



City of Freeport

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 26, 2022, 6:30 PM

Council Chambers, Freeport City Hall

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

Staff Members Present: City Manager Charlie Simmons, City Attorney Clay Adkinson, Planning Technician Samantha Graves, Finance Officer Sara Bowers, City Clerk Kathie Gatewood, Billing Supervisor Lourdes Johnson, Sewer Supervisor Robert Fawcett, Wastewater Treatment Supervisor Paul Johnson, Parks & Recreation Director Travis Digges, and City Engineer Alex Rouchaleau

1. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. 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. Recognition of Guests

Mayor Barley welcomed the beauty pageant queens from Freeport, Walton County, and Defuniak Springs. He congratulated them on their accomplishments and for attending the meeting.

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4. Consent Agenda

- a. Bills
- b. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – April 12, 2022
- c. Special Council Meeting Minutes – April 28, 2022
- d. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – April 28, 2022
- e. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2022
- f. Revenue & Expenditure Report through April 2022

5. Public Comment on Consent Agenda

Mayor Barley called for public comment and there was none.

6. Approval of Consent Agenda

Moved by: Councilman Farris
Seconded by: Councilwoman Haffner

To approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

Councilman Farris:	aye
Councilwoman Brannon:	aye
Councilwoman Haffner:	aye
Councilman Martin:	aye
Councilman Hope	aye

Carried.

7. Consideration of Additions/Deletions to Agenda

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

8. Approval of Agenda with Additions/Deletions

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

9. Staff Reports

- a. Water
- b. Sewer
- c. Parks

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d. City Manager

1. City Manager Position

City Manager Simmons told the Council he spoke with the City Attorney and City Clerk about the City Manager qualifications and wanted to start the interview process with the Council on the week of June 20, 2022. City Attorney Adkinson said the City Manager and City Clerk will give him the resumes of the applied candidates received through close of business on May 27, 2022, and a determination will be made as to who meets the minimum qualifications. He said anyone who meets the minimum qualifications will advance to meet with individual Council Members at City Hall. Once the interviews are complete, the Council will decide whether they would like to hold a Special Meeting for the purposes of candidate discussion/hiring, or if they would like to have that occur at the June 23, 2022 Regular Council Meeting.

Moved by: Councilwoman Haffner

Seconded by: Councilwoman Brannon

Mayor Barley called for public comment or further Council discussion and there was none.

To approve the City Attorney, City Manager, and City Clerk to review City Manager applications received through May 27, 2022 at 4pm for the sake of determining which candidates meet the minimum qualifications, as well as scheduling those candidates for individual interviews with the City Council Members on the week of June 20, 2022. Any applications received after May 27, 2022 at 4pm will be considered in a 2nd round should the Council not hire someone from the 1st round of candidates.

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

Councilman Farris:	aye
Councilwoman Brannon:	aye
Councilwoman Haffner:	aye
Councilman Martin:	aye
Councilman Hope	aye

Carried.

e. City Clerk

f. Finance

1. Budget Amendment

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Finance Director Bowers asked the Council for approval for the budget amendment proposed for salary increases approved at the last council meeting.

Moved by: Councilwoman Brannon

Seconded by: Councilman Hope

Mayor Barley called for public comment or further Council discussion and there was none.

To approve the proposed Budget Amendment for salary increases

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

Councilman Farris:	aye
Councilwoman Brannon:	aye
Councilwoman Haffner:	aye
Councilman Martin:	aye
Councilman Hope	aye

Carried.

- g. Billing
- h. Planning

1. Walsh Development Group Re-Zoning/2nd Reading of Ordinance

Planning Director Hughes-Neel asked the Council for a motion to approve second reading of the proposed ordinance.

Moved by: Councilwoman Brannon

Seconded by: Councilman Hope

Mayor Barley called for public comment or further Council discussion and there was none.

To approve holding second reading for the proposed Walsh Development Group Re-Zoning ordinance.

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

Councilman Farris:	aye
Councilwoman Brannon:	aye
Councilwoman Haffner:	aye
Councilman Martin:	aye
Councilman Hope	aye

Carried.

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Planning Director Hughes-Neel held second reading for ordinance 2022-06.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING MAP SERIES INCLUDED BY REFERENCE IN ARTICLE 3 OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, SPECIFICALLY THE PARCEL IDENTIFIED WITH PROPERTY REFERENCE NUMBER 10-1S-19-23000-007-0010 CONTAINING APPROXIMATELY 1.003 ACRES MORE OR LESS AND DESCRIBED BY THE LEGAL DESCRIPTION CONTAINED IN SECTION 1 BELOW AMENDING THE ZONING ASSIGNMENT AND ASSIGNING ZONING FROM HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL.

2. Freeport Shipyard & Marina Development Application

Planning Director Hughes-Neel explained to the Council that this area has changed hands and will still be used as a shipyard and marina. She said staff is recommending approval of the application submitted with the following conditions: off-site improvements be submitted separately for review and approval by the city and must be completed prior to the city's final inspection and issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy, and no parking on Shipyard Road or in Marse Landing Park by the users of the shipyard.

Moved by: Councilman Farris

Seconded by: Councilman Martin

Mayor Barley called for public comment or further Council discussion and there was none.

To approve the Freeport Shipyard & Marina Development Application with conditions

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

Councilman Farris:	aye
Councilwoman Brannon:	aye
Councilwoman Haffner:	aye
Councilman Martin:	aye
Councilman Hope	aye

Carried.

3. Land Development Code Revisions/1st Reading of Ordinance

Planning Director Hughes-Neel summarized the Land Development Code revisions for the Council and stated she would not be seeking action for the matter

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at this time. She said she would bring it back to the Council at the next regular meeting to ensure all questions and concerns have been addressed before asking for approval. She asked the Council for approval to move the item to the June 14, 2022 regular council meeting.

Moved by: Councilwoman Brannon

Seconded by: Councilman Martin

Mayor Barley called for public comment or further Council discussion and there was none.

To approve moving the Land Development Code Revisions/1st Reading of Ordinance to the June 14, 2022 regular council meeting

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

Councilman Farris:	aye
Councilwoman Brannon:	aye
Councilwoman Haffner:	aye
Councilman Martin:	aye
Councilman Hope	aye

Carried.

i. Legal

1. H&T and Tyler Annexation – second reading

City Attorney Adkinson asked the Council for a motion to hold second reading.

Moved by: Councilman Hope

Seconded by: Councilman Farris

Mayor Barley called for public comment or further Council discussion and there was none.

To approve holding second reading for the H&T and Tyler Annexation ordinance

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

Councilman Farris:	aye
Councilwoman Brannon:	aye
Councilwoman Haffner:	aye
Councilman Martin:	aye
Councilman Hope	aye

Carried.

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City Attorney Adkinson held second reading for ordinance 2022-07.

AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING TO THE TERRITORIAL LIMITS OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, FLORIDA, CERTAIN PROPERTY AND REDEFINING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY FREEPORT, FLORIDA, SO AS TO INCLUDE THEREIN THE PROPERTY ANNEXED HEREIN, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION PROVISIONS OF FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 1 71.044, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

j. Engineering

1. S. Jackson St Resurfacing Bid results

City Engineer Rouchaleau presented the Council with the bids results and remarked that the amounts of the bids were well above what is considered acceptable. He requested a motion from the Council to deny the bids so his team could make revisions and reach out to other contractors for more attractive bid results.

Moved by: Councilwoman Brannon

Seconded by: Councilwoman Haffner

Mayor Barley called for public comment or further Council discussion and there was none.

To deny bid results for the S. Jackson St Resurfacing Project

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

Councilman Farris:	aye
Councilwoman Brannon:	aye
Councilwoman Haffner:	aye
Councilman Martin:	aye
Councilman Hope	aye

Carried.

10. Old Business

11. New Business

- a. Mayor Russ Barley
- b. Councilwoman Brannon
- c. Councilman Farris

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- d. Councilwoman Haffner
- e. Councilman Hope
- f. Councilman Martin

12. Public Comment

Mayor Barley called for public comment and there was none.

13. Adjournment

Mayor Barley motioned to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Minutes were prepared by City Clerk Gatewood and approved by the City Council on June 14, 2022.



Russ Barley, Mayor



Kathie Gatewood, City Clerk