

State of Texas

County of Brazoria

City of Freeport

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the City Council of Freeport, Texas met on Monday, April 21, 2025 at 6:00 PM at the Freeport Council Chamber located at 430 North Brazosport Blvd., Freeport Texas for the purpose of considering the following agenda items:

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

Staff: Lance Petty, City Manager
David Olson, Interim City Attorney
Clarisa Fernandez, City Secretary
Ashlee Hurst, Finance Director
Toby Cohen, IT Manager
Donna Fisher, Human Resource Director
Crystal Ruiz, Executive Administrative Assistant
Rudy Ragle, Public Works Director
Chris Motley, Fire Chief
Corey Brinkman, Interim Police Chief
David Fernandez, Police Department

Visitors:	David McGinty	Nicole Mireles
	Ruben Renobato	Sam Reyna
	Pamela Dancy	Linda Marshall
	Kenneth Hayes	

Call to Order:

Call to Order - Jerry Cain, Mayor

Mayor Cain called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

Invocation - Councilman

Councilman Rossow led the Invocation.

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

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

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

Nicole Mireles resides at 2002 North Avenue G. She said she wanted to put a little bug in the Council's ear. She said she was wondering why they had so much turmoil with some of the Council members. She said she knows somewhere, somehow, or maybe she is out of place, but there should be something in the charter about being disciplined or something. She said the Council are better and should lead by example. Ms. Mireles said when she was on the Council for years, whether they disagreed or did not, the Council leads by example and holds themselves to a higher standard than you possibly can. She said it is embarrassing. She said she works at Dow, and they were going to get their popcorn tonight because they knew there was a Council meeting today. She said she is sick and tired of all the stuff that goes on, and she just does not understand how some of the Council preach transparency, but yet getting foreclosed on some of their property and this and that. Ms. Mireles asked what was up with that? She said all she can say to the Council is to hold yourself to a higher standard and do right for the City, do good for the citizens, the people here and that is all she asks. She said she does not know what it is going to take, and she hopes that before she dies, she will see our City come back to being united and everybody getting along. She said this is just horrible and all that she can say is, if the shoe fits, wear it.

Sam Reyna resides at 2002 North Avenue G. He said he spoke to four or five friends at the Police Department, and they were very dissatisfied with the Police Chief, that she has created a hostile environment within the department. He said now here lately, he has found out that almost half, if not more than half, of the Police Department is complaining about the hostile environment that she has created. Mr. Reyna said he is not sure if it is true or not and does know that the five friends that is true because he talked to them personally, and they complained about the Police Chief. He said if it is true that half of the Police Department feels the same way and if that is true, she needs to go. Mr. Reyna said that half of the Police Department is not satisfied with her job and the hostile environment that she has created and will continue to create if not terminated.

Kenneth Hayes resides at 4014 Mystery Harbor. He said he had been coming to these meetings for 4 or 5 years, and he used to be very vocal. He said he quit shooting his mouth off a lot. He said it is getting sickening watching the social media posts, creating all these people as villains and painting pictures. He said only one person up there that he could see had seen his mug shot about three times on paper. He said it has been seen him not pay his taxes on his hotel motel tax, which is theft from the City. He said he blames everybody else there for all his short doings. He said he blamed Troy Brimage until he left. He blinded Mr. Bass, the mayor, but he is the biggest problem. He said it can be seen time and time again. Mr. Hayes said to the Council to look at the smile on his face. He said he knew he was a crook. He said he lied like he lied to the news when he said the Mayor could not cancel a Council meeting. He said, according to the charter, he thinks the Mayor can. He said that he also said that the City Manager could not suspend the Police Chief. Mr. Hayes said he thinks that he can do that. He said that he put all that, and he knows the truth to that, and he just lies and, so that is all he wanted to say that he was a liar.

Ruben Renobato resides at 1507 West Second Street. He said he wanted to make a general statement about the Civil Service Commission. He said the Civil Service Commission was founded with the idea of removing political influence in the hiring of employees in the civil service. He said in its place would be a personnel system based on the superiority of mind and character, a formalized set of procedures and regulations that would define the employee's work, the hiring, the promotion, the discipline, and the dismissal. He said a committee of appointed citizens and selected employees would make the decision. He said what began as a good idea has evolved as one of the most destructive personnel systems. He said it has become a bureaucracy best described as a legal straitjacket on the employment process, a bureaucracy governed by rules, paperwork and official procedures. He said the system is rigid and cumbersome. Mr. Renobato said the process causes excessive delays, and it rewards longevity instead of performance. He said there is an old saying Civil workers are like headless nails that you can get them in, but you cannot get them

out. He said the process of dismissal is time-consuming and difficult. He said it generally ends up in a long expensive litigation.

Pamela Dancy resides on South Front Street. She said regarding the website, we had our last meeting on April 7th then the website stated a special meeting concerning the Police Chief, and that got canceled. She said then a statement was put out due to investigation on the Chief. She said she found that to be rather comical. She said she thinks we can all agree that Freeport has never had an investigation come up that quick on anything. She said number one Brimage took forever and that was due to personality, not principle. She said then Kelty that took a while for investigation to take place and that was due to personality, not principle. She said then all of a sudden there was a special investigation on Chief starting immediately or it had already started when the statement was put out. Ms. Dancy said that it is a little hard for her to believe. She asked was that about speculation out on the street, was it about overtime factor? She said she believed that could have been handled in-house because the department head has meetings once a week. She said she then saw on the news that a citizen had said the morale with the Police Department was so low, they could not even lift their heads to face the citizen. She said she thought that it made our Police Department look like pansies, and they are not pansies. She said she does not believe that to be a true statement at all. She said she stands up for the Police Department. She said the Police Chief came here to be a Police Chief then the Council brought her into politics. She said they made her Assistant Manager then over the Code Department. She said she was not sure what was really happening there, it is just speculation all through the City that she would state that every time the Chief came into this chamber, the Mayor thanked her for how she has been handling a good job and all of the Council have thanked the Chief for what she has done for the City and the citizens have felt the same way. Ms. Dancy said then, all of a sudden, they have her under this mysterious investigation, and it just does not make sense because no one knows what is happening, which is extremely hard to believe. She said she would need proof because it was affecting her. She said this investigation is affecting her and putting a strain on her character. She said she does not know if it is because she is a woman and there are egos flying around in the department. She said she has no clue but what she does know is that all of the Council have thanked her many times. She said she had been to her office several times throughout her time here to drop off Christmas items last year in time for and even this year she dropped them off eight months early. She said the Chief has always asked her and has always said what kind of things she could do to get the citizens more involved, to not think that the Police Department are some ruthless well she did not use the word ruthless because she always took up for her department but she was always trying to think of ways to bring the citizens to the Police. She said the main thing for the Chief was protecting her officers, and she was a woman of integrity.

Consent Agenda:

Action regarding Minutes, April 7, 2025 - Clarisa Fernandez, City Secretary

Action approving road closures for St. Mary Star of the Sea on Sunday, June 22, 2025 from 10:30A.M. to 11:15A.M.- Corey Brinkman, Interim Police Chief

Action approving traffic control support from the Freeport Police Department for the upcoming FGBC Compassion Outreach Distribution event on Saturday, April 26, 2025 from 8:00A.M. to 3:00P.M.-Corey Brinkman, Interim Police Chief

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

Proclamations - Presentations and Updates

Presentations-Presentation of the Investment Report for Quarter Ending March 31, 2025, Ashlee Hurst, Finance Director

Finance Director Ashlee Hurst presented to the Council the Investment Report for Quarter Ending March 21, 2025.

Councilman Pena asked if there were any losses at this moment that they were not aware of in this particular report. Finance Director Ashlee Hurst said no. Councilman Pena asked about no unpaid water losses from the City of Surfside? Ms. Hurst said this is strictly for cash. Councilman Pena said he was just curious about how the City was with the finances in general. Ms. Hurst said she posts financial and budget reports online in the new financial transparency center, but this is only cash balances.

Upcoming Events - Riverfest, Saturday, April 26, 10:00A.M.-11:30P.M. at Freeport Municipal Park.

City Manager Lance Petty gave an update on upcoming events.

Business

Consideration and possible action approving purchase of a 911 logging recorder.

Freeport Police Detective David Fernandez said the project he was bringing to the Council is a grant approval for a new 911 recorder. He said the current 911 recorder is about 10 years old, and it has reached its end of life, and it is no longer supported. He said it also does not include the new capabilities required for a 911 system, such as capturing text messages. He said this recorder records 911 calls, but it also records the radio calls for the Police, Fire, and EMS channel. He said he submitted a grant for this about two months ago, and it moved pretty quick. He said the approval letter was received on March 26th. He said the total cost of the grant project is \$31,500, and it is going to be budget neutral, which means the City pays for it, and then they reimburse the City. He said this was not a budgeted item because they were not sure when the grant was going to be available. He said it is one of those grants that, whenever they get enough money, then they put out bids on who needs items. He said the staff recommendation is acceptance of this grant award.

A motion was made by Councilman Matamoros to approve purchase of a 911 logging recorder, seconded by Councilman Pena with discussion that followed.

Mayor Cain said in the packet it states Gulf Coast 911 is going to reimburse the City for this and asked if that was right? Freeport Police Detective David Fernandez said yes. Mayor Cain said if this was in writing also? Detective Fernandez said yes.

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

Consideration and possible action awarding Bid for Lift Station #1 Re location.

A motion was made by Mayor Cain to table this item as it does not mirror the agreement that the City has with the Port, seconded by Councilman Matamoros with discussion that followed.

Councilman Pena asked what particular section of the contract did not follow that Mayor Cain was referencing? Mayor Cain said the agreement with the Port does not include sharing the cost of the water line relocation and in the paperwork in front of the Council it has that portion shared. Councilman Pena asked if the Port was notified? Mayor Cain said yes.

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

Executive Session

Executive Session regarding a.) (Personal Matters), pursuant to Section 551.074 to deliberate the

appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of the Police Chief.
(Councilman Pena/Councilman Davis)

Discuss and Take Possible Action to Reverse the Unauthorized Suspension and Investigation of Police Chief Howell by City Manager Lance Petty a.) (Personal Matters), pursuant to Section 551.074 (Councilman Pena/Councilman Davis)

The Regular Session closed at 6:23P.M. and the Council entered into the Executive Session.

Reconvene into Open Session:

Take any action resulting from Executive Session.

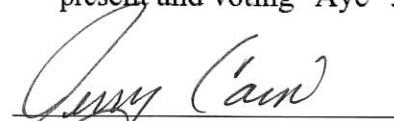
Executive Session ended at 7:23P.M. and the Council entered back into Regular Session.

There was no action from Executive Session.

Adjournment

Adjournment – Jerry Cain, Mayor

A motion was made by Mayor Cain to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Matamoros with all present and voting "Aye" 5-0. Mayor Cain adjourned the meeting at 7:23P.M.



Jerry Cain, Mayor



Clarisa Fernandez, City Secretary