City of Freeport

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 9, 2021, 9:00 AM
Council Chambers, Freeport City Hall

Council Members Present: Mayor Russ Barley, Councilwoman Amanda Green, Councilwoman Elizabeth Brannon, Councilman Eddie Farris, Councilman Mark Martin, Councilwoman Elizabeth Haffner

Staff Members Present: City Manager Charlie Simmons, City Clerk Malani Robinson, Finance Officer Sara Bowers, Billing Manager Debbie Roberts, Parks Director Travis Digges, Water Supervisor Larry Tuggle, Sewer Supervisor Robert Fawcett, Engineer Alex Rouchaleau, Planning Tech Samantha Graves

1. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Mayor Barley in the Council Chambers of Freeport City Hall.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was given by Councilwoman Haffner, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

3. Recognition of Guests

None.

4. Consent Agenda

a. Bills

b. City Council Meeting Minutes- January 28, 2021

c. City Council Meeting Minutes- January 12, 2021

d. City Council Meeting Minutes- December 8, 2020

5. Public Comment on Consent Agenda

None.

6. Approval of Consent Agenda

Moved by: Councilwoman Haffner
Seconded by: Councilwoman Brannon

To APPROVE the consent Agenda as presented.

A roll call vote was ordered, and the vote was as follows:

Councilman Farris: aye

Councilman Martin: aye

Councilwoman Haffner: aye

Councilwoman Brannon: aye

Councilwoman Green: aye

Carried

7. Consideration of Additions/Deletions to Agenda

- Councilman Farris- Destiny Worship Center Extravaganza
- City Manager- Updates

8. Approval of Agenda with Additions/Deletions

Moved by: Councilman Farris
Seconded by: Councilwoman Haffner

To APPROVE the Agenda with the specified additions as presented.

A roll call vote was ordered, and the vote was as follows:

Councilman Farris: aye

Councilman Martin: aye

Councilwoman Haffner: aye

Councilwoman Brannon: aye

Councilwoman Green: aye

Carried

9. Staff Reports

a. Water

b. Sewer

c. Parks

d. City Manager

1. Updates

City Manager Simmons reminded the Council of the upcoming Delegation Meeting for Senator Gainer and Representative Drake set for Friday, February 12 from 1PM to 3PM in the Council Chambers. City Manager Simmons noted that only a select amount of seating would be available for compliance with COVID safety guidelines.

e. City Clerk

f. Finance

g. Billing

h. Planning

1. Special Event Permit Applications

1. 2021 Tutu Trot at Hammock Bay

Planning Tech Graves presented the 2021 Tutu Trot event permit for approval.

Moved by: Councilwoman Brannon
Seconded by: Councilwoman Haffner

To APPROVE the event permit.

A roll call vote was ordered, and the vote was as follows:

Councilman Farris: aye

Councilman Martin: aye

Councilwoman Haffner: aye

Councilwoman Brannon: aye

Councilwoman Green: aye

2. Hammock Bay Blood Drive

Planning Tech Graves presented the Hammock Bay Blood Drive event permit and fee waiver for approval.

Moved by: Councilwoman Green
Seconded by: Councilman Farris

To APPROVE the event permit and fee waiver.

A roll call vote was ordered, and the vote was as follows:

Councilman Farris: aye

Councilman Martin: aye

Councilwoman Haffner: aye

Councilwoman Brannon: aye

Councilwoman Green: aye

Carried

i. Legal

j. Engineering

1. Rate & Capacity Fee Study 2021

Engineer Rouchaleau presented a proposal for engineering to update the City's rate and capacity fee for this year and sought Councils approval. City Manager Simmons wanted to confirm that this study would reexamine both commercial and residential rates, Engineer Rouchaleau agreed that it would.

Engineer Rouchaleau briefed the Council on the pre-bid meeting progress for the Wastewater Treatment Facility, noting that it was on track for the bid opening set for February 18, 2021 at 10 AM. Engineer Rouchaleau continued by informing the Council of the Scott Municipal application will open in which he will provide the Council with recommendations at the next Council Meeting.

Moved by: Councilman Farris
Seconded by: Councilwoman Green

To ACCEPT the rate and capacity fee study proposal

A roll call vote was ordered, and the vote was as follows:

Councilman Farris: aye

Councilman Martin: aye

Councilwoman Haffner: aye

Councilwoman Brannon: aye

Councilwoman Green: aye

Carried

10. Old Business

11. New Business

a. Mayor Russ Barley

b. Councilwoman Brannon

c. Councilman Farris

1. Destiny Center Extravaganza

Councilman Farris opened by noting that although at the previous Council Meeting, he voted to cancel the Destiny Worship Center Egg Drop, he has since received several phone calls from members of the community who felt that attendance of the event should be left to the discretion of the parents. Councilman Farris noted that this decision was tricky being that schools were still hosting sporting events; however, he believed the event to be a positive tool to bring the community together and that parents should have the final say. Councilman Farris made a motion to allow the Destiny Worship Center to host their Egg Drop at the Sports Complex. Councilwoman Green remarked that at the previous meeting she stated that she would be willing to consider the event occurring if they created an alternative method to ensure safety measures were taken to reduce the spread of COVID. Councilwoman Green noted that she could not agree to moving forward with the event unless there was a different plan of action. Councilwoman Haffner noted that she would agree to the event if there was a more uniform way of handling the Egg Drop to ensure space amongst the children. Mayor Barley noted that he would be willing to meet with Pastor Rob to discuss alternative methods for the event if the Council would like. Councilwoman Brannon noted that if the event was sponsored by the City then she agreed to some intervention to ensure COVID regulations were being considered. City Manager Simmons sought clarity on the event being sponsored by City Funds, Councilwoman Green clarified that the City sponsors the event by allowing the

church to utilize the Sports Complex for free. Parks Director Digges inserted that there were a plethora of options for the church to conduct the event safely, noting that the Sports Complex had several fields which afforded sufficient spacing. Parks Director Digges noted that the church always had a ton of volunteers to supervise the event, he offered to meet with Pastor Rob to discuss options. City Attorney Adkinson informed the Council to withdraw the motion and to return to the discussion after speaking with the pastor on alternative options. Councilman Farris and Councilman Martin withdrew their motions.

d. Councilwoman Green

e. Councilwoman Haffner

f. Councilman Martin

12. Public Comment

Linda Taylor approached Council to dispute water meter fees. Mrs.Taylor informed the Council that she inherited a property which held two houses, unfortunately she was unaware that the property split two lines on one water meter. Mrs.Taylor requested an extension until March 31 to get the funds to buy an additional water meter. Mayor Barley wanted to clarify that Mrs.Taylor wanted to keep two houses connected on one water meter until March 31 until she raised the funds. Manager Simmons informed the Council that there was no policy in place for extensions on water meters.

Moved by: Councilwoman Brannon
Seconded by: Councilwoman Green

To APPROVE an extension on the meter fees until March 31.

A roll call vote was ordered, and the vote was as follows:

Councilman Farris: aye

Councilman Martin: aye

Councilwoman Haffner: aye

Councilwoman Brannon: aye

Councilwoman Green: aye

Carried

13. Adjournment

Mayor Barley motioned to adjourn at 9:16 AM, due to a public comment the meeting reopened. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 AM.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk