

**Regular Council Meeting  
September 8, 2009**

**I. Meeting Called to Order**

Mayor Marse called to order the regularly scheduled meeting of September 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Mayor J. M. Marse, Council members Elizabeth Brannon, Ray Jackson, Earl King, and Mark Martin. Council member Charlie Simmons was absent. Staff present: City Attorney Clayton Adkinson, City Engineer Representative Tonny Peters (PMA), Fire Chief Ben Greenslait, City Planner Latilda Henninger and City Clerk Robin Haynes.

**II. Approval of Past Minutes**

Councilman Jackson motioned to accept the minutes of the regular Council meeting of August 27, 2009 and workshops of August 6 and September 2, 2009 as written, Councilwoman Brannon seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 4:0.

**1. Planning Issues**

**A. Request for Approval/Freeport Business Park – final plat**

Ms. Henninger requested this item to be continued to the next council meeting on September 24, 2009 as Attorney Adkinson had not had time to review and present an opinion.

**B. Public Hearing – Sign Ordinance/Language change**

Ms. Henninger presented a proposed ordinance for LDC signage language revisions to include the following updates:

- 1) Remove electric portable signs from the list of prohibited signs
- 2) Add electric portable signs to the list of allowable temporary signs
- 3) Change the time limits of new business/grand opening temporary signs to one (1) year
- 4) Allow short term events to erect signage up to 5 days before the event and to remove signage 5 days after the event.

Mayor Marse asked if there were any public comments:

Mr. Tim Ard – local business owner, requested council not prohibit his temporary, electric sign

Discussion between Ms. Henninger and Council regarding the language revision continued with the following items being questioned:

- Ms. Henninger concerns regarding length of time for temporary signs for new businesses – would like to see it extended
- Electric portable signs are currently prohibited and she would like some language regarding “grandfathering” current signs to protect business owners, but to prevent future developers from being able to use them
- Sign discussion began with mention of Council not approving “Community Directory” signs on public right of way
- Councilman Martin stated concern regarding changing the code to open the door to allowing every business the opportunity to place a temporary sign for extended periods of time vs applying the code to the allowable signs

No action was taken by Council other than directing Ms. Henninger to drop the sign language revision at this time.

### **C. Resolution Request/Eglin Joint Land Use Study Report**

Ms. Henninger presented a proposed resolution supporting the Eglin Joint Land Use Study and supporting the related community initiatives. No action was taken. Ms. Henninger to notify Okaloosa County that the City declined to approve the proposed resolution.

#### **2. Legal Matters**

None were presented.

#### **3. Fire Department Report**

Chief Greenslait announced the following items:

- Boat raffle raised \$4,722
- Volunteer report to include run summary and alarm calls divided by area
- Announced that Ms. Ophelia Murphy will be assisting the City in building a Citizen's Response Unit

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

No parks report was given.

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

Mr. Tonny Peters updated Council on the following items:

- Washington street water upgrades have begun
- Well #7 – electrical equipment should be on site this week
- Wastewater treatment plant – all equipment working, still some issues with the SCADA system, the tank has begun to be filled with reclaim water

### **IV. Old Business**

None was presented.

### **V. New Business**

#### **1. Approval request/write off bad debt**

Clerk Haynes requested approval to write off bad debt balances on water accounts of approximately \$19,000.00. Councilman King motioned to approve writing off the account balances as presented, Councilman Jackson seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 4:0.

#### **2. Pay all bills in order**

Councilman Martin motioned to pay all bills in order, Councilman King seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 4:0.

### **VI. Council Business Not On Agenda**

Councilman Jackson stated he had received some complaints on an overgrown property on Kylea Laird. Ms. Henninger to send Attorney Adkinson's office the information on the property.

### **VII. Public Business Not On Agenda**

None was presented.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Councilman Martin motioned to adjourn at 7:40 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