

**CITY OF FREEPORT
JUNE 9, 2015 WORKSHOP MINUTES**

I. Meeting Opened

The workshop was opened by Mayor Russ Barley at 6:00 pm.

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

Staff members present: City Clerk Gary Mattison, City Planner Latilda Hughes-Neel, Parks Director Dana Weiler and City Engineer Anna Hudson.

II. Invocation and Pledge

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

III. 2015/2016 Strategic Plan

The power point presentation had technical difficulties, so City Clerk Mattison provided verbal updates with a handout (attached):

Administrative staff are creating a directory of “Frequently Asked Questions” for the city website to assist the public is reaching the right paperwork and the correct person to assist.

Planner Hughes Neel is preparing the city ordinances and resolutions for placement on the city web-site in the document center with assistance from other administrative staff. Easier public access to city ordinances and resolutions will free up staff time and improve service to the public.

Councilwoman Cuchens: the Choctawhatchee Bay needs to be addressed in the Strategic Goals for environmental protection and conservation.

Councilwoman Brannon: we need to address protection of our watersheds as well. Everything is connected: the Bay, the rivers and watersheds.

The Council discussed setting an additional Strategic Plan Goal:

GOAL: Protection of Natural Resources

- Choctawhatchee Bay
- Choctawhatchee River
- Watershed

White Board Discussion:

OPERATION WATER SAVE

**CITY OF FREEPORT
JUNE 9, 2015 WORKSHOP MINUTES**

Protect: Bay/River/Watershed/Lafayette Creek, Alaqua Creek, Four Mile Creek, Ramsey Branch, LaGrange Bayou

Objectives: Protection/Conservation

Time-Frame: Long Range Plan – 50 Years

Threats: Septic Tanks, Silting, Misuse of creek banks (no mooring fields), lack of maintenance.

IV. Staffing/Personnel

City Clerk Mattison provided a summary of the meeting held with Water and Sewer Billing staff (attached).

FLC is providing information for Safety/Harassment Training

City Clerk Mattison is planning a meeting for city personnel /5-year, 10-year and 50-year plan so that staff understands the bigger picture. This would be strategic goal enhancement by improving public service.

V. Budget Financial Planning

City Clerk Mattison: The Census Meter Installation has generated additional revenue; customer service has greatly improved.

City Engineer Hudson stated that they would like a meeting with the City Council to get CIP projects ranked.

OTHER DISCUSSION:

Scott Brannon, liaison for the LaGrange Park project commented on the successful Save the River and Bay initiative and the informative public meetings organized by Councilwoman McLean.

Brannon spoke to economic development and environmental protection policies already in place for the Working Waterfronts Planning Area and how similar policies could be developed for the Save the Bay and River initiative and for other natural resources.

Brannon touched on the importance of maintenance and dredging of Four Mile Creek as an economic industry transportation corridor. Brannon mentioned that the BCC was to identify the essential water transportation corridors on the federal lobby list. Brannon talked about how local stakeholders were needed from Four Mile Creek to collect technical data regarding tonnage for permitting purposes.

Brannon agreed that the Council needs to protect tributaries and river branches. The City's water resources need to be mapped and policies established with buffers and

**CITY OF FREEPORT
JUNE 9, 2015 WORKSHOP MINUTES**

setbacks to regulate allowable uses. Derelict vessels are an issue; procedural policies for removal of derelict vessels need to be put into place.

Brannon stated that the Working Waterfronts Stakeholders Workgroup will work on grants to provide what is needed for Planning Area improvements.

Brannon discussed the current efforts to establish LaGrange Park south and adjacent to Marina Village. Brannon discussed the educational components of the park design; how to keep the bayou healthy, the outdoor classroom and wildlife identification kiosks. Brannon also suggested that in what they do there should be a historic component...a walking trail that the City's historic structures, people and events.

The Council discussed recreational opportunities and how the Save the River and Bay meetings had been well attended. City Clerk Mattison mentioned that County Commissioner Chapman had been in attendance. The Council closed the discussion with broad-base points:

- Protect waterways and tributaries
- Identify water resources and protect their functions.

VI. Meeting Adjourned

Mayor Barley called for a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Cuchens motioned to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 6:41 pm.

APPROVED:

FREEPORT CITY COUNCIL

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK