

**Regular Council Meeting  
July 23, 2009**

**I. Meeting Called to Order**

Mayor Marse called to order the regularly scheduled meeting of July 23, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Mayor J. M. Marse, Council members Ray Jackson, Earl King, Mark Martin and Charlie Simmons. Staff present: City Attorney Clay Adkinson, City Engineer Representative Charles Peters (PMA), Fire Chief Ben Greenslait, Parks Director Shane Supple, City Planner Latilda Henninger and City Clerk Robin Haynes and Elizabeth Brannon.

*Attorney Adkinson verified with members of the canvassing board the accuracy of the certified election results and requested council to certify the election results of July 14, 2009 for Council Seat #2. Councilman Jackson motioned to certify the election results, Councilman Simmons seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.*

*Mayor Marse swore in Ms. Elizabeth Brannon as Councilmember for Seat #2.*

**II. Approval of Past Minutes**

Councilman Simmons motioned to accept the minutes of the regular Council meeting of July 14, 2009 as written, Councilman Jackson seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

**1. Planning Issues**

Councilwoman Brannon re-appointed Ms. Jan Hooks as her representative for the Freeport planning board.

Councilman King appointed Mr. Greg Free as his representative for the Freeport planning board.

Ms. Henninger informed council that she was reviewing final plans for a shopping center with a grocery store. The plans would be presented to the planning board on August 5<sup>th</sup> and the City council on August 27<sup>th</sup>.

**2. Legal Matters**

None were presented.

**3. Fire Department Report**

Chief Greenslait presented his monthly call report to the council. Council requested he separate the calls by inside or outside city limits in the future.

Informed council that he, Mayor Marse and Clerk Haynes had interviewed nine applicants for the fire department on July 17. He recommended council hire Jasper (John) Carter (move up from part-time) as a full-time firefighter and two part-time – Terry Raffield and James Southern.

Councilman Simmons motioned to approve hiring Mr. Jasper Carter as a full-time firefighter, Councilman King seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

Councilman Jackson motioned to approve hiring Mr. Terry Raffield and Mr. James Southern as part-time firefighters, Councilman Simmons seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

#### **4. Parks Department Report**

Mr. Supple reminded council that he had submitted the Freeport Regional Sports Complex for a Florida Citizenship Award from Florida League of Cities. It was not chosen this year.

#### **5. Engineer's Report**

Mr. Charles Peters updated Council on the following items:

- Finished the bid packages for the Washington, Adams & Jefferson Street water line upgrade – it is ready to receive price quotes
- Well #7 – electrical equipment to be ordered this week, approximately 75-90 days to finish at best current estimate
- Treatment plant having some turbidity issues – all contractors to meet on site again next week

### **IV. Old Business**

#### **1. Tentative millage rate**

Councilman Martin motioned to set the tentative millage rate at 3.93%, Councilman King seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

#### **2. TRIM/1<sup>st</sup> public hearing**

Councilman Simmons motioned to set the 1<sup>st</sup> TRIM public hearing for September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 6:45 pm, Councilman Jackson seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

### **V. New Business**

#### **1. Bill Arnett/Walton County Economic Development Alliance**

Mr. Bill Arnett, President of WCEDA introduced himself to council and gave a short presentation of some items that he would be working on in the near future:

- Businesses already located here - concentrating on retention and expansion
- Site building inventory
- Marketing the area and local website
- E-newsletter for the area
- Report to councils quarterly

#### **2. Mark Martin/NWFLC Board Update**

Councilman Martin updated council on discussion held at the last Northwest Florida League of Cities meeting:

- League of Cities is supporting the requirement of Florida Legislatures to abide by the Sunshine Law
- Advanced Institute for Government holding training in October
- Survey for council requesting top three legislative needs
- Met with a representative from Bill Nelson's office that may be able to assist with Eglin easement

#### **3. Set budget workshop**

Council set the next budget workshop for August 6, 2009 at 7:00 pm.

**4. Pay all bills in order**

Councilman Martin motioned to pay all bills in order, Councilman Simmons seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

**VI. Council Business Not On Agenda**

Councilman Simmons requested an update of code enforcement issues turned over to Attorney Adkinson's office. Attorney Adkinson to check on status and report back to council.

Councilwoman Brannon asked Ms. Henninger about status of port grant discussed at last meeting. Ms. Henninger is working with Preble-Rish to obtain paperwork.

**VII. Public Business Not On Agenda**

Kevin Chilcutt with WZEP thanked Freeport Fire Department for search and rescue conducted earlier in the week.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Councilman Martin motioned to adjourn at 8:00 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, Council President