

**Regular Council Meeting
February 23, 2012**

I. Meeting Called to Order

Mayor Marse called to order the regularly scheduled council meeting of February 23, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Mayor J. M. Marse, Council members Elizabeth Brannon, Ray Jackson, Earl King, Charlie Simmons and Harold Taunton. Staff present: City Attorney Clayton Adkinson, Fire Chief Ben Greenslait, Parks Director Shane Supple, and City Clerk Robin Haynes.

II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of past minutes

Councilman Taunton motioned to approve the minutes of the regular scheduled council meeting of February 14, 2012 as presented, Councilman Jackson seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

Mayor Marse stated that after attending a council meeting at another city, he really appreciated his council members.

1. Planning Issues

Clerk Haynes presented a request by City Planner Henninger regarding council direction on the placement of a Windswept development sales trailer on the corner of Highway 331 and Highway 20. Council requested more information and the item was tabled to the next regular council meeting.

2. Legal Matters

Attorney Adkinson stated that he and Cliff Knauer had come up with a draft letter that Mayor Marse wants sent to the Florida Department of Transportation regarding the CenturyLink trenching through the City's permitted right of way. The Mayor is to review and sign upon his approval.

3. Fire Department Report

Chief Greenslait presented a semi-annual report for council review. The report will be submitted to Walton County as required in the fire interlocal agreement.

4. Parks Department Report

No report was given.

5. Engineering report

A. Meter split/Freeport Regional Sports Complex

Councilman Simmons motioned to approve awarding the meter split project to Wisco Pen Electric (the only bidder on the project) for \$51,000.000, Councilwoman Brannon seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

Charley Cotton, representing Preble-Rish, gave a short update on the North Bay water phase II, Energy grant upgrades and Wagon Wheel projects.

IV. Old Business

1. Special meeting – fire department interviews

Council set a special meeting for Monday, February 27, 2012 at 7:00 pm for the purpose of interviewing fire fighter applicants. All nine applicants are to be interviewed.

V. New Business

1. Chamber update

Item is on the next regular scheduled council meeting agenda.

2. Approval requests – Bay area sewer

A. Eliminate septic tank closure fee and service

Clerk Haynes requested council approval to amend the sewer fee ordinance to remove the septic tank closure fee and service. Upon adoption, the City would no longer provide this service. Council agreed to the revision. The ordinance will be brought back at a later date for first reading.

B. Set end date – impact fee reduction

Clerk Haynes requested approval to set an “end date” to the sewer impact fee reduction in the Bay Area sewer project area and while notifying current water customers in this area, to include the water customers in the Bay Loop area for this reduction. Councilman King motioned to approve including the Bay Loop water customers in the sewer impact fee reduction mail out and to set the fee reduction deadline on September 30, 2012, Councilman Jackson seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

3. Budget amendment #1 – incorporate WC fire department funds

Clerk Haynes presented budget amendment #1 for \$275,000.00 revenue from Walton County for fire department funding. The proposed expenses to be offset by the revenue are general fund capital outlay projects for the street department (asphalt roller), pool improvements (ADA compliant ramp and/or lift) and Freeport Regional Sports Complex (completion of practice ball fields). Councilman

King motioned to approve budget amendment #1 as presented, Councilwoman Brannon seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

4. Pay all bills in order

Councilman Taunton motioned to approve paying all bills that are in order, Councilman Jackson seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

VI. Council Business Not On Agenda

Cliff Knauer informed council of a grant program provided by FDOT called "Safe School Routes". The program provides for funding for sidewalk projects within a two mile area of schools. Cliff will forward the application information to staff.

Attorney Adkinson noted that several council members have received phone calls and information packets from Clary-Glenn Funeral Homes regarding a possible upgrade to the Freeport funeral home. He stated that Mr. Glenn could certainly present the idea to council at a meeting, but his first step to having the project reviewed is by presenting it to the Freeport Planning Board. It is not appropriate for council members to discuss the plans with Mr. Glenn prior to review.

VII. Public Comment

None was presented.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

J.M. Marse, Mayor

Robin Haynes, City Clerk

Earl King, Council President