

Regular Council Meeting
April 10, 2007

Mayor Marse called to order the regular scheduled meeting of April 10, 2007 at 7:00 pm.

Members Present: Mayor J.M. Marse, Council members Jean Arrant, Mike Helton, Earl King and Charlie Simmons. Council member Ray Jackson was absent. Also present: City Attorney Clayton Adkinson, City Planner Latilda Henninger and City Clerk Robin Haynes.

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

There were no minutes presented for approval.

Ms. Henninger presented the following planning items:

Presented an update on the Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR). Provided council with a draft copy of the documents that will be presented at the scoping meeting on April 17, 2007. The EAR Review team's top three issues were identified as:

- Traffic
- Economic Development
- Future Land Use

Requested approval to proceed forward with the three issues as presented to the scoping meeting on April 17. Also mentioned that the data and analysis is ready to be given to West Florida Regional Planning Council for the writing of the EAR amendment. Mayor Marse questioned whether the EAR team could incorporate lot splits and land densities into the EAR report. Ms. Henninger told Mayor Marse that the two amendments were two different issues. Councilman King motioned to approve EAR team to proceed to scoping meeting with the issues as presented, Councilman Helton seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 4-0.

Ms. Henninger requested approval to begin the public hearing process to reduce the density caps and to create some additional commercial categories. There was discussion between Ms. Henninger, council, and audience members regarding possible changes to the comprehensive plan regarding lot splitting and residential densities and whether or not to include these changes within the EAR based amendment. Council agreed to proceed with incorporating some of these changes into the EAR based amendment.

Ms. Henninger requested approval to require a letter from the project engineer of a development requesting final inspection of the project and certifying that the project has been constructed in accordance with the City's approved plans. Councilwoman Arrant motioned to approve the recommended engineer letter, Councilman Helton seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 4-0.

There were no legal matters to present.

Mr. Charles Peters discussed the following items in the engineer's report:

- North Bay – survey for Eglin easement has been completed
- Mallard Creek sewer - bid opening set for May 22
- Bay Area Sewer – lines have been constructed, the creek crossings should be completed in two to three weeks
- Working on upgrading the sewer force main on Highway 331 going north
- Owl's Head wastewater treatment plant is on hold
- Blount House plans – will be completed by the end of the week

Mr. Tonny Peters updated the council on the wastewater treatment plant "step plan" upgrade. Requested approval to submit a proposal to start the design to upgrade the

treatment plant from 600,000 gallons to 2 mgd. Councilwoman Arrant motioned to approve the submittal of the proposal to start the design to upgrade the treatment plant, Councilman Simmons seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 4-0.

Old Business:

Ms. Eleanor Turner, representing the Town Planters Society, thanked the council for their support in the past, the present and the future with the old Blount House.

Mayor Marse requested approval to address the Walton County Board of County Commissioners to request funds in the amount of \$200,000.00 to help finance sewer fees for hardship cases. No action was taken.

Mayor Marse asked about the bond requirements for contractors on projects that the City advertises for bid. Attorney Adkinson advised council that if grant or loan funds are used for a project, there is usually a requirement in the contract agreements. If local funds are used, then there are no requirements. There was discussion regarding the bond requirements, but no action was taken.

New Business:

Mr. Jeff Glover with Bayport, LLC, in light of the council's recent discussion regarding palm trees, requested approval to change the name of the development that he represents from Palm Shadow to The Verandas at Freeport without restarting the development order process. Councilman King motioned to approve the requested name change from Palm Shadow to The Verandas at Freeport, Councilman Simmons seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 4-0.

Ms. Loretta Burton, of 107 Harrison Street, requested assistance in obtaining a right of way easement to her property. She is presently landlocked, due to the closure of the old Harrison Street in 1977. There was discussion between Ms. Burton, Mr. Adkinson, and council, but no action was taken.

Councilman Helton motioned to pay all bills in order, Councilwoman Arrant seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 4-0.

With no other business, Councilman Helton motioned to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Robin Haynes, City Clerk

J.M. Marse, Mayor

Earl King, President of Council