

**Regular Council Meeting
October 13, 2009**

I. Meeting Called to Order

Mayor Marse called to order the regularly scheduled meeting of October 13, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Mayor J. M. Marse, Council members Elizabeth Brannon, Ray Jackson, Earl King, Mark Martin and Charlie Simmons. Staff present: City Attorney Clayton Adkinson, City Engineer Representative Charles Peters (PMA), Parks Director Shane Supple, City Planner Latilda Henninger, Thomas Palmer (Fire Dept) and Utility Billing clerk Al Wilson.

II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Approval of Past Minutes

Councilwoman Brannon motioned to accept the minutes of the regular Council meeting of September 24, and the special Council meeting of September 22, 2009 as written, Councilman Simmons seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

1. Planning Issues

A. Freeport Business Park final plat

Notified Council that the requested submittals for the conditional approval of the Freeport Business Park's final plat had not yet been received.

2. Legal Matters

A. 1st reading annexation ordinance/Four Mile Land Company

Councilman King motioned to hold 1st reading and advertise for adoption a proposed annexation ordinance for property owned by Four Mile Land Company, Councilman Jackson seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0. Attorney Adkinson performed 1st reading of the proposed ordinance.

3. Fire Department Report

Thomas Palmer, representing the Freeport Fire Department, requested approval to apply for a fire prevention grant for approximately \$200,000 with a 5% City match. The grant application is due by the end of October, with the grant being awarded at the beginning of the 2010. Councilman Jackson motioned to approve applying for the grant, Councilman Martin seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

4. Parks Department Report

Shane Supple requested approval to cement the floors of the dugouts at the Freeport Regional Sports Complex to cover the rock. Councilwoman Brannon motioned to approve cementing the ten dugouts for a cost not to exceed \$3,400, Councilman Martin seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

5. Engineer's Report

Mr. Charles Peters updated Council on the following items:

- Well #7 – Final water sampling being completed, final construction inspection should be occurring by the end of October, approximately 100 days over contract
- Washington Street water upgrades have been completed, waiting on FDEP clearance of the permits
- FDOT sidewalk project – contract documents have been received, pre-construction conference being scheduled
- North Bay phase II – Eglin easement still held up on State Historic Preservation officer's response, hopefully ready to submit to Headquarters in approximately mid-November, RFP's for engineering consultant services due Friday, October 14. Council agreed to hold public meeting on Monday, November 9th, 2009.

IV. Old Business

1. Mike Richards/Chelco – cashier counter space

Mr. Richards stated that Chelco was in the process of developing a central call center which would be staffed by clerks from their outside offices. Mr. Richards requested approval for his staff to open dialogue with City staff regarding the possible placement of one clerk within City Hall and bring a recommendation back to Council at a later meeting. Council agreed for staff to discuss and return with a recommendation.

V. New Business

1. Aaron Warren/grant request – Study reduction of City power expenses

Mr. Warren requested approval to apply for a planning and feasibility study grant on behalf of the City to attempt to implement alternative energy sources to City facilities, in particular the waste water treatment plant. The application and grant would be at no cost to the City. Councilman Simmons motioned to approve the grant application, Councilman Jackson seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

2. Pay all bills in order

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

VI. Council Business Not On Agenda

Councilman Simmons requested approval to interview applications for fire department vacancy. Council agreed.

Ms. Henninger reminded Council about Walton County Day being held Monday, October 19, at the new Panama City Bay County International Airport.

VII. Public Business Not On Agenda

Cliff Knauer updated the Council on the bridge construction at Four Mile Creek – construction is behind schedule.

Kevin Louthain, a resident in LaGrange Landing subdivision, complained to Council regarding the maintenance of the common areas. Mr. Louthain has been unable to get the developer to maintain the property, and now, the power to the street lights has been

disconnected. Attorney Adkinson stated that the City can not be involved in the continued maintenance of the subdivision once the city finds the improvements complete.

VIII. Adjournment

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

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

J.M. Marse, Mayor

Robin Haynes, City Clerk

Earl King, Council President