

City of Freeport
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
April 24, 2014 Minutes

I Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Russ Barley at 7:00 p.m.

Council members present: Janice McLean, Ray Jackson, Harold Taunton Jr., Jennifer Laird, Elizabeth Brannon.

II Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was given by Councilman Taunton, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

III Approval of Past Minutes – RCM 4/08/14, SCM 4/17/14

Board Action: *Councilwoman Brannon motioned to accept the minutes of the April 8, 2014 Regular City Council Meeting and the minutes of the April 17, 2014 Special City Council Meeting as presented. Councilwoman Laird seconded the motion. There was no discussion by the council or public. The motion carried 5:0.*

IV Staff Reports

A. Planning Department

1. Resolution to re-designate Freeport as RACEC Community

City Planner Latilda Hughes-Neel presented the draft resolution to the Mayor and Council for consideration.

Board Action: *Councilwoman Brannon motioned to approve Resolution 2014-02 Freeport Re-designation as RACE (Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern). Councilman Jackson seconded the motion. There was no council or public discussion. The motion carried 5:0.*

B. Legal Matters

None presented.

C. Fire Department Report

None presented.

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1. Firefighter position – hiring recommendation

Councilwoman McLean presented the ranked applications for the firefighter position.

Board Action: Councilman Jackson motioned to set a Special Meeting to interview the firefighter applicants at 6:00 p.m./ prior to the regular council meeting on May 13, 2014. Councilman Taunton seconded the motion. There was no further council or public discussion. The motion carried 4:1, with Councilwoman McLean as the dissenting vote.

D. Parks Department Report

None presented.

E. Engineers Report

None presented.

V Old Business

A. Vacant City Clerk Position

1. City Clerk Job Description/Salary Range

City Planner Latilda Hughes-Neel presented the revised City Clerk job description for consideration and the agreed-upon salary range as \$35,000-49,000.

City Attorney Clayton Adkinson advised the Mayor and Council that they should remove the reference “Willingness to submit to drug testing according to Florida Statutes.”

Board Action: Councilman Taunton motioned to adopt the revised City Clerk job description and salary range with the deletion of the drug-testing language as recommended by Attorney Adkinson. Councilwoman McLean seconded the motion. There was no further discussion by the council or the public. The motion carried 5:0.

2. City Clerk Position Advertisement

City Planner Latilda Hughes-Neel presented the city clerk vacancy ad for consideration and requested that the Mayor and Council set a deadline to apply for the position. Hughes-Neel will advertise the position with the Florida League

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of Cities, the Florida Association of City Clerks, on the city website and in the DeFuniak Herald/Beach Breeze legal ad section through the application period.

Board Action: *Councilman Taunton motioned to set the deadline to apply for the city clerk position as May 15th, 2014 and to advertise through that period. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion. There was no further council or public discussion. The motion carried 5:0.*

VI New Business

- A. Resolution request/Students Working Against Tobacco (Theresa Chambless-Bogart)

Ms. Bogart, Carla Griffiths and members of the Freeport High School SWAT (Students Working Against Tobacco) presented this request to the Mayor and Council.

Councilman Taunton shared his personal story regarding tobacco addiction.

Board Action: *Councilman Taunton motioned to approve Resolution 2014-03 Urging Tobacco Retailers to Stop the Sale and Marketing of Flavored Tobacco Products in Freeport, Florida. Councilwoman McLean seconded the motion. There was no further council or public discussion. The motion carried 5:0.*

- B. Legislative Update/Councilwoman Elizabeth Brannon

- Senate Bill 219 passed July 1, 2014, which would give relief to RACEC communities regarding expenditures made due to the FDOT widening of US 331.
- The Highway 20 resurfacing raises concerns; the intersection of Bay Loop/State Road 20 is dangerous and needs to be addressed. Councilwoman Brannon will bring this matter to the attention of the TPO and FDOT.
- The 2nd Annual Emerald Coast Transportation Symposium will take place May 29-30 in Pensacola Beach and recommended by the West Florida Regional Planning Council for anyone in transportation planning. Councilwoman Brannon requested permission to attend.

Board Action: *Councilwoman McLean motioned for Councilwoman Brannon to attend the symposium. Councilwoman Laird seconded the motion. There was no council or public discussion. The motion carried 5:0.*

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VII Council Business Not on Agenda

A. Councilwoman McLean brought two issues to the attention of the Mayor & Council:

1. FDOT has agreed to reconfigure the turn left only arrow at US 331/Hwy 20 intersection.
2. Councilwoman McLean requested that the auditor, who had just finished auditing the water records, be tasked with auditing the sewer records.

Board Action: Councilwoman Brannon motioned that the auditor review the sewer fund records. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion. There was no council or public discussion. The motion carried 5:0.

B. Mayor Russ Barley presented the following to the Council:

1. Area churches used the lawn area behind City Hall for an Easter sunrise service. A thank-you note was received from Pastor Sam Dunaway of the Freeport First Baptist Church with special thanks from the city workers who set up the bleachers for the event. Pastor Dunaway requested that he be allowed to arrange a Thanksgiving service with a community meal.

Councilman Taunton motioned to allow the event. Councilwoman Laird seconded the motion. There was no further council or public discussion. The motion carried 5:0.

2. Mayor Barley received a call from a woman interested in holding a square dance club at the Freeport Community Center weekly. She has requested a discount on the rental fee. She will be charging a membership fee and is not non-profit. The Board declined action on the request. Planner Hughes-Neel will add the current fee schedule to next month's agenda.

3. Mayor Barley informed the Council that water employee Brendan Day has received his Class C Water Treatment Operator license. He is required to attain 2000 hours experience under the supervision of another Water Treatment Operator. He is working on his hours under the operator contractor the City is using temporarily. Mayor Barley requested raising Brendan Day's hourly rate by 15%; from \$10.27 to \$11.76, which is a \$3,203.20 yearly increase.

Councilman Jackson mentioned that Larry Tuggle had received his Back-flow Prevention license.

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Councilwoman McLean stated that all the employee evaluations needed to be reviewed and salary adjustments made based on performance, certifications/licenses received, etc.

Board Action: *Councilman Taunton motioned to raise Brendan Day's hourly rate as recommended by the Mayor from \$10.27 to \$11.76. Councilwoman Laird seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the council or public. The motion carried 5:0.*

- C. Councilman Jackson expressed concern over an on-going stormwater situation at Cross Creek Estates Phase I.

Planner Hughes-Neel will contact the developer and work toward resolving the issues with stormwater and damaged manhole covers.

VIII Public Comment

No public comments were made.

IX Adjournment

Councilman Taunton motioned for adjournment.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

APPROVED:

Mayor

Council President

ATTEST

City Clerk