

Regular Council Meeting
February 11, 2003

The Freeport City Council met for a Regular council meeting at 7:00 pm on February 11, 2003.

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

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

Councilman Brannon made a motion to accept the minutes of RCM 1/23/03, seconded by Councilman Helton, motion carried, 3-0.

Old Business:

Pat Markey of the Walton County Recreation Department addressed the Council on the pool grant received by the City. He gave the specifications of the pool size to be six lanes by 25 yards long. He noted that we would use thermal heating by placing a blanket over the pool. We could use such a device by placing a fence around it. The City is to request from DEP, a change in the location of the pool by putting it on the east side of the basketball court. Mr. Markey feels that this will not create a problem with the grant. He stated that the County would be taking financial control of expenses, revenues and programming of events after completion. This would be for a period of 25 years. Mr. Markey had an estimate of the approximate cost of the pool for guidance only. Official call for bids will be later this spring. Renovations of the ball fields may vary in cost. Councilwoman McLean asked if a kiddy pool could be constructed. Mr. Markey said due to health reasons and the cost increase of the kiddy pool it may not be viable. He may peruse a splash pad, which has proven to be an asset at the Wee Park in DFS. Bidding on the project does not appear to be problem, permitting may take time. The saving grace to that is the pool contractor normally obtains permits.

Ordinance #03-01- Emergency Vehicle Preemption Equipment was read by title by Attorney Adkinson. Motion to adopt Ordinance #03-01 by Councilman Brannon, 2nd by Councilman Helton, motion carried, 3-0.

Darrell Barnhill requested a development order by the Council on an addition building for the Freeport Truss Company. Councilwoman McLean asked if there was a need for additional fire hydrants at the business. Motion to accept request order, pending engineer review was made by Councilman Brannon, 2nd by Councilman Helton, motion carried, 3-0. Engineer Peters stated that the City did not have a large enough line going down the road to provide additional fire hydrants at this time.

Engineers report started with the Portland project. Charles stated that 78% of the water lines were laid; yet he didn't feel the project would be complete by the March 15th deadline. He has received a formal request for 30 days extension, but no action has been taken. Complaints about clean up, and restoration of landscaping arises from superintendent not being there. Charles wrote a letter about the absence of the superintendent to the contractor. Mayor refused payment of the last draw request until clean up was done. Charles requested approval by Council to allow Randolph Lee to be a resident project inspector. Motion by Councilman Helton to accept the replacement of prior inspector, 2nd by Councilman Brannon, motion carried, 3-0. Well and tank environmental report is running currently in the newspaper. The report appears to show that we will not need a mat foundation at the new tank site, thus saving the City several thousand dollars. Elevation of the tank is also lower, saving even more money, and possibly washing out the expense incurred at the first site. Once Rural Development approves the site, another pre-con meeting will be held. North Bay funding may be here at end of February and sparking the Letter of Conditions to be issued in mid March. The inter-local agreement with Okaloosa County has not been finalize. Charles is working on the consumptive use permit for North Bay and will only seek one permit. The Industrial Park sewer lines are complete and the inspection for the pump station is slated for tomorrow. Mayor stated he had a meeting with Russ

Barry, Tom Powell and Eddie Chandler on the interior road. Mr. Chandler agreed to do the dirt works, while the County will pave the road. Well #5 on line pumping 1.2 mgd during a 13 hour period. When we increase production to 1.7 mgd it will run about 18 hours per day. Discussion about the electric bill ensued. Chelco, Charles and the Mayor will meet and determine actual cost of operation. Charles requested the City to develop a procedure to review the utility pricing index when evaluating the renewal contract with Regional Utilities. Charles also noted that, Regional Utility may have requested an increase in his ADR from Water Management. If this is the case then he must get it from Freeport, since Freeport is the permitted entity and should have the right to request an increase in our consumptive use permit. Freeport could not provide 2.5 mgd, but could provide 2.1 mgd if we ran the well 24 hours a day.

New Business:

Motion to table employee uniforms was made by Councilman Helton and 2nd by Councilwoman McLean until everyone had a chance to look at options, motion carried, 3-0.

Motion by Councilwoman McLean to pay all bills that are in order, seconded by Councilman Brannon, motion carried, 3-0.

Other Business not on the agenda:

Mayor Marse stated that he had received a letter from Bob Capps on the benches placed out on the right away. Councilman Brannon also stated he had received complaints and he remembered that the bench company was to ask permission by the Council for placement of the benches. Mayor suggested that all complaints be forwarded to the City Clerk and she would call the company. Mayor Marse also told the Council that the owner of the trailer on hwy. 20 east, needed help in removing it. Mayor requested the Freeport Fire Department burn the trailer and then concern citizens could assist in removing the debris. Attorney Adkinson wants a letter of permission from the owner releasing the City of liability.

Councilman Helton had a request from Roy Thomason to have a street put in on North Jackson at the curve. Mayor stated there has been past hard feelings on this. Attorney Adkinson feels this maybe a civil matter.

With no other business, meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

J.M. Marse, Mayor

Diane Riley, City Clerk

Janice McLean, President of Council