City of Freeport

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

July 22, 2021, 6:30 PM
Council Chambers, Freeport City Hall

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

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, Sewer Supervisor Robert Fawcett, City Engineer Alex Rouchaleau

1. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at b 6:30PM y 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. Swearing- In Ceremony

Judge Green conducted the swearing-in ceremony for the following Councilmembers:

- Mayor Russ Barley
- Councilman Tripp Hope
- Councilman Mark Martin
- Councilwoman Elizabeth Brannon

Judge Green declared all officers dually involved.

4. Recognition of Guest

None.

5. Consent Agenda

a. Bills

b. City Council Meeting Minutes- July 13, 2021

c. Revenue & Expenditure Reports through June 2021

6. Public Comment on Consent Agenda

None.

7. Approval of Consent Agenda

Moved by: Councilwoman Brannon
Seconded by: Councilman Farris

To approve the consent Agenda as presented.

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

Councilwoman Brannon: aye

Councilman Farris: aye

Councilwoman Haffner: aye

Councilman Hope: aye

Councilman Martin: aye

Carried

8. Consideration of Additions/Deletions to Agenda

- Billing Manager Roberts- Delete Write-Off Memo
- City Manager Simmons- Add SLE98 Contract and City & County Road Maintenance Agreement

9. Approval of Agenda with Additions/Deletions

Moved: Councilwoman Haffner
Seconded: Councilwoman Brannon

To approve the agenda with the specified additions as presented.

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

Councilwoman Brannon: aye

Councilman Farris: aye

Councilwoman Haffner: aye

Councilman Hope: aye

Councilman Martin: aye

Carried

10. Staff Reports

a. Water

b. Sewer

c. Parks

d. City Manager

1. SLE98 CONTRACT

City Manager Simmons presented the SLE98 Contract before Council noting that after discussion with City Attorney Adkinson he recommended the following amendments:

- 30 day written termination/exit clause
- 15-day transitional period between I.T. companies.

City Attorney Adkinson added that he would like to extend the confidentiality provision being that this was a government entity.

Moved by: Councilwoman Brannon
Seconded by: Councilman Martin

To approve the SLE98 contract with the recommended changes.

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

Councilwoman Brannon: aye

Councilman Farris: aye

Councilwoman Haffner: aye

Councilman Hope: aye

Councilman Martin: aye

Carried

2. City and County Interlocal Road Agreement

City Manager Simmons informed Council that after many discussions with the County Commissioners they have amended the Interlocal Road Agreement to better assist the City. City Manager Simmons noted that there were additional roads added and would include road resurfacing only on the roads already with the City. City Manager Simmons continued by adding that the amended agreement would allow the City to add roads when deemed necessary as well as pay for 2 miles of road resurfacing per year. City Manager Simmons disclosed that this year they would be resurfacing Washington Street and next year South Jackson Street. Councilwoman Brannon asked for clarity on the agreement. City Attorney Adkinson informed Council that this agreement called for more County expenses with expanded services for the City, thus accomplishing what the City wants.

Moved by: Councilman Farris
Seconded by: Councilwoman Brannon

To approve the amended Interlocal Road Agreement.

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

Councilwoman Brannon: aye

Councilman Farris: aye

Councilwoman Haffner: aye

Councilman Hope: aye

Councilman Martin: aye

Carried

3. Updates

City Manager Simmons announced to the Council that he will be hosting a Town Hall Meeting on August 9, 6PM in the Council Chambers to get input from residents on the new rate study. City Attorney Adkinson advised Council not to attend to avoid having to notice and take minutes. City Attorney Adkinson noted that the Town Hall session would be informational only, not policy setting. City Attorney Adkinson assured Council that by not attending they would have a chance to review the content, adding that Town Hall Meetings were a useful tool to assist the Council in their decision-making process.

e. City Clerk

f. Finance

1. Set Tentative Millage Rate and 1st Public Hearing Date

Finance Officer Bowers advised Council to maintain the millage rate at 4.7302 and explained that if the millage rate were to increase that the City would have to pay a significant cost as well as send mailouts to every resident. City Attorney Adkinson concurred, noting that raising the millage rate was not advisable.

Moved by: Councilwoman Haffner
Seconded by: Councilman Martin

To maintain the millage rate at 4.7302.

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

Councilwoman Brannon: aye

Councilman Farris: aye

Councilwoman Haffner: aye

Councilman Hope: aye

Councilman Martin: aye

Carried

2. Workshop Dates Scheduling

Finance Officer Bowers asked Council to approve the Workshop date and First Public Hearing date discussed at the previous Budget Workshop.

Moved: Councilman Farris
Seconded: Councilwoman Brannon

To approve Budget Workshops for August 9th at 9AM, and August 17th at 3:30PM.

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

Councilwoman Brannon: aye

Councilman Farris: aye

Councilwoman Haffner: aye

Councilman Hope: aye

Councilman Martin: aye

Carried

g. Billing

~~1. Write-Off Memo~~

h. Planning

i. Legal

1. 2ND Reading of City Manager Ordinance

City Attorney Adkinson informed the Council that the amended ordinance reflected the following changes:

- Residential requirements for the City Manager would now be to dwell in Walton County.
- Qualifications for the City Manager would now be code based minimum qualifications.
- Repealing the section that states the City Manager would be a temporary hire.

Moved by: Councilwoman Brannon
Seconded by: Councilman Farris

To hold 2nd Reading and to adopt the City Manager Ordinance.

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

Councilwoman Brannon: aye

Councilman Farris: aye

Councilwoman Haffner: aye

Councilman Hope: aye

Councilman Martin: aye

Carried

2. Employment of City Manager

City Attorney Adkinson called for Council to act in appointing City Manager Simmons as the permanent City Manager. Councilman Farris expressed his gratitude to City Manager Simmons for serving as the City Manager. Mayor Barley informed the Council that City Manager Simmons was currently working for half the salary of a city manager, therefore he would request that City Manager Simmons also receive the full salary. Finance Officer Bowers informed the Council that they had $100,000 in the budget for a city manager. City Attorney Adkinson also advised Council to retroactive City Manager Simmons's pay; Finance Officer Bowers noted that the amendment would be effective for the July 19 pay period.

Moved by: Councilman Farris
Seconded by: Councilman Hope

To appoint City Manager Simmons as the permanent City Manager until the Council no longer wishes to have his services.

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

Councilwoman Brannon: aye

Councilman Farris: aye

Councilwoman Haffner: aye

Councilman Hope: aye

Councilman Martin: aye

Carried

Moved by: Councilman Farris
Seconded by: Councilman Hope

To increase the City Manager salary to $100,000.

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

Councilwoman Brannon: aye

Councilman Farris: aye

Councilwoman Haffner: aye

Councilman Hope: aye

Councilman Martin: aye

Carried

3. Resolution for Interim Financing

City Attorney Adkinson informed the Council that the City would need their signage of the certificate Resolution as a requirement for the interim financing for the wastewater treatment expansion. City Attorney Adkinson quickly briefed Councilman Hope on the plans for funding the project and requested signage of the document. City Attorney Adkinson informed Council that the City would be closing on the interim financing next week.

City Attorney Adkinson noted that the following Resolution 2021-04 would be to authorize the issuance of the wastewater system revenue bond, not to exceed $23,060,000 based on figures presented by Engineer Rouchaleau at the previous meeting.

Moved by: Councilman Farris
Seconded by: Councilwoman Brannon

To approve signage of Resolution 2021-03 for Interim Financing.

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

Councilwoman Brannon: aye

Councilman Farris: aye

Councilwoman Haffner: aye

Councilman Hope: aye

Councilman Martin: aye

Carried

Moved by: Councilwoman Haffner
Seconded by: Councilman Farris

To approve Resolution 2021-04.

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

Councilwoman Brannon: aye

Councilman Farris: aye

Councilwoman Haffner: aye

Councilman Hope: aye

Councilman Martin: aye

Carried

j. Engineering

11. Old Business

12. New Business

a. Mayor Russ Barley

Mayor Barley expressed his thanks for being able to serve with the re-elected Councilmembers and gave well wishes to serve the next four years with newly elected Councilman Hope.

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 7:04PM.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk