

**CITY OF FREEPORT
JUNE 9, 2015 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

I. Meeting Called to Order

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

Council members present: Councilman Eddie Farris, Councilwoman Kasey Cuchens, Mayor Russ Barley, Councilwoman Elizabeth Brannon and Councilwoman Jennifer Laird.

Council staff present: City Attorney Clayton Adkinson, City Clerk Gary Mattison, City Planner Latilda Hughes-Neel, Parks Director Dana Weiler and City Engineer Anna Hudson.

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/none.

IV. Approval of Past Minutes (Action Requested)

- 5/28/15 WS – Capital Improvements Program

Councilwoman Brannon noted a correction to the time of her arrival on Page 1 as 6:08 pm. Councilwoman Cuchens noted a correction in the 2nd paragraph of III. Capital Improvements Plan.; from “possible” to “possibly” on Page 1.

Council Action: Councilwoman Cuchens motioned to approve with corrections as noted. Councilwoman Brannon seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

- 5/28/15 RCM

Councilwoman Cuchens noted a correction under II.A; the word “thanks” need to be replaced with “thanked”. Councilwoman Cuchens also requested that under III.B. , clarifying language be added stating that the payments for the City’s contribution for corporate refund tax provision would not start until 2017.

Council Action: Councilwoman Cuchens motioned to approve with corrections as noted. Councilwoman Laird seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

V. Consideration of Additions/Deletions to Agenda

City Clerk Mattison stated that Bob Jones needed to address the City’s CDBG grant and

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requested he be allowed to proceed at the beginning of Staff Reports.

VI. Approval of Agenda with Additions/~~Deletions~~ - no action taken

VII. Staff Reports

Bob Jones/CDBG Housing Grant for City of Freeport:

Mr. Jones discussed the housing grant being prepared for the City which must be filed on or before June 22, 2015. He touched on the 1986 Fair Housing Ordinance adopted by the City in 1986. He noted that the City had already adopted a Housing Assistance Plan on September 24, 2015, but that he was proposing one amendment to recognize the need for energy saving features on houses being built/rehabbed as part of the program. Jones also asked the Council to set aside \$25,000 match for the Freeport project. Jones stated that he expected the City would not need to use the match but the application would be ranked higher if the City would pledge \$25,000.

City Attorney Adkinson reviewed the draft resolution for submittal of the application with the pledge of \$25,000. Jones stated that he hoped to get it done by the second council meeting in June. Attorney Adkinson pointed out several corrections in the language, then stated he had no problem with the draft resolution as corrected.

Council Action: Councilman Farris motioned to approve Resolution 2015-05 as corrected to apply for the CDBG grant. Councilwoman Brannon seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

Jones stated he would also need a motion to amend the Housing Assistance Plan to require Energy Star Rated rehabilitation/construction.

Council Action: Councilwoman Brannon motioned to approve the amendment to the Freeport Housing Assistance Program for Energy Star Rated rehabilitation/construction. Councilwoman Cuchens seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

A. City Clerk Matters

1. Expenditure Data (Information Only)

City Clerk Mattison passed out copies of current expenditures.

2. Pay All Bills in Order (Action Requested)

Council Action: Councilman Farris motioned to pay all bills in order. Councilwoman Cuchens seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

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3. North Bay Sensus Meter Installation (Approval Requested)

City Clerk Mattison stated that staff needs approval to negotiate contract with installer no later than September 15th and at no more than \$30 per meter. This action would authorize the Mayor to sign the contract for the negotiated price of no more than \$30 per meter and after review by counsel for legal form.

Council Action: Councilwoman Cuchens motioned to approve as presented. Councilwoman Brannon seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

4. FLC State Conference - Orlando (Information Only)

City Clerk Mattison informed the Council that there was a July 22 deadline to register for the Florida League of Cities State Conference. Councilwoman Brannon stated that she would attend.

B. Planning & Zoning Dept. /none

C. Legal Matters

City Attorney Adkinson updated the Council briefly on the CoBank loan paperwork.

D. Parks Dept.

1. Status Report w/ Action Items (Action Requested)

Parks Director Weiler represented her status report (attached) and requested permission to repair replace, the park sound system, score boards and three water fountains.

Council Action: Councilwoman Brannon motioned to approve the sound system and score board repairs for \$9,000 and replacement and the water fountain replacements at \$1450. Councilwoman Laird seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

City Attorney Adkinson stated that the city engineer Preble-Rish needed to review the plans for the upgrades to the Regional Sports Complex. City Engineer Hudson stated that they could review the plans at the behest of the City.

E. Engineering

1. City Engineer Updates

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City Engineer Hudson informed the Council that the bid due date for the Community Center rehabilitation was moved to the next Monday at 1:00 a.m.

2. Lift Station Rehabilitation Project (Action Requested)

City Engineer Hudson stated that the low bid was Cathey Construction at \$177,391.00. Hudson stated that approval was needed to proceed with notice of award.

Council Action: Councilwoman Brannon motioned to proceed with notice of bid award to Cathey Construction at \$177,391.00. Councilman Farris seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

F. Water Dept./none

G. Sewer Dept./none

VIII. Old Business/none

IX. New Business

A. Mayor Russ Barley

- Ribbon Cutting – Coastal Optical outlet at 11:00am on Wednesday
- Next Bayfest Meeting – July 15 – Bayfest is September 19

B. Councilwoman Brannon / none

C. Councilwoman Cuchens

Councilwoman Cuchens reported that Walton County is going after stormwater projects with RESTORE funds; Freeport is revising the projects that will be presented.

D. Councilman Farris

1. Stage Pavilion behind City Hall

Councilman Farris reminded the Council that in December of 2014, the Council gave approval for a pavilion to be built behind City Hall at the backstop of the old baseball field area. Councilman Farris announced that the Freeport Town Planters Society was giving \$10,000 to build the pavilion. The Council and audience discussed various organizations which would be able to utilize the pavilion.

E. Councilwoman Laird/none

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F. Councilwoman McLean/not present

X. **Public Comment**/none

XI. Adjournment

Mayor Barley called for a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Cuchens motioned to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.

APPROVED:

FREEPORT CITY COUNCIL

MAYOR

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK