

**Regular Council Meeting
July 8, 2008**

I. Meeting Called to Order

Mayor Marse called to order the regularly scheduled meeting of July 8, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Mayor J. M. Marse, Council Members Jean Arrant, Mike Helton, Earl King, and Charlie Simmons. Council Member Ray Jackson was absent. Staff present: City Attorney Clayton Adkinson, City Engineer Representative Charles Peters (PMA), Fire Chief Bennett Greenslait, Parks Manager Shaun Arntz and City Clerk Robin Haynes.

* Mayor Marse stated that the 4th of July Parade and Grand Opening of the Freeport Regional Sports Complex went extremely well and thanked everyone involved.

II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Approval of Past Minutes

Councilman Helton motioned to accept the minutes of the regular council meeting of June 26, 2008 as written, Councilman Simmons seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 4:0.

1. Planning Issues

No planning issues were presented.

2. Legal Matters

No legal matters were presented.

3. Parks Department Report

Mr. Shaun Arntz informed the council that the FRDAP sign had been placed as requested. He also requested direction regarding the rental of the park facilities for a private fundraiser. After short discussion between council and Attorney Adkinson regarding the possible issues that may arise, Attorney Adkinson requested Clerk Haynes find the resolution that established the original parks committee. Councilman King suggested that Shaun direct the resident to use the park facilities located behind City Hall.

4. Fire Department Report

Fire Chief Greenslait asked the council if they had any comments or questions regarding the draft interlocal agreement between the City and the County. None were presented. Attorney Adkinson stated that the agreement had been submitted to the County for review and suggested that the best course of action would probably be to wait until they had a chance to review it, and then to set up a meeting with the County officials to fine tune the agreement.

5. Engineer's Report

Mr. Charles Peters updated the council on the following sewer department projects:

- Erection had begun on the reuse tank – the project time allowance was 365 days, 243 days have elapsed
- Treatment plant improvements were moving along – the project time on this was 300 days, 126 days have elapsed
- Lazy Days project is well behind schedule – the contract allowed 90 days, and 41 days have elapsed.

IV. Old Business

1. Loretta Burton – Harrison Street

Mayor Marse stated that the Hare's have agreed to sell a piece of their property from the east side to the Methodist Church for \$10,000.00, subject to Ms. Burton moving her fence from the right of way of the road, and Ms. Burnham moving her grape arbor out of the right of way. Mayor Marse requested approval to purchase the property without making further improvements to the street. Attorney Adkinson stated that he had the original deed presented to the City by the church and would not have it recorded until an agreement was reached with all parties. Councilwoman Arrant motioned to approve Mayor Marse to proceed with closing the land purchase transaction, Councilman King seconded. Councilman Simmons abstained from voting. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 3:0.

V. New Business

1. Approval of audit – year ending 9/30/07

Councilman Helton motioned to accept the audited financial statement for the City of Freeport for the year ending 9/30/07, Councilwoman Arrant seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 4:0.

2. Industrial Park – Economic Development Council

Mayor Marse informed the Council that he had spoken to the Economic Development Council about developing approximately 1100' of Nick Wilson Way – providing with water, sewer, and paving of the street – in exchange for a parcel of property on the eastside of the road. The parcel is approximately 8.92 acres and a preliminary construction cost for the improvements is \$158,000.00. Mayor Marse requested approval to continue discussion with the EDC. Councilman King motioned to authorize Mayor Marse to continue discussions with EDC regarding the possible construction, Councilwoman Arrant seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 4:0.

3. Job Vacancies

Clerk Haynes told the council that the City had received four job applications for the water department position and none for the sewer department. Council directed Mayor Marse and Earl King to interview the applicants for the water department and Clerk Haynes to re-advertise for the sewer department position.

4. Pay all bills in order

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

VI. Council Business Not On Agenda

None was presented.

VII. Public Business Not On Agenda

None was presented.

VIII. Adjournment

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

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

J.M. Marse, Mayor

Robin Haynes, City Clerk

Earl King, Council President