

Regular Council Meeting
February 27, 2003

The Freeport City Council met for a Regular council meeting at 7:00 pm on February 27, 2003.

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

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

Mayor Marse acknowledged the Freeport Fire department for the good job they did burning the trailer on hwy. 20.

Old Business:

Councilman King researched the communication needs of the City utility departments and feels that maybe a leasing of the radio/phones from Nextel would be the best option at this time. The City will ask for a demo period and Clerk Riley will let Councilman King know the reaction from the employees. If they are satisfied with the performance then Councilman King is authorized to peruse this service.

Clerk Riley presented a brochure to the Council outlining cost of the Codifying and Imaging of the City records. The Council requested a representative from Municipal Code Corporation at the next meeting to demonstrate the product and will make a decision on purchasing the equipment.

Councilman Brannon asked about the status on restoring the old post office. Clerk Riley is to call WFRP and get information on a historical grant.

Charles Peters started the engineers report with the announcement of PMA being in business for 25 years and the City has played an important part to the success of the engineering firm. Charles went on with the report by addressing the North Bay upgrade project. The key points of the letter of conditions issued by Rural Development was the 1,977,000 loan and the 1,273,000 grant. This represents a 61% loan to a 39% grant. Customer rates would be a \$1.00 more than the outside City rate for 2500 gallons minimum and a \$2.25 per 1000 gallons usage. There is a requirement of at least 681 customers and at the present we have about 708 signed up. The Inter-local agreement with Okaloosa County still has not been finalized for the emergency backup water supply. If they agree then we need to raise our tank about 20 feet and this will increase cost about 3-4 thousand dollars. Bargaining with the cost of the meter assembly if Okaloosa County agrees maybe a viable option for Freeport to off set the cost of making the tank higher. There is a hold up on the starting of the project due to a letter received from a resident on the environmental impact. This sets backs the advertisement of the " no significant environmental impact". Charles request the Council to set a policy on time limits on a request for services when the new system construction starts. Mid June to July is slated for construction to begin. The Industrial Park is making progress. The meeting with Chelco was held. After a lengthy discussion over the electric charges, it was determined that the cost was in line with the water pumped.

Attorney Adkinson arrived.

New Business:

Councilman Brannon motioned the City adopt loan resolution for the North Bay Water Expansion. Motion 2nd by Councilman Helton, motion carried, 5-0.

Renewal of the Dayco yard waste contract was next on the agenda. Attorney Adkinson will change paragraph #5 to represent the 2003-2004 time period. Motion to renew the contract for 1 year was made by Councilman King, 2nd by Councilman Brannon, motion carried, 5-0. The rate will stay the same for another year.

Employee Andy Grover probation period will be expiring tomorrow. Mayor Marse

recommended another 90 days probation period. Councilman King motioned to accept

the recommendation, 2nd by Councilman Brannon, motion carried, 5-0.

Clean-up of the burnt trailer on hwy. 20 is slated for Saturday at 8am. Mayor requested everyone to help if they could.

Motion by Councilwoman McLean to pay all bills that are in order, seconded by Councilman Helton, motion carried, 5-0.

Other Business not on the agenda:

Councilman Brannon updated Council on road conditions on Earl Godwin road stating the road was almost impossible to drive down to the wastewater plant. He spoke with county commissioner Cuchens and there should be a county crew working on it tomorrow.

Councilman King asked Charles Peters if City employees needed to attend a vulnerability assessment class. Charles replied by saying FRWA would be offering the class at no charge in the future. Council decided to wait on such offerings.

With no other business, Councilman Helton motioned to adjourn at 8 pm..

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

J.M. Marse, Mayor

Diane Riley, City Clerk

Janice McLean, President of Council