

**Regular Council Meeting
September 27, 2012**

I. Meeting Called to Order

Mayor Marse called to order the regularly scheduled council meeting of September 27, 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, Interim Fire Chief Russell Beaty, Interim Fire Chief Al Ford, Water Operator Ben Lewis, Parks Director Shane Supple, City Planner Latilda Henninger and City Clerk Robin Haynes. Charley Cotton, Cliff Knauer and Anna Hudson were present representing Preble-Rish. Firefighters Thomas Palmer, Austin Cosson, Terry Raffield, James Whedon, Ritchie Riley and Forrest Melvin, as well as all Freeport volunteer firefighters, were in attendance.

II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of past minutes

Councilman Jackson motioned to approve the minutes of the regular scheduled council meetings of August 14, and September 11, 2012; the workshop of August 20, 2012; and the special council meetings of September 21 and September 25, 2012 as presented, Councilman Simmons seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

1. Planning Issues

Ms. Henninger gave a brief update on the new proposal for the industrial land use category and the Planning board's recommendation for the Military Sustainability ordinance, stating that both items would be brought before the council at a later meeting.

2. Legal Matters

No items were presented.

3. Fire Department Report

Chief Beaty began by giving a brief status report on the fire department and requested all firefighters to stand and be recognized.

A. Update of interlocal agreement

Councilman King motioned to approve amendment #1 to the interlocal agreement between the City of Freeport and the Walton County Sheriff's department, extending the length of contract to January 31, 2013, Councilman Jackson seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

B. Job description approval

No action was taken on the position description revision for the fire chief.

4. Parks Department Report

No report was given.

5. Engineering report

Charley Cotton gave a brief update on the status of the following projects:

- Well house #4 construction bid results will be turned in on October 4
- Design and packages for the installation of the Portland tank altitude valve and pressure relief valve will be ready for advertisement soon
- Signs have been completed for the solar panel array (recognition to the Department of Energy) and are ready for installation

A. NFWMD request of funds

No action was taken on the request of funding from the Northwest Florida Water Management District for design and survey work for an extension of a water line for Rock Hill Road. Council requested it be brought back to the next meeting.

IV. Old Business

No items were presented.

V. New Business

1. Staff travel/training & conferences

Councilman Jackson approved the staff attendance at the following training seminars/annual conferences:

- 2013 FAPA conference (Orlando)
- 2012 Florida Working Waterfronts fall (Ft. Myers)
- 2013 Florida Working Waterfronts spring (TBD)
- 2013 IIMC Region III (Charleston)
- 2013 FACC budget hearing/meeting (Lake Mary)
- 2013 FACC Summer academy (Orlando)
- 2013 FLC conference (Orlando)
- 2013 FACC Fall academy (Sarasota)
- 2013 FL/AL Joint conference (Fairhope)
- 2013 FRWA Annual training conference (Daytona)

Councilwoman Brannon seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

2. Pay all bills in order

Councilman Taunton 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

Councilwoman Brannon gave a brief update on Amendment 4 – will bring a request for resolution (opposing) back at a later meeting.

Councilman Simmons made a comment in follow up to some discussion at a previous meeting – he would like to retain the fire department within the City and doesn't believe it to be feasible to reduce it back to a volunteer department.

VII. Public Comment

Terry Morgan, representing the American Legion, informed the council that he was having the property adjacent to the City appraised and will bring back an offer for the City to purchase it, if so desired. The Legion is selling to parcel with a hope to purchase a permanent structure for meetings.

Ms. Anne Winjum, a homeowner within Hammock Bay, stated her concerns with disbanding the fire department and requested the City continue to fund it.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

J.M. Marse, Mayor

Robin Haynes, City Clerk

Earl King, Council President