

Regular Council Meeting
June 28, 2007

Mayor Marse called to order the regular scheduled meeting of June 28, 2007 at 7:00 pm.

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

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

Councilman Helton motioned to accept the minutes of the regular council meetings on May 8, May 24, and June 12, 2007, Councilman Simmons seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Henninger presented the following planning items:

Presented council with an annexation application for the Edwards/Brooks property located on Highway 331 South. She informed council that one application had been withdrawn, the Shortridge property, eliminating a possible enclave. She also requested consideration of three other applications, previously submitted to be approved to proceed with annexation. Councilman Simmons motioned to approve the Chambers, Walters, Reed and Edwards/Brooks properties to proceed with annexations pending legal review, Councilman King seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5-0.

Informed council and the audience she had received a development application for an Advanced Auto Parts. The owner has agreed to allow a non-profit organization to relocate the existing building currently known as the Southern Escrow office if desired.

Announced that the Community Traffic Safety Team was issued a citation "Certificate of Excellence" for Walton County.

Attorney Adkinson presented the following legal issues:

Updated the council on the status of the annexation applications previously submitted – the parcels were being reviewed for appropriate legal descriptions.

Presented a draft interlocal agreement with Walton County regarding the funds available for the barge port improvement. Council requested he pass along to Walton County for review, to speed up the disbursement of the funds.

Mr. Charles Peters updated council on the following items:

Requested status of resolution at legal for the purpose of setting a time limit for expiration on development orders. Attorney Adkinson told him he expected to have a draft copy at the next meeting.

Wastewater re-use tank is ready for bid. Construction expected to have a nine to ten month lead time due to production. Recommended advertising for bid close date of the first week of August to allow for a recommendation for award at the first meeting of August. Councilman Jackson motioned to approve advertising the re-use tank for bid, Councilman Helton seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5-0.

Informed council that the owners of the Verandas have agreed to give the City an easement for the purpose of a lift station for Highway 331 going north.

Informed council that the sidewalk project was almost complete. Mayor Marse said he would like to place decorative street lighting on Blueberry when complete.

Old Business:

Councilman Simmons updated the council on the traffic concurrency meetings with the county that he has been attending. Mr. Tonny Peters mentioned that the City and the County concurrency plans had three major differences – the count of the master plan developments relating to the traffic in and around Freeport, the distance that the trips were being carried onto the road system through the county, and the vested trips being given to the developers without time restraints. The County has since revised the traffic system in such a way that the City and County systems can be used merged at a later date. Requested a motion to proceed with a merging plan of the traffic concurrency system with the County’s traffic concurrency system. Councilwoman Arrant motioned to proceed with merging the City and County traffic concurrency systems, Councilman King seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Marse presented the bid tabulations received for the Activity center building:

- Mike Josey Construction, Inc. \$176,100.00
- W.G. Hallman-Builder, LLC \$198,975.00
- Simmons General Contracting, Inc. \$205,700.00
- RNS Contractors \$219,000.00
- Frame Construction Company of PC \$234,750.00
- Tindle Enterprises, Inc. \$240,437.00
- Omnicon, LLC \$241,900.20
- Hall Contracting & Construction, Inc. \$256,000.00
- South Walton Construction \$269,188.64
- BCL Civil Contractors, Inc. \$290,865.75

Due to the bids received being higher than budgeted, he requested council to reject bids and have Councilman Simmons work with Charles Peters on specifications to determine if the costs can be lowered. Councilman King motioned to reject all bids, Councilman Jackson seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Marse informed council that Mr. Richards with Chelco has requested space in the new City Hall, space for two clerk stations and a cubicle office. Chelco is currently paying between \$450 - \$600 per month at other locations. Mayor Marse recommended charging between \$1,200 - \$1,500 per month on a month to month lease. Attorney Adkinson recommended Mr. Richards address the council at a future meeting to discuss the options with the council.

Mayor Marse informed council that he had requested prices on a pre-engineered metal building for the water department building. Clerk Haynes had suggested moving the location to the property at the sewer treatment plant, but council decided that it was located too far away from the wells.

New Business:

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

Councilman Simmons updated council on the bids Walton County received for the City Park. The low bid received was approximately \$5,400,000. The County has requested the City to confirm its contribution towards the Park.

Councilman King and Councilman Jackson informed the council that the water and sewer merit raises had been distributed as they had budgeted.

Mr. Ernest Nettles told council and audience that Freeport Plantations was passing out ice cream on Saturday, from 10-5.

With no other business, Councilman Helton motioned to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

J.M. Marse, Mayor

Robin Haynes, City Clerk

Earl King, President of Council