



City of Freeport
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
6:30 p.m./Council Chambers/Freeport City Hall
April 25, 2019 Minutes

I. Meeting Opened

The April 25, 2019 Regular Council Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Russ Barley. The meeting was held in City Council Chambers of Freeport City Hall.

Council Members present: Mayor Russ Barley, Councilwoman Elizabeth Brannon, Councilman Eddie Farris, Councilwoman Amanda Green, Councilwoman Elizabeth Haffner and Councilman William “Boots” McCormick.

Staff present: City Clerk Rebecca Podraza, City Attorney Clayton Adkinson, City Planning Director Latilda Hughes-Neel, Planning Technician Brooke Jackson, Parks Director Charlie Simmons, Water Supervisor Larry Tuggle, Sewer Supervisor Robert Fawcett, Finance Officer Sara Bowers, Finance Assistant Joyce Sunday, Utility Billing Manager Debbie Roberts, City Engineer Cliff Knauer, and City Engineer Alex Rouchaleau.

II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Recognition of Guests

1. Miss DeFuniak Springs and Miss Walton County
 - The Miss DeFuniak Springs and Miss Walton County were not able to attend the meeting due to weather.
 - Mayor Barley introduced the winners of the Miss Freeport Beauty Padgett as follows:
 - Little Miss - Scarlett Nunes
 - Jr. Miss - Vivian Albee
 - Young Miss - Larae Smith
 - Jr. Teen Miss - Licia Alamo
 - Teen Miss - Maddison Kysel
 - Miss - Riley Herrington
 - Photos were taken of the Beauty Queens and the Council

IV. Public Request for Placement on City Council Agenda

1. Ms. Leigh Wilson & Relay for Life Committee
 - Ms. Leigh Wilson requested approval to have the Mayor sign a Proclamation to Paint the Town Purple on April 28th through May 4th

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In accordance with Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons with disabilities needing special accommodations to participate in this meeting should contact the City Clerk's office at 850-835-2822 by 5:00 p.m. on the day prior to the meeting.

No verbatim record by a certified court reporter is made of these proceedings. Accordingly, any person who may seek to appeal any decision involving the matters noticed herein will be responsible for making a verbatim record of the testimony and evidence at these proceedings upon which any appeal is to be based (see Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes).



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*Council Action: Councilman Farris made a motion to authorize the Mayor's signature on the American Cancer Society's Proclamation, to name April 28th as **Paint the Town Purple**. Councilwoman Brannon seconded the motion. All ayes, (Brannon, Farris, Green, Haffner, McCormick); motion carried.*

Council Action: Councilwoman Brannon made a motion to allow the American Cancer Society Relay for Life Committee, permission to string purple lights on the bushes around the City fountain. Councilman McCormick seconded the motion. All ayes, (Brannon, Farris, Green, Haffner, McCormick); motion carried.

V. Public Comment on Consent Agenda: None

VI. Approval of Consent Agenda

1. Revenue and Expenses as of March 31, 2019
2. Bills Paid
3. Regular Council Meeting April 9, 2019

Council Action: Councilman Farris made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilwoman Brannon seconded the motion. All ayes, (Brannon, Farris, Green, Haffner, McCormick); motion carried.

VII. Consideration of Additions/Deletions to Agenda

Additions

- Councilwoman Brannon – WFRPC Appointment Approval
- Parks – Streets
- Engineering – Change Order for Trails Grant
- Councilwoman Brannon – School Board Meeting

VIII. Approval of Agenda with Additions/Deletions

Council Action: Councilwoman Haffner made a motion to approve the Agenda with specified Additions as presented. Councilman Farris seconded the motion. All ayes, (Brannon, Farris, Green, Haffner, McCormick); motion carried.

IX. Staff Reports

A. Engineering

1. Bay Loop West Sewer Improvements – Approve Proposal of design

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- City Engineer Alex Rouchaleau presented the West Bay Loop Wastewater Upgrades Proposal for engineering services for design, permitting, and construction phase services, for the proposed West Bay Loop Wastewater Upgrades.

Council Action: Councilman Farris made a motion to approve the West Bay Loop Wastewater Upgrades Proposal, for a total amount of \$38,000.00. Councilwoman Haffner seconded the motion. All ayes, (Brannon, Farris, Green, Haffner, McCormick); motion carried.

2. Trails Grant Change Order

- Engineer Rouchaleau presented the H&T Contractors Change Order for the Recreational Trails Grant, adding a gravel/natural surface parking area to the scope of Contractors Services.

Council Action: Councilwoman Brannon made a motion to approve the H&T Contractors, Recreational Trails Grant Change order, for the addition of a gravel/natural surface parking area for an additional amount of \$22,277.50. Councilman Farris seconded the motion. All ayes, (Brannon, Farris, Green, Haffner, McCormick), motion carried.

B. Parks

1. Streets

- Parks Director Simmons requested approval to begin researching the cost to maintain all the streets of freeport for preparation of the upcoming budget. Council discussion ensued and this will be addressed after the meeting scheduled between the County and City officials.

2. Updates

- The Crepe Myrtles have been planted behind City Hall.

C. Billing

1. Billing Updates

- Billing Manager Debbie Roberts presented a monthly totals report, regarding customers billed for the months of January through March. This information will be provided to the Council on a monthly basis.
- Manager Roberts reported on the following:
 - Customer Collections Letters
 - Completed Standard Operating Procedures Manual
 - Collections RFP advertised May 1st
- Council requested staff to bring quotes for the Billing Software Company and the

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Handheld Meter Reading Software Company for on-site training.

D. City Clerk Matter

1. MCCI Support Renewal – Laserfiche Cloud Annual Subscription

Council Action: Councilman Farris made a motion to approve the MCCI Support & Laserfiche Cloud Annual Subscription, for a yearly cost of \$4,612.50. Councilwoman Green seconded the motion. All ayes, (Brannon, Farris, Green, Haffner, McCormick); motion carried.

E. Planning & Zoning Dept

1. Ships Chandler Small Scale Amendment/2nd Reading

Council Action: Councilman Farris made a motion to approve the second reading and adoption of Ordinance No. 2019-08, Ships Chandler Small Scale Amendment. Councilwoman Haffner seconded the motion. All ayes, (Brannon, Farris, Green, Haffner, McCormick); motion carried.

2. Ships Chandler Re-Zoning/2nd Reading

Council Action: Councilwoman Brannon made a motion to approve the second reading and adoption of Ordinance No. 2019-09, Ships Chandler Re-Zoning. Councilwoman Haffner seconded the motion. All ayes, (Brannon, Farris, Green, Haffner, McCormick); motion carried.

3. Stowaway Storage Development Project

Council Action: Councilwoman Brannon made a motion to approve the Stowaway Storage Development Project. Councilman Farris seconded the motion. All ayes, (Brannon, Farris, Green, Haffner, McCormick); motion carried.

4. First Steps Learning Academy Development Project

Council Action: Councilman Farris made a motion to approve the First Steps Learning Academy Development Project. Councilwoman Brannon seconded the motion. All ayes, (Brannon, Farris, Green, Haffner, McCormick); motion carried.

F. Legal Matters

1. Attorney Clayton Adkinson addressed the Council on a piece of Legislation being voted the week of April 22nd which would require Council Meeting Agendas to be posted three days prior to the meeting and add-ons would not be admissible any longer.

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Old Business

1. Council Follow-up on Davis Water Bill
 - Council discussion ensued regarding the motion already made by Council concerning Mr. Davis's high-water bill and irrigation which is hooked up to City Water. He was previously given 60 days to disconnect the irrigation system and would not be provided a payment plan until proof of disconnection was provided to the Council.
 - A letter from Mr. Davis was provided to the Council which he requested to be read in his absence.
 - Jennifer Mims approached the podium and requested verification, that the Land Development Code does not allow for any irrigation system to be hooked up to the city water system. Council verified that nobody is grandfathered in or exempt from the code.

Council Action: Councilman Farris made a motion to give Mr. James Allen Davis of 731 Waterview Cove, fourteen (14) days to disconnect the irrigation system at his residence from the Freeport City Water System, and if he does not comply, he will be disconnected from City Water. Councilwoman Green seconded the motion. Three ayes, (Brannon, Farris, Green); two nays, (Haffner, McCormick), motion carried.

2. Bad Debt Follow-up
 - Billing Manager Debbie Roberts updated the Council on the Bad Debt Collection of closed past due accounts.

X. New Business

A. Mayor Russ Barley

1. Freeport Semifinalist U.S. Presidential Scholars Program
 - Mayor Barley informed the Council that Gregg Garrett, Student Body President of South Walton High School, is the Freeport Semifinalist of the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. He will be recognized at a City Council Meeting if he is the winner of this prestigious award.
2. Library Renaming
 - Mayor Barley and Latilda Hughes-Neel updated the Council on the renaming of the Freeport Library. After a unanimous vote by the County Commissioners, the Library will be renamed *The Rebecca Blunt Buxton Library*. A new sign will be put on the Library and a reception will be announced soon.

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- B. Councilwoman Brannon
1. WFRPC Appointee

Council Action: Councilman McCormick made a motion to approve Councilwoman Brannon as the Mayor's appointee to the West Florida Regional Planning Council Board. Councilwoman Haffner seconded the motion. All ayes, (Brannon, Farris, Green, Haffner, McCormick); motion carried.

- C. Councilwoman Green
1. School Board Meeting Update
- Councilwoman Green updated the Council on the School Board Meeting where she provided information on upcoming development and growth. The presentation was well received, and Council thanked Councilwoman Green for representing the City.

XI. Public Comment: None

XII. Adjournment

Mayor Barley adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

1. Reconvened at 7:15 for Public Comment by Anita Alford of 316 Cedar Ave, Freeport.
- Ms. Alford addressed the Council about her high bill and requested help. Council discussion ensued and Ms. Alford was directed to speak to the Mayor after the meeting.

Councilman McCormick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Barley adjourned the meeting again at 7:22 p.m.

FREEPORT CITY COUNCIL


Mayor

ATTEST


City Clerk

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