

City of Freeport

August 27, 2015 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

7:00 p.m./Council Chambers/Freeport City Hall

I. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Mayor Russ Barley. The meeting was held in Council Chambers of Freeport City Hall.

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

Staff present: City Clerk Gary Mattison, Water Supervisor Larry Tuggle, 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

- Preston Wright – Employee Retirement

Preston Wright was recognized as retiring from city service. Mayor Barley presented Preston Wright with a plaque recognizing his service to the City. City Clerk Mattison presented Wright with a Freeport cap, a Freeport car tag and two passes to attend the 2015 Bayfest.

IV. Approval of Past Minutes (Action Requested)

- 8/11/15 FCC Workshop Minutes (Budget)
- 8/11/15 FCC Regular Council Meeting Minutes
- 8/17/15 FCC Special Meeting Minutes (Interviews)

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

V. Consideration of Additions/Deletions to Agenda

City Clerk Mattison added 2. Uniform letter under Legal; and 3. Rejection of all Community Center bids under Legal. Mattison requested deletion of 4., 5. and 7 under City Clerk Matters.

Councilman Farris deleted Comments on Privatization.

VI. Approval of Agenda with Additions/Deletions

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Council Action: Councilwoman Brannon motioned to approve the additions and deletions to the agenda as stated. Councilwoman McLean seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

VII. Staff Reports

A. City Clerk Matters

1. Expenditures (Information)

City Clerk Mattison discussed the latest expenditure list available to the Council.

2. Pay All Bills in Order (Action Item)

Council Action: Councilwoman Brannon motioned to pay all bills in order. Councilwoman McLean seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

3. Personnel/Staffing/Policy Manual (Information/Action)

Mattison requested that the offer to Joe Jennings for the Fiscal Services Clerk position be raised from \$46K to \$48K.

Council Action: Councilwoman Brannon motioned to add Staff Accountant to the Fiscal Services Clerk duties and to increase the salary from \$46,000 to \$48,000. Councilwoman Laird seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

~~4. Praestare Update (Information/Action)~~

~~5. FDOT Debt Forgiveness Promissory Note Update (Information)~~

6. Sensus Meter Installation Contract (Information)

Mattison informed the Council that they hoped to start on installation in 3 weeks.

~~7. Brad Hoard Insurance Proposal (Information)~~

8. CDBG Grant – Site Visit (Information)

Mattison informed the Council that the visit went well.

B. Planning & Zoning Dept. – none

C. Legal Matters

1. Community Center Bid rejection

City Attorney Adkinson advised the Council that since they did not intend to accept any of the bids submitted for renovation of the Community Center, they needed to vote to reject all

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bids.

Council Action: Councilwoman Cuchens motioned to reject all bids received for renovations to the Community Center. Councilwoman Brannon seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

2. Uniform Company Letter (attached)

City Attorney Adkinson presented a letter from the City's former uniform company demanding payment. Adkinson stated that he had reviewed the renewal contract for the uniforms and that the renewal was not approved by the City Council. Adkinson stated that he would issue a letter on behalf of the Council.

3. Fee Contract for Wastewater Systems (Action Item) (attached)

Adkinson explained that with certain BP claims, there were nation-wide problems with sewer systems...costs incurred only if litigation is required.

Council Action: Councilwoman Brannon motioned to accept the Fee Contract for wastewater systems. Councilwoman Laird seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

D. Parks Dept.

1. Update on lightning damage

Weiler informed the Council that the damage caused by lightning was between \$22-25,000. Weiler requested reimbursement for repairs through an insurance claim.

Weiler noted that a burn permit had been obtained for the Sports Complex.

E. Engineering

1. Preble-Rish/Engineering Updates (attached)

- Business 331 Sewer Updates
- Freeport Legislative Appropriation Water Projects
- Lift Station Rehabilitation Projects
- Fluffy Landing
- US 331 Utility Relocation Phase B
- Planning Tasks
- Additional Tasks

F. Water Dept. - none

G. Sewer Dept. - none

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VIII. Old Business - none

IX. New Business

A. Mayor Russ Barley

1. Community Center Repair Quotes (Action)

Mayor Barley noted that renovations would begin August 31.

2. Bayfest/September 19 (Information)
3. Mayor's Ball/October 24 (Information)

B. Councilwoman Brannon

1. Legislative Matters

Councilwoman Brannon noted that the Northwest Florida League of Cities Dinner deadline to register was September 10, 2015. The veteran's survey is due by September 18. Councilwoman Brannon urged the Council to go on-line to sign up for the 2016 Advocacy Team.

C. Councilwoman Cuchens

1. RESTORE Update (Information)

Councilwoman Cuchens stated that the RESTORE project proposals would be scored September 9, 2015.

2. Triumph Gulf Coast Inc. Update (Information)

Councilwoman Cuchens stated that there was 1.5 billion in finding which signaled resolution for the 8 counties most affected by the BP Oil Spill. It is a 30-year endowment of private/local money. The money can only be used for economic development. Matching funds will be needed. It is a long process. July 2016 is when the first monies will be available.

D. Councilman Farris

1. Employee Fish Fry (Action)

Council Action: Councilman Farris motioned to hold the employee fish fry on October 9 at Marse Landing. Councilwoman Cuchens seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

- ~~2. Comments about Privatization of Water/ Sewer Dept. (Information)~~

E. Councilwoman Laird - none

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F. Councilwoman McLean

1. Guideline/Transfer of Water and Sewer Tap Fees (Action)

Council Action: Councilwoman Brannon motioned to table this item to the next meeting. Councilwoman Cuchens seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

G. Carolyn Knight/Proposal to donate flooring for Community Center in exchange for use of Community Center

The Council discussed the matter with Ms. Knight. It was determined that the rental fees would still have to be paid. The Council decided by general assent to have the Mayor make the determination of if the flooring that Ms. Knight was proposing to donate was usable and suitable for the Community Center.

X. **Public Comment**

Jay Odom gave an update on Project TARGET. Freeport is still in the running regarding securing Freeport as the build site.

XI. **Adjournment**

Mayor Barley called for a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman McLean motioned to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

FREEPORT CITY COUNCIL

Mayor

Council President

ATTEST:

City Clerk