

Public Hearing
Regular Council Meeting
July 13, 2004

Mayor Marse opened the Public Hearing for a proposed rezoning change on the Watkins property located on US 331 S, down past Sparkleberry Road. Councilman Brannon and Helton recommended that the proposal be forwarded to the Council.

No further questions were asked, Mayor Marse closed the hearing at 6:50 pm.

A delay in the start of the regular council meeting occurred due to the City election. The canvassing board consisted of Councilwomen Arrant and McLean, Councilman King, Mayor Marse, and City Clerk Riley. They had to meet after the voting poles closed and perform the duties of counting absentee ballots, a provisional ballot, and calculated the results of all ballots cast. Ray Jackson obtained 83 votes, Earnest Nettles received 23 votes, Peter Dier acquired 7 votes and Sherri Hallmark received 5 votes. A total of 118 ballots were cast. Ray Jackson was the unofficial winner of the election.

Mayor Marse called to order the regular scheduled meeting of July 13, 2004 at 7:50 pm.

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

Members Present: Mayor J.M. Marse, Council members Scott Brannon, Janice McLean, Jean Arrant, Earl King and Mike Helton were present. Also present: City Clerk Diane Riley and City Attorney Clayton Adkinson.

No minutes were presented for approval.

Old Business:

Paul Miller of WFRPC presented the first reading for the land use change and zoning of the Watkins property located on highway 331 S and Sparkleberry Rd. Mr. Miller also stated that the two large scale amendments were found in compliance by the Department of Community Affairs and would become effective on 7/28/04, barring any appeals. Councilman Brannon moved to approve both first readings of the Watkins property. Councilman Helton seconded by the motion, motion carried, 5-0.

Tony Peters with PMA presented the Council an update on the permit process for the WWTP. The main item was the "notice of intent" by DEP to issue the permit for the upgrade of the WWTP. Councilman King motioned to add the request by PMA to advertise for bids of the sewer plant upgrade to the agenda. The motion was 2nd by Councilman Brannon, motion carried, 5-0. Councilwoman Arrant motioned to advertise for construction bids for the plant starting July 23, and opening of the bids on August 24, 2004. The motion was 2nd by Councilwoman McLean, motion carried, 5-0.

New Business:

Councilman Helton motioned to allow John Henderson to move his trailer from the Freeport Trailer Village to J Street. Councilwoman McLean seconded the motion, it carried, 4-0. Clerk Riley is instructed to send Mr. Henderson a letter explaining the rules and permission given.

Councilwoman McLean motioned for the first reading of annexation of property owned by Freeport Industries, Inc, located on Hales Lane. Councilman Helton 2nd the motion, motion carried, 4-0. Councilman Brannon reframed from voting due to a conflict of interest. Attorney Adkinson performed the first reading. Adoption is slated for the August 10th meeting.

The All-Stars team of 11-12 year old was honored for their accomplishment of getting to the play-off of their division. Mayor Marse presented each player and coach with an award for their performance. The team and coaches presented a plaque to the Council in appreciation for the support of the City.

A quote from Beard Equipment for a mowing tractor was reviewed by the Council. Councilman Helton motioned to purchase the tractor. Councilwoman Arrant 2nd the motion, it carried, 5-0.

Councilman Brannon motioned to renew the annual member with the EDC. Councilman King 2nd the motion, motion carried, 5-0.

Three quotes were submitted for the clearing of the Old Post Office property to place an historical home on for public use. Leddon's Landscaping was the lowest quote at \$3650.00. Councilwoman Arrant motioned that Leddon's Landscaping do the job, and Councilwoman McLean seconded the motion, the motion carried, 5-0.

The Council set August 3, 2004 at 7 pm a workshop for the sewer expansion.

The canvassing board notified the Council of the election results and requested that the results be certified. Councilman King motioned to certify the election by naming Ray Jackson as the official winner of the council seat #3 and Mike Helton as the winner of the at-large seat. Councilwoman Arrant 2nd the motion, the motion carried, 5-0.

Councilman Brannon motioned to pay all bills that are in order. Councilwoman McLean 2nd the motion, it carried, 5-0.

Councilman Brannon respectfully expressed his enjoyment of being part of the Council for the last 4 years. As he furthers his political endeavors he hopes to work closely with the City government in the future.

Mayor stated that the Bob Jones is compiling an application to Rural Development for the renovation of City Hall.

Councilwoman Arrant stated that Leann Stanley had approached her for a donation for the junior high cheerleaders. They won a competition, thus allowing the opportunity for them to perform in a Bowl extravaganza. Although the City does not donate in financial matters like this, Councilwoman Arrant would like everyone to support them in every way to get the money needed for their trip and expenses. Councilwoman Arrant also expressed her concern about the traffic situation on hwy. 331. She would like the Council to keep this in mind when new development wants to come to Freeport. Several comments from Council and audience ensued.

Mayor introduced Kasey Keyes and commended her on the lobbying efforts she has done in behalf of the City.

Jack Rhodes addressed the Council with recognition to the Clerk and WFRPC for the efforts of getting the amendments passed through DCA. His also made a small presentation about a bike path around the Bay Loop. It would start at hwy. 20 for about 1 mile, turn east and turn into where the City park would be and connect with the Hammock Bay Development. The system would be approximately 2.93 miles and the City would have a mini loop within the Bay Loop. Mr. Rhodes went before the County Commissioners and request \$150,000 for the project, they approved the request. He asked that the Council accept the funding from the County in the form of a resolution for the one mile bike path. Councilwoman Arrant motioned to adopt resolution #04-08 to support the development of an exercise/bike trail along Bay Loop road. Councilman Brannon seconded the motion, the motion carried, 5-0.

With no other business, Councilman Brannon motioned to adjourn at 8:43 pm.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

J.M. Marse, Mayor

Diane Riley, City Clerk

Janice McLean, President of Council