

**Regular Council Meeting  
January 8, 2013**

**I. Meeting Called to Order**

Mayor Marse called to order the regularly scheduled council meeting of January 8, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Mayor J.M. Marse, Council members Elizabeth Brannon, Ray Jackson, Charlie Simmons and Harold Taunton. Councilman Earl King was absent. Staff present: City Attorney Clayton Adkinson, Fire Chief Al Ford, Fire Chief Russell Beaty, City Planner Latilda Hughes, Water Operator Ben Lewis and City Clerk Robin Haynes. Charley Cotton, Cliff Knauer and Anna Hudson were present representing Preble-Rish.

**II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Approval of past minutes**

No minutes were presented.

**1. Planning Issues**

**A. LDC workshop – Industrial Use Category**

Council approved rescheduling the Land Development Code workshop for January 23, 2013 at 7:00 pm.

**2. Legal Matters**

No legal matters were presented.

**3. Fire Department Report**

Chief Al Ford gave a brief call, program and training report. He also stated that the electrical upgrades had been completed.

**4. Parks Department Report**

Mayor Marse requested approval for a refurbished Sand-Pro from Jerry Pate Turf & Irrigation for the Sports Complex for the cost of \$6,150.00. Councilman Simmons motioned to approve the purchase as presented, Councilwoman Brannon seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 4:0.

**5. Engineering report**

Charley Cotton, representing Preble-Rish, gave a short project update.

Mayor Marse informed council that he had received correspondence back from Florida DOT – they have agreed to move the 1<sup>st</sup> loan payment back to October of 2013, but will not make any reductions to the loan amount.

#### **IV. Old Business**

##### **1. Fire department applications**

##### **A. Approval request – Applicants to interview**

Mayor Marse stated that after cancelling the interview for the fire applicants, he spoke with Russell Beaty and their recommendation was for Al Ford and Russell Beaty to interview all thirteen applicants and bring a recommendation of two back to the council for approval. Discussion continued, including the following points:

- Councilman Jackson agreed with the recommendation
- Councilman Simmons agreed with the recommendation but wanted up to five applicants to be brought back for consideration
- Councilwoman Brannon recommended a committee be set up to interview the applicants, including the two interim chiefs, Councilman Taunton and two fire professionals from outside of the area
- Councilman Taunton preferred local area committee members to be selected
- Councilman Simmons didn't agree with the way the things were done earlier in the interview process – didn't feel he was given the information he needed
- Full time vs part time chief
- Postponing hiring fire fighter until chief was hired
- Length of time hiring process had been/has taken so far
- Chief pay considered low – eliminate fire position to help offset expense of raising it

Councilman Jackson motioned to postpone hiring a firefighter until the fire chief position had been filled. The motion died for a lack of a second.

Councilwoman Brannon motioned to approve setting up a committee of Al Ford, Russell Beaty, Councilman Taunton and two other fire officials to interview applicants, Councilman Simmons seconded. There was no additional public or council discussion, the motion tied at 2:2. Mayor Marse voted to set up the committee.

Councilman Simmons motioned to approve the committee interviewing all fire applicants and bringing the four top ranked applicants back to the council at the first meeting in February for approval, Councilman Jackson seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 4:0.

**Agenda items B, C & D taken care of with item A.**

- B. Approval request – Special meeting/applicant interviews**
- C. Approval request – Applicant interview questions**
- D. Approval request – Applicant interview ranking procedure**

**2. Approval request – extension of WC Sheriff’s department inter-local agreement**

Councilman Taunton motioned to approve the Mayor executing an extension of the inter-local agreement with Walton County Sheriff’s department for the fire department oversight, Councilman Simmons seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 4:0.

**3. Fire Chief position**

Item tabled to the next regular council meeting.

**V. New Business**

**1. Approval request – Budget amendment #1**

Councilman Jackson motioned to approve budget amendment #1 as presented:

General fund income:	Infrastructure tax refund	<b>\$ 76,578.95</b>
General fund expenses:	Capital Outlay (point improvements?)	<b>\$ 76,578.95</b>
Sewer fund income:	Transfer from impact fee account	<b>\$ 19,000.00</b>
Sewer fund expenses:	Capital Outlay (sewer model)	<b>\$ 19,000.00</b>
Water fund income:	Transfer from impact fee account	<b>\$106,380.00</b>
Water fund expenses:	Capital Outlay (water model)	<b>\$ 27,000.00</b>
	Capital Outlay (bldg @well 4)	<b><u>\$ 79,380.00</u></b>
	<b>Total change to budget</b>	<b>\$201,958.95</b>

Councilman Taunton seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 4:0.

**2. Approval request – Rental fee waiver/Town Planters Arts & Crafts Festival**

Councilwoman Brannon motioned to approve the rental fee waiver for the community center for the Town Planters Society during their Arts and Crafts Festival scheduled for Saturday, April 6, Councilman Jackson seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 4:0.

**3. 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 4:0.

**VI. Council Business Not On Agenda**

Councilman Simmons asked for an update on the Barley/Ard/Chancey annexation request from October. Attorney Adkinson requested additional information because the lots were within a platted subdivision.

**VII. Public Comment**

Cliff Knauer, representing Preble-Rish informed council that the boating grant had not been successful. He requested council approval to submit plans for upgrading parking at Marse Landing. Councilman Taunton motioned to approve Preble-Rish to continue with plans for the upgraded parking as requested, Councilman Jackson seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 4:0.

**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

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Robin Haynes, City Clerk

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J.M. Marse, Mayor

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Earl King, Council President

APPROVED