



City of Freeport

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

July 28, 2022, 6:30 PM
Council Chambers, Freeport City Hall

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

Staff Members Present: City Attorney Clay Adkinson, Finance Officer Sara Bowers, City Clerk Kathie Gatewood, Billing Supervisor Lourdes Johnson, Sewer Supervisor Robert Fawcett, Wastewater Treatment Supervisor Paul Johnson, Water Supervisor Larry Tuggle, Parks & Recreation Director Travis Digges, and City Engineer Alex Rouchaleau

1. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 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. Swearing-in Ceremony

Mayor Barley swore in newly appointed Bud Day along with Eddie Farris and Elizabeth Haffner.

3. Recognition of Guests

4. Consent Agenda

a. Bills

b. Revenue and Expenditure Reports Through June 2022

5. Public Comment on Consent Agenda

Mayor Barley called for public comment and there was none.

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6. Approval of Consent Agenda

Moved by: Councilman Farris
Seconded by: Councilwoman Brannon

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 Hope:	aye
Councilman Day	aye

Carried.

7. Consideration of Additions/Deletions to Agenda

1. City Clerk Gatewood requested to remove Covid-19 Policy from the City Clerk section.
2. Councilman Hope – Add Freeport High School discussion
3. Parks Director – Add pool hours and pool usage for South Walton High School

8. Approval of Agenda with Additions/Deletions/Changes

Moved by: Councilwoman Haffner
Seconded by: Councilwoman Brannon

To approve the Agenda additions and deletions presented.

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

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

Carried.

9. Staff Reports

- a. Water
- b. Sewer

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c. Parks

1. Vending Machines at the Regional Sports Complex

Parks and Recreation Director Digges asked for a motion to give permission to negotiate with drinks vendors for the Regional Sports Complex.

Moved by: Councilman Farris
Seconded by: Councilman Hope

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

To approve Parks Director Digges to negotiate with drink vendors for machines at the Regional Sports Complex.

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

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

Carried.

2. Pool Hours

Parks Director Digges reminded the Council of the current pool hours and difficulties in maintaining the hours once school starts due to so many of the pool staff being students. Because of these difficulties he is closing the pool on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays starting August 11.

3. Pool Usage

Parks Director Digges told the Council he has been communicating with the Athletic Director for South Walton High School regarding their inquiry into possible usage of the Community Pool for their swim team training. He said they would like to use the pool four days a week weather permitting for their early morning first period. He said they would be done with the pool each day by 8:00am and it would be from the start of the school year through mid-October. He spoke with the person who maintains the pool chemicals and advised there would be a three-hundred dollar increase in chemicals to accommodate the high school which they would pay. He said any agreement with the school would be for usage while the pool is unmanned. He told the Council he was requesting a motion to approve a future contract approved by City Attorney Adkinson and a requirement of the three-hundred-dollar difference.

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City Attorney Adkinson said the school has forms for joint participation and use agreements and he will review beforehand before moving forward and no motion is needed at this time.

d. Finance

1. Set Tentative Millage Rate and First Public Hearing Date

Finance Officer Bowers recommended maintaining the same mileage rate which is 4.7302. City Attorney Adkinson echoed the recommendation.

Mayor Barley called for public comment and there was none.

Moved by: Councilwoman Brannon

Seconded by: Councilman Farris

Mayor Barley called for public comment there was none.

To maintain the same mileage rate of 4.7302.

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

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

Carried.

1. Set First Public Hearing Date

Finance Director Bowers requested a motion to set the First Public Hearing Date for Thursday, September 8, 2022, at 5:05pm.

Moved by: Councilman Farris

Seconded by: Councilwoman Haffner

Mayor Barley called for public comment there was none.

To set the First Public Hearing Date for Thursday, September 8, 2022, at 5:05pm.

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

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

Carried.

2. Budget Workshop

Finance Director Bowers requested a motion to set the First Public Hearing Date for Monday, August 8, 2022, at 9:00am.

Moved by: Councilwoman Haffner

Seconded by: Councilman Hope

Mayor Barley called for public comment there was none.

To set the Budget Workshop Date for Monday, August 8, 2022, at 9:00am.

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

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

Carried.

- e. City Manager
- f. City Clerk
- g. Billing
- h. Planning

1. LDC Technical Standards Manual Revision/First Reading of Ordinance

City Engineer Rouchaleau presented to the Council the revision after reviewing comments at the last meeting.

Councilwoman Haffner asked about the sign on the lift stations directing people to call the Walton County Sheriff Office in the event of an emergency when we could cut out the middleman to have people call city staff. City Engineer Rouchaleau commented that this was a carryover from the previous manual. City

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Attorney Adkinson said if the Council chooses to make a change for this, it is not substantive, and they can make the change as part of the motion.

Incoming City Manager Mark Martin stated someone calling WCSO would ensure that someone was reached if there was an emergency. Councilwoman Haffner said she had spoken with the water and wastewater supervisors, and they said WCSO calls them once they receive an inquiry. It was suggested maybe to add the after-hours city phone number to the sign if WCSO was not reached. Councilwoman Haffner expressed that she didn't want resources wasted and was trying to be more efficient.

Councilman Hope said he understood wanting to cut out the middleman but calling 911 ensures someone is reached. Councilman Farris said the city could add the WCSO non-emergency number on the sign as well. City Attorney Adkinson said if the Council wanted to make that change, they could at second reading.

Moved by: Councilman Farris
Seconded by: Councilman Hope

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

To approve First Reading of the LDC Technical Standards Manual Revision and advertising for Second Reading

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

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

Carried.

i. Legal

1. Correction of Ordinance Numbering – Freeport, Inc. Annexation

City Attorney Adkinson asked the Council for a motion to correct the number of the Freeport, Inc. Annexation to 2022-08.

Moved by: Councilwoman Brannon
Seconded by: Councilwoman Haffner

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

To approve the Freeport Inc. Annexation ordinance number correction to become 2022-08.

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

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

Carried.

2. Ratifying City Manager Decision Regarding an Employee Separation

City Attorney Adkinson asked the Council for a motion to ratify an employee-related decision made by Charlie Simmons. The decision involved an unforeseen circumstance for the employee.

Moved by: Councilman Farris

Seconded by: Councilwoman Brannon

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

To Ratify a City Manager Decision Regarding an Employee Separation for Yvonne Holleran.

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

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

Carried.

- j. Engineering
- 10. Old Business
- 11. New Business
 - b. Councilwoman Brannon

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- c. Councilman Farris
- d. Councilwoman Haffner
- e. Councilman Hope

Councilman Hope told the Council that Freeport High School will likely become one of the top five public schools in the State of Florida and for the first time Walton County Schools are all A or B rated schools. He suggested doing something nice for the facility and staff to show them appreciation for their achievement at Freeport High School.

Moved by: Councilman Hope
Seconded by: Councilman Farris

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

To authorize the City Manager within his spending limit to give Freeport High School a gesture of appreciation in the way of desserts for their achievements.

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

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

Carried.

- f. Councilman Day

Incoming City Manager Martin asked the Council for a motion to appoint Councilman Day as his replacement on the Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Board.

Moved by: Councilman Farris
Seconded by: Councilwoman Haffner

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

To appoint Councilman Day to the Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Board in Mark Martin's place.

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

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

Carried.

Incoming City Manager Martin updated the Council on the quest to find a city vehicle that meets the current state rate. He stated because there has been difficulty in finding a vehicle, he wanted to let the Council know he will be using his personal vehicle until the can find a vehicle for his position.

12. Public Comment

Mayor Barley called for public comment and there was none.

13. Adjournment

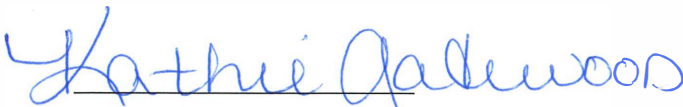
Mayor Barley motioned to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Minutes were prepared by City Clerk Gatewood and approved by the City Council on August 25, 2022.



Russ Barley, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kathie Gatewood, City Clerk

