

**Regular Council Meeting
May 14, 2013**

I. Meeting Called to Order

Mayor Marse called to order the regularly scheduled council meeting of May 14, 2013 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, Fire Chief Chad Harrell, Fire Captain Thomas Palmer, City Planner Latilda Hughes and City Clerk Robin Haynes. Anna Hudson and Cliff Knauer were present representing Preble-Rish.

II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of past minutes

Councilman Jackson motioned to approve the minutes of the regular council meeting April 25, 2013 as presented, Councilwoman Brannon seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

1. Planning Issues

A. Planning Board appointment

Councilman Jackson motioned to approve appointing Ron Brannon as his representative Freeport Planning Board, upon receiving resignation of Ronnie Brannon, Councilman Taunton seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

2. Legal Matters

No legal items were presented.

3. Fire Department Report

A. Monthly report

Chad Harrell gave a brief report of fire department activities for the month of April, including training hours, call summary and hydrant maintenance items.

B. Walton County Fire Assessment

Chad presented a copy of the completed Walton County Fire Assessment Program recommendation as presented to the Walton County Board of County Commissioners (study conducted by Government Services Group, Inc.). The recommendations included increasing county residents' fire assessment fees over the next few years and building two stations outside the city limits of Freeport to cover areas currently being covered by Freeport. No action was requested or taken.

4. Parks Department Report

Shane Supple was not present at the meeting, but Councilman Simmons updated Council on prices for materials for constructing the batting cages, as well as a proposal for building a pole barn. Short discussion continued:

- Location of cages to be constructed
- Covering cages vs leaving open
- Getting power to cages

Councilman Simmons recommended the City purchase materials – his estimate of \$11,000.00 maximum – and allowing local businesses and/or volunteers to construct the cages. Council requested Simmons bring back to the next regular council meeting with a recommendation as to location, prices and how to construct.

5. Engineering report

Anna Hudson told Council that the well 4 start-up has been completed as well as a final punch list. The contractor is to remove the doors to the building and fix the finish on them. The water/sewer model is progressing.

Cliff Knauer informed council that he would be bringing a resolution authorizing application to the Florida Boating grant program to the next council meeting. He also updated council that he and the Mayor had met with three of the County commissioners regarding the Bay Area sewer loan. Council agreed for Mayor Marse to schedule a joint workshop between the Freeport City Council and the Walton County Commissioners to discuss the sewer options.

IV. Old Business

1. Calypso Cove sewer fees

Merle Thumma, representing Calypso Cove, requested Council to consider allowing the use of the paid sewer connection fees for the undeveloped phase of Calypso Cove to the active phase I location. The property is located on the same parcel, and the development is experiencing problems with the current septic system. After short discussion, Council directed staff to verify the sites currently being used, any applicable improvements made or planned to the property and to return to the next council meeting with a recommendation.

2. NWFLC Board update

Councilwoman Brannon updated Council on the Northwest Florida League of Cities annual meeting and dinner held last week. She moved up to Vice-President on the League Board, and also was presented with the 2013 Community of Excellence Award for the North Bay water line expansion project.

Mayor Marse also presented a request by the Hatcher Cemetery Board for a fee waiver for the use of the Community Center for a fundraiser scheduled for June 22, 2013. Councilman Taunton motioned to approve the community center rental fee waiver, Councilman Jackson seconded. There was no council or public discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

Mr. Thumma returned to the Council meeting, requested permission to interrupt for a moment and stated that Calypso Cove would donate \$5,000.00 to the City to use toward the construction of the batting cages. Mayor Marse thanked him.

V. New Business

1. 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

Councilman Jackson commented that the triangle looked nice and he thanked all involved with the recent landscaping improvements.

VII. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

J.M. Marse, Mayor

Robin Haynes, City Clerk

Earl King, Council President