City of Freeport

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 27, 2021, 6:30 PM
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, City Attorney Clay Adkinson, Planning Director Latilda Neel, Finance Officer Sara Bowers, Billing Manager Debbie Roberts, Parks Director Travis Digges, Water Supervisor Larry Tuggle, Sewer Supervisor Robert Fawcett, City Planner Adam Williams

1. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:31PM by Mayor Barley in the Council Chambers of Freeport City Hall.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

3. Miss Freeport Queens, Miss Walton County Queens, and Miss DeFuniak Queens

Mayor Russ Barley presented the visiting queens as ambassadors of Walton County for 2021. The Miss Freeport Queens, Miss Walton County Queens, and Miss DeFuniak Queens gave introductions to the City Council and thanks for the invitation.

4. Recognition of Guests

5. Consent Agenda

a. Revenue & Expenditure Report through April 2021

b. Bills

c. City Council Meeting Minutes- April 22, 2021

d. Special Council Meeting Minutes- April 22, 2021

e. City Council Meeting Minutes- May 11, 2021

6. Public Comment on Consent Agenda

- Councilwoman Haffner noted a name error in the minutes of May 11,2021.
- Councilwoman Green noted her concern of the vagueness of the Special Council Meeting Minutes of April 22,2021 seeking the opinion of the other Council members for critiques. The Council recommended that the City Clerk add the PowerPoint from the meeting into the minutes for transparency.

7. Approval of Consent Agenda

Moved by: Councilwoman Haffner
Seconded by: Councilwoman Green

To approve the consent Agenda with recommended changes.

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

8. Consideration of Additions/Deletions to Agenda

- Billing- Automated Call Provider
- City Manager- Delete items under Engineering due to their absence.

9. Approval of Agenda with Additions/Deletions

Moved by: Councilman Farris
Seconded by: Councilwoman Brannon

To approve the agenda with the specified additions and deletions.

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. Staff Reports

a. Water

b. Sewer

c. Parks

d. City Manager

e. City Clerk

f. Finance

1. Interim Financing Advertisement Approval

Finance Officer Sara Bowers presented the Interim Financing Advertisement for approval to the Council to abide by USDA guidelines.

Moved by: Councilman Farris
Seconded by: Councilwoman Haffner

To approve the Interim Financing Advertisement.

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

g. Billing

1. Automated Call Provider

Billing Manager Roberts informed the Council that after careful investigation she discovered that there were certain phone companies that excluded customers from receiving the automated disconnect reminder calls. Billing Manager Roberts sought permission to investigate an alternative company that could provide call, text, email or all services to produce better customer service.

Moved by: Councilwoman Haffner
Seconded by: Councilwoman Green

To authorize Billing Manager Roberts to look for an alternative company for automated call reminders.

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

2. Sensus Analytics Update

Billing Manager Roberts informed the Council that with the help of Water Supervisor Tuggle she was able to get the new sensus analytics up and running. Billing Manager Roberts noted that the new system provided hourly updates which assisted her in finding water leaks quicker. After testing the new software with Water Supervisor Tuggle to confirm accuracy, Billing Manager Roberts noted that she expects the system to go live next month.

h. Planning

1. Joe Campbell Road Re-Zoning (2nd Reading)

City Planner Williams presented the Joe Campbell Road Re-Zoning before the Council for approval.

Moved by: Councilman Farris
Seconded by: Councilwoman Haffner

To approve the Joe Campbell Road Re-Zoning.

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

2. Brannon Re-Zoning (1st Reading)

City Planner Williams presented the Brannon Re-Zoning before the Council which would amend the zoning assignment from residential to commercial use.

Moved by: Councilwoman Green
Seconded by: Councilwoman Haffner

To authorize first reading and to advertise the second reading.

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

3. Regency Acquisitions SSA (1st Reading)

City Planner Williams presented the Regency Acquisitions SSA before the Council which would change the parcel of land from rural village to urban development future land use designation, amending the City's Comprehensive Plan. City Attorney Clay Adkinson directed Mr.Scott Jenkins to swore in his statement of intent of use. Councilwoman Green asked for clarity on the location of this parcel.

Moved by: Councilman Farris
Seconded by: Councilman Martin

To authorize first reading and to advertise second reading.

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

4. Regency Acquisitions Re-Zoning (1st Reading)

City Planner Williams presented the Regency Acquisitions Re-Zoning before the Council for approval, which would convert this land usage from rural development to high intensity commercial. Mrs.Sherry Parris inquired on the owners knowing about how close it would put them to Highway 20, Planning Director Hughes-Neel informed her that the owners were aware and had design plans to accommodate that.

Moved by: Councilman Farris
Seconded by: Councilman Martin

To authorize first reading and to approve advertisement of second reading.

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

5. Hammock Bay Phase III PDP Modification

Planning Director Hughes-Neel presented the Hammock Bay Phase III PDP Modification before the Council seeking approval. Planning Director Hughes-Neel informed the Council that the modification was requested due to the location of Phase B of the project, which is surrounded by wetland buffers, the developer is seeking the reduction of the setback from 15 feet to 10 feet only for Phase B. Councilwoman Green expressed her concern and confusion over the language in Resolution 2018-19 which was the original agreement for this project. Planning Director Hughes-Neel assured Council that the language was what was approved at that meeting. Councilwoman Green encouraged the Council to allow her to research the original agreement and audio from that meeting to confirm. Councilmembers agreed to postpose approval of the Hammock Bay Phase III PDP Modification until the next City Council Meeting.

Moved by: Councilman Farris
Seconded by: Councilman Martin

To continue the Hammock Bay Phase III PDP Modification until the next meeting to allow Councilwoman Green to research.

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. ~~Bid Results for 83A Wastewater Improvements~~

2. ~~Barrier Free Park Phase Improvements~~

11. Old Business

12. New Business

a. Mayor Russ Barley

b. Councilwoman Brannon

c. Councilman Farris

d. Councilwoman Green

e. Councilwoman Haffner

f. Councilman Martin

13. Public Comment

14. Adjournment

Mayor Barley motioned to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:12PM.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk