

Regular Council Meeting
September 9, 2003

Mayor Marse called to order the regular scheduled meeting of September 9, 2003.

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

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

No minutes were presented for approval.

Mayor Marse and Councilman Brannon addressed the Walton County Board of County Commissioners this afternoon about the pool construction behind the City Hall. The Commissioners will back the City on the funding of the pool. The Mayor will hire the architect for the pool construction.

Mayor Marse announced that three weeks ago a city vehicle was broken into by the sheriff's department. A tape recorder was inside the vehicle and recorded the deputies' conversations. Mayor has not talked to sheriff, but has spoken to Stan Sunday. Mr. Sunday asked that the department have some time to do an internal investigation. Mayor respected his request, so this is the reason that he had not come forward with this. Rumor is that both deputies have been relieved from their jobs.

Old Business:

Charles Peters, city engineer, reminded the Council and public that the opening bid date for the North Bay expansion is September 23, 2003 at 2 pm. Charles stated that after further investigation of the tax recovery service for sales tax he would not recommend this for the North Bay project. The preliminary design report is almost complete on the treatment plant. The Portland project tank is complete, yet the paint contractor has over sprayed the area and painted some vehicles. Charles expressed his concern on the water pumping to Regional Utilities and requesting an increase in our consumptive use permit. After extensive discussion Charles recommended re-drilling well #4 to produce 1200 gpm of water and work towards getting a tank within a year or two. A workshop for the water system was set for next week.

New Business:

Bob Jones addressed the Council on doing grant consultant work the City. Councilman Brannon motioned to allow Mr. Jones to do grant consulting for the City of Freeport. Councilman Helton seconded the motion, motion carried, 4-0.

Councilman Brannon motioned to adopt the tentative budget of 2,070,151 and millage rate at 3.93, which is .26 % greater than the rollback rate of 3.92. Councilwoman McLean seconded the motion, motion carried, 4-0. Councilman Helton motioned to advertise for a final budget hearing on September 23, 2003 at 7pm, the motion was 2nd by Councilman Brannon, motion carried, 4-0.

Adoption of Resolution #03-09 (LAP program) was motioned by Councilman Helton, 2nd by Councilman Brannon, motion carried, 4-0.

Interview date for maintenance positions was set for September 17, 2003.

Motion by Councilwoman McLean, 2nd by Councilman Brannon to pay all bills in order, motion carried, 4-0.

Other Business not on the agenda:

Henry Johnson requested a variance for an older mobile home to be moved into the City. The request was denied by the Council.

Councilwoman Arrant request that the City health insurance change to Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Motion by Councilwoman McLean to change companies, motion was 2nd by Councilwoman Arrant, motion carried, 4-0.

With no other business, Councilman Helton motioned to adjourn at 8:20 pm.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

J.M. Marse, Mayor

Diane Riley, City Clerk

Janice McLean, President of Council