his name was he had a different perspective to bring toward Freeport. He said he owned a huge corporation for 12 1/2 years in Los Angeles, and he knows a lot of corporation owners and their head staff from his old business. He said the deal is that he looks at Freeport and what works here. He said yes Downtown Freeport will never get a giant grocery store or department store but if you get the right business you are going to draw people there. He said it had nothing to do with something huge it had to do with the right fix. Mr. Martin said everybody knows windswept middle of nowhere and it was packed all the time. He said this is what he hoped to bring to Freeport. He said he had done some research on businesses and took them to the EDC to look at because people like Waffle House will never come here but Huddle House would look at us because Huddle House looked at underserved communities and this is exactly their market if you talk to them. Mr. Martin said he wanted to bring stuff to Freeport that would work that would stay here. He said he had those connections. He said iHOP was one of his clients and had talked to them. He said this is why he put his name up. He said he is willing to give the time and he lives at 1850 West Eight Street and has lived there for eight years now.

Karla Clark resides at 411 Sailfish. She said as most of the Council knows she had been going to the meetings and keeping up with most of the boards. She said she had been to the EDC meetings. She said she goes to almost all of the City Council meetings and she keeps herself updated with the things that are going on with all the committees. Ms. Clark said she was on the Planning and Zoning for a short period of time to finish out a term. She said she thinks her background as a civil servant and also knowing the businesses here in the area would help her and help the EDC to process and be a better group and work with them. Ms. Clark asked if Mr. Ronnie was still on the Main Street Board or is the Council going with two different boards? She said she thought he was just appointed to the Main Street Board. She asked if this was true? Ms. Clark asked if it was allowed to go on more than one? Mayor Bass said he does not see a policy against it. Mayor Bass said he is not a big fan of it but does not see a policy against it.

A motion was made by Councilman Matamoros to appoint Mr. Ronnie Martin to fulfill the remaining months of this term to the EDC, seconded by Councilman Cain with discussion that followed.

Mayor Bass asked Mr. Martin if he would remove himself from the Main Street Board? Mr. Martin said if the Mayor wanted him to he would.

Mayor Bass called the motion to a vote, with all present voting "Aye" 4-0 council unanimously approved the motion.

Consideration and possible action on awarding Bid for Phase II Asbestos Remediation for City Hall.

City Manager Lance Petty said staff recommended the Council award the BID to Inland Environments Ltd. and authorize the city Manager to work with the city attorney to develop a contract with the awarded contractor based upon the plans and specifications and the BID submitted by the contractor. Mr. Petty said the City received 4 BIDs for Phase II Asbestos Remediation at city hall on the 1st and 2nd floors. He said the most responsive BID was received from Inland Environments Ltd. for the amount of \$59,610.00. He said upon award of the BID by the City Council, the staff will work with the City Attorney to develop and execute a contract to complete the work. Mr. Petty said during the Phase I asbestos remediation, additional asbestos presence was located, and a Phase II abatement would be required prior to renovation. He said an asbestos study was performed by Envirotest LLC, which did identify the presence of additional asbestos on floors one

and two. He said following the completion of the survey, Envirotest LLC, in collaboration with IAD Architects, developed the specifications for the remediation efforts, which were properly advertised for BIDs. He said the consultant evaluated the BIDs and determined that the lowest bidder, Emmanuel Enterprises LLC, would need to re-bid based off of removal methods for ceiling tiles containing asbestos. Mr. Petty said he did receive an updated BID from the lowest bidder and when he corrected his BID he came in third, so the lowest bidder would be Inland Environments. Mr. Petty said Phase II abatement needs to be completed regardless of the path moving forward with the building to remove all the asbestos out of the building. He said the budget is appropriated in the capital improvements fund.

Mayor Bass said he is confused. Mayor Bass asked Mr. Petty if he was recommending Inland Environment but it looks like it says due to the bidding process staff elected to accept the next lowest bidder which was Envirotest. City Manager Lance Petty said Envirotest was the lowest bidder but they had missed some items on their BID so they had to resubmit and Inland was the second lowest bidder and that is who was decided to go with. Mayor Bass asked and the amount they are requesting is \$59,610? City Manager Lance Petty said yes. Mayor Bass asked what is the amount that was set aside for this? Finance Director Cathy Ezell said it was \$100,000.

A motion was made by Councilman Cain to approve the awarding of the BID to Inland Environment Ltd. and authorize the City Manager to work with the City Attorney to develop a contract with the awarded contractor based upon the plans and specification and the BIDs submitted by the contractor, seconded by Councilman Matamoros with discussion that followed.

Mayor Bass asked if this would remove all of the asbestos that we are aware of? City Manager Lance Petty said yes. Mayor Bass asked if they could find more? City Manager Lance Petty said he does not believe that they will.

Mayor Bass called the motion to a vote, with all present voting "Aye" 4-0 council unanimously approved the motion.

Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2024-2851 approving and adopting the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Policy and Procedures for the City of Freeport.

Finance Director Cathy Ezell said the City of Freeport recognizes the use of various electronic payment methods as a safe and efficient method to process certain disbursements. She said the City of Freeport is committed to establishing controls and procedures to ensure the proper protocols are followed, and that applicable overbite is in place for the use of EFTs. She said this policy will formalize the procedures that are already in place. Ms. Ezell said the primary goal of this policy is to ensure Electronic Fund Transfers (EFTs) are initiated, executed, and approved securely. She said this policy establishes general guidelines for using EFTs including wire transfers for payables and receivables. She said the procedures outline the electronic funds transactions the City may engage in and the accounting procedures to be followed in accordance with state and federal laws. She said these procedures are already in place but creating the policy to ensure that it is there. Ms. Ezell said these are the procedures that are being done.

Interim City Attorney David Olson said it is housekeeping. Finance Director Cathy Ezell said yes it is housekeeping and the auditors look at the procedures for the EFTs and said the guidelines are being followed, but they felt like housekeeping and needed a policy to show what is being done so the Council knows what is being done for the electronic payments.

Mayor Bass asked what is the policy on electronic fund transfers? Finance Director Cathy Ezell said there is a lot of different electronic fund transfers and said wires are only really used for bond payments which are required of the bond payments or if it is something that is an emergency basis then a wire is used. She said they also use what is called ACH payments which is basically an electronic check and those are used to pay the vendors. Ms. Ezell said in order for the vendor to be paid via ACH they have to complete the City form they

submit and the City verifies the information that is submitted with the vendor and then instead of issuing them a check an ACH payment is sent via the bank. Ms. Ezell said payroll is done via ACH as well for all those employees who have direct deposit and when payroll is cut this week she sends a file for all electronic ACH payments for the people who have direct deposit. She said ACH is also used for utility billing for those customers who have authorized the City to take their utility payments out of the bank. She said these are standard procedures at any city but it is put into a policy.

A motion was made by Mayor Bass to approve Resolution No. 2024-2851 adopting the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Policy and Procedures for the City of Freeport, seconded by Councilman Matamoros with all present voting "Aye" 4-0 council unanimously approved the 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 Cain Ward B announcements and comments.

Councilman Cain said he wanted to thank everybody that came out tonight in person and those that were watching live online. He said there was an election coming up and the City of Freeport is notorious for having a weak turnout, and he encouraged everybody to talk to their neighbors, talk to their neighbors neighbors, talk to who ever you see at Bucee's, and get them out to vote. He said this because it is important for the City. Mayor Bass asked if he was saying vote early and vote often? Councilman Cain said vote early and vote often just once. Mayor Bass said he just wanted to clarify. Councilman Cain said he wanted to say, as a community, he encouraged everybody to keep our neighbors up north of us in our prayers. He said there was a storm that came through here over the weekend, and luckily we just received a little bit of rain. He said, unfortunately, just 25 miles north it was not so. He said to keep our neighbors in our prayers.

Councilman Matamoros Ward C announcements and comments.

Councilman Matamoros said he would like to thank all the residents that attended in person, viewed online, and those residents who spoke about concerns involving their area of town. He said he would like to congratulate the Police Department. He said having family in law enforcement is a thankless job, especially when you are doing it correctly and for the Freeport Police Department to do it correctly and get this achievement shows that there is great leadership from the top, but all the way through every single law enforcement officer who patrols the streets or answers the phone. He thanked the Freeport Police Department for all their hard work and was truly appreciated. He said he also wanted to say that he had noticed heavy garbage not being picked up and if Mr. Petty could look into that and what he had noticed was that the residents were doing it properly, and it was still not being picked up. Councilman Matamoros said if Mr. Petty can speak to AmeriWaste and look into that.

Councilman Rossow Ward D announcements and comments.

Councilman Rossow said he also appreciated everyone that came out tonight. He said he thinks the Council may need to revisit how the garbage and trees are collected if they want the City to look good. He said to him, he can not really depend on the citizens to do what they are instructed to do in order for trash, limbs, trees, and things to be picked up. He said he had looked at other cities and their trash and things like that are picked up. He said they are not in a bundle, a five, six foot bundle, or four foot bundle with twine around them, and he said the reason why he said this is that it was brought to his attention in some cases, and he had seen it where trash, limbs, trees, and debris are in the front of some people houses for a long period of time. Councilman Rossow

said he also wanted to say he got the chance to go to bingo today. He said he does not play bingo, but his wife talked him into playing bingo today and there were over 100 people there playing bingo in the middle of the day. He said he guessed he was going to start playing bingo with his wife. He said you do not have to put up any money and get to win prizes, and he thought that was pretty cool. He said he also noticed a lot of work going on thanks to Lance and his heavy hand. He said sidewalks, digging, repairing pipes, and just moving and doing things. He said he is so glad he is retired, and it makes him feel good. He said he remembered when he used to work.

Mayor Brooks Bass announcements and comments.

Mayor Bass said if anybody would like to turn on channel two, he was not sure at 10:00P.M. but at 5:00P.M. the Mayor was on the news. He said the news came to ask him about the roof that blew off his building on Friday evening. He said he received a call at about 6:30P.M. saying they lost their roof. Mayor Bass said the roof was down by Dirty South which is about a block and a half from his building. He said he thinks it was a tornado because his building was destroyed and nobody else was. He said this slows things down, and they will do their best to overcome this and will get to lawyering again soon. He said there was a lot of damage. He said he does agree with Councilman Cain that it was more damage than what folks expected. Mayor Bass said he knows there were a number of signs, a lot of trees, a lot of fences, and there was a picture of a part of a fence that was actually blown the roof of a house. He said to him that it was not a straight wind, it was a tornado. Mayor Bass said to Ms. McDonald there are 30 days, generally speaking, to evict somebody once the process is started, and it goes through a JP, so if the pastor went to the Justice of Peace Court it should take 30 days for the judge to sign that order. Mayor Bass asked for Chief Howell to please put a special watch on this particular residence, because if there are some folks that are there illegally, they need to be removed. Mayor Bass said to Chief Howell if she could also work on the speed down 5th Street and, as well as Broad Street, he will appreciate that. Mayor Bass said his granddaddy used to call him AJ Foyt because he would go down Broad Street and make the corner in his camaro on two wheels and now he is upset with people that do that now. He said he was not upset then so maybe he is a hypocrite. Mayor Bass said on Sunday a very fine man was lost and his name was Randall Hufstetler. He said Judge Hufstetler was the presiding judge 300 District Court for 24 years. He said 24 years of hearing nothing but family cases. He said imagine his demeanor when he would go home but he passed on unexpectedly within reason. Mayor Bass said he just did not want the opportunity to go by that he was a good man, decent man, and one fine jurist. He said he was from the City of Dickinson and they used to talk about how they could really relate to each other because the Mayor is from the City of Freeport and so if Dickinson is a lot like City of Freeport in its makeup, population, economics, and when they went to go shoot behind the City of Freeport out there on port property with permission and his shoe would start failling apart and the Mayor would start giving him a hard time about his shoe falling apart and he pulls out of his bag a roll of duct tape to tape his shoe. Mayor Bass said he knew right there he had Freeport in him because they had the can do spirit. Mayor Bass said he just wanted to say to his wife Danette and children Chris and Meghan that he will be missed but will not be forgotten.

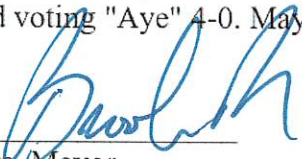
City Manager Lance Petty announcements and comments.

City Manager Lance Petty said he just wanted to let everybody know the City of Freeport has a really, really good staff. He said it was good to see that when something happened like the storm that came through Angleton, the staff answered the call. He said that also goes from the emergency management Mr. Chief Motley, Chief Howell and the Public Works Department. He said they dispatched public works crew to Angleton, and they worked 10 to 12 hours helping aid in moving debris out of the roads and things like that. Mr. Petty said it is very important to him and relaxing to know that if something happens, our City and other Cities will return the favor. He said the cities did come together and worked really well together and was super proud of everybody that was part of that and the Public Works Department as well for going out and working, and also the fire department supplying chainsaws and things like that. Mr. Petty said Mr. Rudy has been here for about six weeks and is the Interim Public Works Director right now and will be full time within 20 days. He said Mr. Rudy is leading the Public Works crew now and is turning it over to a good guy that can handle the job. Mr. Petty said to Mr. Rudy to do us good. Mayor Bass said he had big shoes to fill.

ADJOURNMENT:

Adjourn

A motion was made by Councilman Cain to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Matamoros with all present and voting "Aye" 4-0. Mayor Bass adjourned the meeting at 7:10P.M.



Brooks Bass, Mayor



Clarisa Molina, City Secretary