

Regular Council Meeting  
July 10, 2007

Mayor Marse called to order the regular scheduled meeting of July 10, 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 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.

Ms. Henninger presented the following planning items:

Requested approval to attend State Planning Conference in Orlando. Councilwoman Arrant motioned to approve her attendance at the conference, Councilman King seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5-0.

Updated council on the Freeport Area Council meeting.

Updated council on the school concurrency workshops. Plans to have the adoption of the public schools element in September of 2007, transmittal in November.

Updated council on development concerning traffic and DOT. The DOT does not consider accel/decell lanes on permits any longer, the language needs to be changed to turn lanes. Mayor Marse informed council that DOT was requiring land to be given up by developer for the purpose of turn lanes. Ms. Henninger discussed considering a "buy out" for sidewalk and highway funds.

Presented a conceptual plan for Portofino Park. The property is currently zoned C-1. The proposal as submitted would provide a mixed use development – a three story commercial building with condo units on the top floor. Ms. Henninger informed council that each mixed use development would come before council as an individual item – one time, one development for approval on a case by case basis. Mr. Ed Stanford, representing the developer, indicated that he would attempt to decrease the parking spaces in an attempt to eliminate the retaining wall. Councilwoman Arrant motioned to approve the conceptual drawing as presented, Councilman Helton seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5-0.

Presented a conceptual plan for a mixed use development located on Highway 331. The request is to place residential units – rental apartments – in a commercial zone. There is one small parcel located on Highway 331 in front of the property that would be used for commercial. The proposed development would consist of 260 units located on 19 acres. Engineer Charles Peters recommended having the developer apply to rezone the property to either R-3 or R-2. There was no motion made.

Attorney Adkinson presented the following legal issues:

The interlocal agreement between the City and Walton County concerning the barge port was delivered to the County Attorney.

Draft ordinance for the annexations was moving forward – expect to bring before the council next month.

Mr. Charles Peters updated council on the following items:

- Activity Center building – discussing plans with low bidder to determine possible cost reductions. Recommended negotiating with low bidder – Mike Josey construction and bring back to council for approval. Councilman Jackson motioned to approve working with the low bidder, Councilman King seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5-0.
- Reuse tank bid opening set for August 9, 2007 at 10:00 am

- Hammock Bay – discussion continues regarding logo on tank, continued maintenance and inventory on the equipment prior to approval of the bill of sale

Old Business:

Mayor Marse discussed DOT turn lanes previously. No additional items were presented.

New Business:

Dawn Moliterno presented a request on behalf of the Walton County Chamber of Commerce proclaiming July 12 and July 13, 2007 as Walton County Chamber of Commerce Member Appreciation Days. Councilwoman Arrant motioned to approve the proposed proclamation, Councilman Jackson seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Kerry Jackson, representing Mr. Billy McAdams, addressed the council regarding his attempts to have the property located beside his on Highway 20 to be cleaned up. She mentioned numerous possible violations including piled trash, abandoned vehicles and a mobile home located too close to the highway. Conversations with Walton County Code Enforcement concluded that Mayor Marse had told them to back off of the investigation. After some discussion between council and audience, Attorney Adkinson advised Clerk Haynes to notify Code Enforcement again and have them issue a notice of violation giving the owners thirty days to get the property cleaned up.

Clerk Haynes informed the council that Nicole Martin and Stacy Ward has completed their 90 day probationary period. Nicole Martin was recommended to be placed on permanent employee status, but Clerk Haynes requested Stacy Ward have her probation extended by 30 days. Councilwoman Arrant motioned to approve Nicole Martin's permanent employee status and to approve extending Stacy Ward's probation by 30 days, Councilman Simmons seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Marse was listed on the agenda with a New Beginnings fire update. He informed council and audience that the City currently had 250 fire hydrants in the ground at an approximate cost of \$3,000.00 each and that the City had very good insurance rating. He then allowed comments from the audience. There were numerous members of the church in the audience with concerns. Some of the comments were as follows:

- Response time of the fire department and possible delays
- Possible lack of training of fire department employees
- Adequacy of the water pressure/quantity of water
- Valves possibly being closed
- Possible safety issue of other hydrants not working as designed

Councilman King assured the audience that the City of Freeport had plenty of water. Mayor Marse mentioned that it appeared that the fire hydrant was broken, but it was relatively new and had been tested less than a year ago. Melissa Thomas, representing the New Beginning Church and its congregation, noted that mistakes had been made and she planned to make sure the situation does not repeat itself.

With no other business, Councilman Helton motioned to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

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J.M. Marse, Mayor

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Robin Haynes, City Clerk

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Earl King, President of Council