

STATE OF TEXAS
CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD
COUNTIES OF GALVESTON/HARRIS
NOVEMBER 18, 2019

6:30 PM – REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE FRIENDSWOOD CITY COUNCIL THAT WAS HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2019, AT 06:30 PM AT FRIENDSWOOD CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 910 S. FRIENDSWOOD DRIVE, FRIENDSWOOD, TEXAS, WITH THE FOLLOWING PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM:

MAYOR MIKE FOREMAN
COUNCILMEMBER STEVE ROCKEY
COUNCILMEMBER TRISH HANKS
COUNCILMEMBER ROBERT J. GRIFFON
COUNCILMEMBER BRENT ERENWERT
CITY ATTORNEY MARY KAY FISCHER
CITY MANAGER MORAD KABIRI
CITY SECRETARY MELINDA WELSH

COUNCILMEMBERS SALLY BRANSON AND JOHN SCOTT WERE ABSENT FROM THE MEETING.

1. Call to order

Mayor Foreman called the meeting to order.

2. Invocation – Deacon Paul Robison, Mary Queen Catholic Church

The invocation was given by Deacon Paul Robinson with Mary Queen Catholic Church.

3. Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas Flags – Gia Butera and Nichole Kilbourn with Girl Scout Troop 143114

(HONOR THE TEXAS FLAG; I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THEE, TEXAS, ONE STATE UNDER GOD, ONE AND INDIVISIBLE)

Girls Scouts Gia Butera and Nichole Kilbourn with Troop 143114 led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and to the State of Texas.

4. Communications from the Public

(To comply with provisions of the Open Meetings Act, the City Council may not deliberate on items discussed under this agenda item. The Council may refer this item to the City Manager or direct this item to be placed on the next regular Council agenda. PowerPoint presentations are not conducted during the citizen comment period. Out of respect for those speaking during public comment, please refrain from any outbursts or interjections to

include, but not limited to, applause and/or disparaging noises from the audience. Doing so discourages others from voicing their thoughts and opinions, and disrupts the meeting. Furthermore, any personnel complaints against a City employee aside from the City Manager, City Secretary, City Attorney or Municipal Judge cannot be discussed under this section. Please contact the City Manager's office for concerns involving a City employee.)

Connie Ratisseau, Friendswood resident, addressed Council and asked Council to form an oversight committee for the bonds that passed, used as a mechanism to ensure efficiency, equity, timeliness, accountability, transparency, and confidence.

Phil Ratisseau, Friendswood resident, addressed Council and thanked the citizens of Friendswood for coming out and voting overwhelmingly for drainage improvements to help alleviate flooding. Thanked Harris County residents of the city for showing up in large numbers to vote. A standing committee on drainage should be created to work with the new City Engineer.

Gail Lovely, Friendswood resident, addressed Council and stated it has been 813 days since Hurricane Harvey, pleased that Proposition F for drainage passed, would like a standing committee for drainage, is a long-term project, need to have consistency, and projects should start right away.

Dave Yelovich, Friendswood resident, addressed Council and stated the city has come a long way since Hurricane Harvey, have a long way still to go, goal is to get as many houses raised along the creek as possible, city should offer temporary tax break for those that do, AT&T has pedestal covers that floated away in Wedgewood Village, city should make AT&T fix their equipment, happy with the bonds that passed, and suggested Fire Station No. 2 be located somewhere other than FM 528.

5. Ordinance

Consideration and possible action regarding the following:

- A. Ordinance No. T2019-45: (Title: First and Final reading of an ordinance canvassing the returns of the Special Bond Election held on November 05, 2019) An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Friendswood, Texas, canvassing the returns of the November 05, 2019, City of Friendswood Special Bond Election for six bond propositions.**

****Councilmember Rockey moved to approve the First and Final reading of Ordinance No. 2019-45 – An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Friendswood, Texas, canvassing the returns of the November 05, 2019, City of Friendswood Special Bond Election for six bond propositions. The motion was seconded and approved 5-0.**

PROPOSITION NO. A

For the issuance of \$2,000,000 tax bonds by the City of Friendswood, Texas for designing, constructing, improving, and expanding the municipal public works facility located off of Blackhawk Boulevard in the city. Taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds will be imposed.....2,206 votes

Against the issuance of \$2,000,000 tax bonds by the City of Friendswood, Texas for designing,

constructing, improving, and expanding the municipal public works facility located off of Blackhawk Boulevard in the city. Taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds will be imposed.....2,139 votes

PROPOSITION NO. B

For the issuance of \$9,100,000 tax bonds by the City of Friendswood, Texas for construction, improving, renovating and equipping public safety facilities for the Fire and Police Departments, consisting of the municipal public safety building and a new fire station and training field to replace Fire Station Number 2 in the city. Taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds will be imposed.....2,396 votes

Against the issuance of \$9,100,000 tax bonds by the City of Friendswood, Texas for construction, improving, renovating and equipping public safety facilities for the Fire and Police Departments, consisting of the municipal public safety building and a new fire station and training field to replace Fire Station Number 2 in the city. Taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds will be imposed.....1,963 votes

PROPOSITION NO. C

For the issuance of \$9,000,000 tax bonds by the City of Friendswood, Texas for designing, constructing, improving, and expanding the municipal community center located off of Morningside Drive in the city. Taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds will be imposed.....1,708 votes

Against the issuance of \$9,000,000 tax bonds by the City of Friendswood, Texas for designing, constructing, improving, and expanding the municipal community center located off of Morningside Drive in the city. Taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds will be imposed.....2,620 votes

PROPOSITION NO. D

For the issuance of \$7,600,000 tax bonds by the City of Friendswood, Texas for improving, renovating, upgrading and reconstructing transportation and pedestrian facilities in the city, including improvements to existing streets and roads in the city and other related costs, including the extension of Friendswood Lakes Boulevard (also known as Friendswood Parkway), the installation of sidewalks throughout the city and various traffic enhancements along major collector and arterial roadways in the city. Taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds will be imposed.....2,029 votes

Against the issuance of \$7,600,000 tax bonds by the City of Friendswood, Texas for improving, renovating, upgrading and reconstructing transportation and pedestrian facilities in the city, including improvements to existing streets and roads in the city and other related costs, including the extension of Friendswood Lakes Boulevard (also known as Friendswood Parkway), the installation of sidewalks throughout the city and various traffic enhancements along major collector and arterial roadways in the city. Taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds will be imposed.....2,317 votes

PROPOSITION NO. E

For the issuance of \$8,000,000 tax bonds by the City of Friendswood, Texas for designing, constructing, improving, expanding and equipping parks, trails and recreational facilities in the city, and the acquisition of land and interests in land for such purposes, including improvements to, and expansion of, Stevenson Park, Old City Park, Renwick Park, 1776 Park and the City Pool. Taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds will be imposed.....2,124 votes

Against the issuance of \$8,000,000 tax bonds by the City of Friendswood, Texas for designing, constructing, improving, expanding and equipping parks, trails and recreational facilities in the city, and the acquisition of land and interests in land for such purposes, including improvements to, and expansion of, Stevenson Park, Old City Park, Renwick Park, 1776 Park and the City Pool. Taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds will be imposed.....2,209 votes

PROPOSITION NO. F

For the issuance of \$41,000,000 tax bonds by the City of Friendswood, Texas for constructing, acquiring and installing stormwater drainage and flood control improvements along Clear Creek throughout the corporate limits of the city, including dredging, channel improvements and related infrastructure and utility relocation and the acquisition of land and interests in land necessary for said improvements. Taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds will be imposed.....2,960 votes

Against the issuance of \$41,000,000 tax bonds by the City of Friendswood, Texas for constructing, acquiring and installing stormwater drainage and flood control improvements along Clear Creek throughout the corporate limits of the city, including dredging, channel improvements and related infrastructure and utility relocation and the acquisition of land and interests in land necessary for said improvements. Taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds will be imposed.....1,399 votes

City Manager Morad Kabiri stated there were record crowds at City Hall on Election Day to vote, City Hall was overwhelmed, both operationally and from a life safety standpoint, asked Council to consider relocating future elections to another facility, single-story to ease accessibility concerns and a facility that would not have operational impacts, and suggested possible use of the old Friendswood Junior High building.

Councilmember Rockey stated a friend of his that has back problems was told by a Galveston County election official on Election Day that he could not use the elevator, he went home and did not vote, have asked City Secretary Melinda Welsh to ask the county why the gentleman was not able to vote, and he is in favor of using the old junior high. He was pleased with the election process, bonds are the best form of democracy, and there was an amazing discernment on what citizens would like to spend their money on.

Mayor Foreman stated that 50% of the bonds passed, 70% of the total requested funds, agree with

the need to move voting out of City Hall, turnout was impressive, location of old junior high has more parking and no stairs to climb.

6. Communications from the Mayor and Councilmembers

Mayor Foreman thanked all the citizens that came out and voted, impressive turnout, was democracy in action.

Councilmember Rockey thanked the volunteers that helped on the Citizen Advisory Team.

Councilmembers Hanks, Griffon, and Erenwert stated they had nothing to report.

7. Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned at 06:51 PM.

Attest:

Mayor Mike Foreman

Melinda Welsh, TRMC
City Secretary