

**Regular Council Meeting
January 13, 2009**

I. Meeting Called to Order

Mayor Marse called to order the regularly scheduled meeting of January 13, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Mayor J. M. Marse, Council Members Jean Arrant, Ray Jackson, Earl King, Mark Martin and Charlie Simmons. Staff present: City Attorney Clayton Adkinson, City Engineer Representative Charles Peters (PMA), Parks Director Shane Supple, City Planner Latilda Henninger, and City Clerk Robin Haynes.

II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Councilman Simmons gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Approval of Past Minutes

Councilman Jackson motioned to accept the minutes of the regular Council meeting of December 9, 2008 as written, Councilman Simmons seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

1. Planning Issues

Ms. Henninger reported to Council that the City had not been able to obtain compliance on three code violations located on Madison Street, Four Mile Road, and Highway 20. She stated that since the violations were inside the City limits that Council had three options:

- Create a code enforcement board
- Appoint a special magistrate, Walton County code enforcement would assist with training
- Enforce code violations by other means as they see fit

Attorney Adkinson recommended Council approve him to write a letter giving property owner a certain amount of time to correct the code violation and stating that if compliance was not met, that the City would proceed to file a lawsuit for a court order to clean up the property on behalf of the owner with the threat of filing a lien against the property. Councilman King motioned to approve the attorney to write a letter to the property owners and to proceed with filing a lawsuit if no response, Councilman Jackson seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

2. Legal Matters

No legal matters were presented.

3. Fire Department Report

No fire report was presented.

4. Parks Department Report

Shane Supple briefly discussed the following items:

- Tennis and basketball courts were being repainted
- Requested approval to gather quotes on remote locking systems for the restrooms – council agreed
- Requested approval for a stand alone website for the Freeport Regional Sports Complex. The website would consist of five pages and cost \$45.00 per month. Councilwoman Arrant motioned to approve the website for the

Sports Complex, Councilman Martin seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

- Stated that with his last conversation with Chelco, they recommended the City hire an electrician to determine how to split the metering system on the soccer fields up. Council agreed to have Charles Peters research the cost of splitting the metering points up in such a way to reduce the “demand” cost and to determine the cost of running the lights from a generator.

5. Engineer’s Report

Mr. Charles Peters updated the Council on the following items:

- Presented a list of projects that the City will submit for consideration to include in the economic stimulus plan being presented by the National League of Cities
- Well #7 – contractor has begun moving equipment in – drilling to begin on Monday
- Reuse tank – logos being painted, should finish up by next week
- Reuse filters and equipment – start up scheduled for next week, will take approximately a month to get all equipment synchronized
- Tonny Peters has begun drafting an operating agreement between the City and Hammock Bay, a requirement by DEP for the reuse water

Mayor Marse requested approval to proceed with the archeology survey that is required for the Eglin permit on Highway 20. Councilman King motioned to approve the archeology survey for the Eglin permit, Councilman Jackson seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

IV. Old Business

None was presented.

V. New Business

1. Renewal – Work Squad Contract

Councilman King motioned to approve the work squad renewal contact and for the Mayor to execute the contract, Councilman Jackson seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

2. Planning Board Appointment

Councilman Martin motioned to appoint Harold Taunton Jr. as his planning board representative. Ms. Henninger pointed out that Mr. Taunton was on the technical review board for Walton County and wanted to confirm that this would not create a conflict. Attorney Adkinson did not see any conflict. Councilman Martin motioned to appoint Harold Taunton Jr. to the Freeport Planning Board, Councilwoman Arrant seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

3. Benefit package options/Council

Councilman Martin requested Council consider allowing council members access to benefits as regular employees. Councilman Martin motioned to authorize Clerk Haynes to gather information regarding adding council members to Florida Retirement and medical insurance, Councilman Jackson seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

4. Helton memorial

Councilman Martin recommended naming something in the City after Councilman Helton for his years of service. Council agreed to bring back ideas at the next council meeting.

5. Resolution request/Florida League of Cities

Councilwoman Arrant motioned to approve a resolution sponsored by Florida League of Cities "Building Citizenship in the Community: Back to Basics" as presented, Councilman Jackson seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0. Resolution #09-01 was adopted.

6. Pay all bills in order

Councilman Martin motioned to pay all bills in order, Councilman Jackson seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

VI. Council Business Not On Agenda

None was presented.

VII. Public Business Not On Agenda

None was presented.

VIII. Adjournment

Councilman Martin motioned to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

J.M. Marse, Mayor

Robin Haynes, City Clerk

Earl King, Council President