

**Regular Council Meeting
January 28, 2010**

I. Meeting Called to Order

Mayor Marse called to order the regularly scheduled meeting of January 28, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Mayor J. M. Marse, Council members Elizabeth Brannon, Ray Jackson, Earl King, and Mark Martin. Councilman Charlie Simmons was absent. Staff present: City Attorney Clay Adkinson, Parks Director Shane Supple, City Planner Latilda Henninger, and City Clerk Robin Haynes.

II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of Past Minutes

Councilwoman Brannon motioned to accept the minutes of the regular scheduled council meeting of January 12, 2010 as written, Councilman Jackson seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 4:0.

1. Planning Issues

A. Capital Improvements Update

Ms. Henninger and Mr. Bill Compton with West Florida Regional Planning Council made a short presentation on the draft capital improvements update.

B. 1st reading ordinance/Capital Improvements element

Councilman Jackson motioned to approve 1st reading of the proposed capital improvements element, Councilman King seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 4:0. Ms. Henninger read the proposed ordinance by title.

C. 2nd reading & adoption/Capital Improvements element

Councilman Jackson motioned to advertise for 2nd reading and adoption of the proposed capital improvements element at the regular scheduled council meeting of February 25, 2010, Councilwoman Brannon seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 4:0.

D. Approval request – Enterprise Zone expansion submittal

Councilwoman Brannon motioned to approve submittal of the Enterprise Zone expansion request, Councilman King seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 4:0.

E. Request Mayor's signature for Enterprise Zone expansion request

Item covered by earlier motion.

Ms. Henninger informed Council that she had received notification that the City's RACEC designation had be extended until December of 2015.

2. Legal Matters

A. Owner's Agreement – Freeport Business Park

Attorney Adkinson informed the Council that providing insurance on the retaining wall at the Freeport Business Park was prohibitive and that he had reviewed and approved a hold harmless indemnity agreement presented by the owners of the park. Councilwoman Brannon motioned to approve the agreement as presented, Councilman Jackson seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 4:0.

3. Fire Department Report

No report was given.

4. Parks Department Report

No report was given.

5. Engineer's Report

Angie Jay with Preble-Rish informed the Council that the Rural Development grant application was progressing, with a projected submittal date of middle to late February.

Cliff Knauer with Preble-Rish provided an update to Council on the Four Mile Bridge project. The contractor was behind schedule and meetings were being held the next week with counsel to determine how best to complete the project. The estimated completion date at this time is late February to early March.

Charles Peters with Peters Municipal Associates gave a short update on the following projects:

- Well #7 is complete, contractor does not agree with liquidated damages. Council agreed to assess full amount due by contract (approximately \$58,000.00).
- Design of the extension of the sidewalks on Highway 20 were complete and would be delivered to City Hall the next week.
- Design of the McDaniels Fish Camp sewer line extension was complete. Mayor Marse requested Mr. Peters modify the design to include a line to run down Pitts Bay Shore Drive.
- Provided some clarification of the letter issued regarding the replacement of the sewer lift stations – corrected some cost estimates and stated that the “option D” listed on the letter only actually applied to the cost for the 2nd lift station listed.

III. Old Business

1. Sign design/Walton County Industrial Park

Ms. Miller, representing the Walton County Economic Development Alliance, invited Council to the quarterly roundtable being held at the Freeport Community Center on February 25, 2010.

Ms. Miller then presented a draft design for a sign for the entrance of the Walton County Industrial Park at Freeport. Councilman Martin expressed concern that the design did not list individual companies. Ms. Miller stated that with not knowing the total build out of the park, it would be hard to estimate how many spaces to design and maintenance of the individual company names on the sign would have to be delegated to someone. Councilwoman Brannon requested to meet with Ms. Miller at a later time to work on the design.

No Council action was taken.

2. Community Center rental fee waivers

Clerk Haynes informed Council that the City did not currently have a resolution with the rental fees of the public buildings. Ms. Haynes will present a draft resolution at a later time.

No Council action was taken.

IV. New Business

1. NWFLC dinner/March 18, 2010

Councilman Martin requested a workshop for the planning of the NWFLC dinner that is to be held in Freeport in March. The workshop was scheduled for Thursday, February 4, 2010 at 7:00 pm.

2. Resolution request/Support of Fishery Stock Assessment

Councilman Martin motioned to approve the proposed resolution as presented, Councilman King seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 4:0.

3. 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 4:0.

V. Council Business Not On Agenda

Mr. Tim Ard and Mrs. Kasey Cuchens, representing the Freeport Town Planters, presented an idea for a Veteran's Memorial to be placed at City Hall. Council agreed to support the project.

Mayor Marse received notification that Robin Hollington's term on the Walton County Library Board has expired, and asked Council to bring back ideas of someone to appoint at the next meeting.

Clerk Haynes informed Council that she and Mayor Marse had met with DOT and PBS&J representatives regarding the possibility of the widening of Highway 331 from the Choctawhatchee Bridge to Highway 20 being funded with stimulus money. If funding is approved, the City's water and sewer lines would have to be relocated. Councilman Martin motioned to approve sending DOT's comptroller a hardship letter requesting a promissory note for the funds needed to relocate the lines, Councilwoman Brannon seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 4:0.

Ms. Scarlett Miller requested approval to move forward with the permitting of the sign for the Walton County Industrial Park. Councilman Martin motioned to approve proceeding with the permitting process for the sign for the Walton County Industrial Park, subject to final design approval by the Council, Councilman King seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 4:0.

VI. Public Business Not On Agenda

None was presented.

VII. Adjournment

Councilman Martin motioned to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

J.M. Marse, Mayor

Robin Haynes, City Clerk

Earl King, Council President