



City of Freeport

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 8, 2022, 9:00 AM
Council Chambers, Freeport City Hall

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

Staff Members Present: City Manager Charlie Simmons, City Attorney Clay Adkinson, Planning Director Latilda Neel, Finance Officer Sara Bowers, City Clerk Kathie Gatewood, Billing Supervisor Lourdes Johnson, Sewer Supervisor Robert Fawcett, Wastewater Treatment Supervisor Paul Johnson, and City Engineer Alex Rouchaleau.

City Clerk's Note: Councilman Hope was absent with notice.

1. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:01am by Mayor Barley in the Council Chambers of Freeport City Hall.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was given by Councilwoman Haffner, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

3. Recognition of Guests

Mayor Barley welcomed Walton County Commissioners Boots McCormick and Mike Barker along with Bill Imfeld of the Walton County Economic Development Alliance, American Metal Bearing CEO Michael Litton and Tim Parsons of Liberty Partners to the meeting.

4. Consent Agenda

a. Bills

b. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – January 27, 2022

(Continued on next page)

5. Public Comment on Consent Agenda

Mayor Barley called for public comment and there was none.

6. Approval of Consent Agenda

Moved by: Councilwoman Brannon

Seconded by: Councilman Farris

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

Carried.

7. Consideration of Additions/Deletions to Agenda

Councilwoman Haffner – Great Hammock Bend Bridge

8. Approval of Agenda with Additions/Deletions

Moved by: Councilman Farris

Seconded by: Councilwoman Brannon

To approve the Agenda with the specified additions 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

Carried.

9. Staff Reports

a. Water

b. Sewer

c. Parks

1. Updates

(Continued on next page)

Parks Director Digges told the Council he was working with City Clerk Gatewood to implement an online reservations system with calendar for park fields, the community pool and the concession stand through the city website. He said this would make the reservation process easier and allow renters to block out more than one day at a time.

d. City Manager

1. City Manager Simmons invited American Metal Bearing CEO Michael Litton to speak to the Council.

Mr. Litton thanked the Council for their support in negotiating with his company to relocate their business to Freeport. He gave a presentation with an overview of the company's history leading up to becoming a defense contractor, where they are today, and where they would like to be in the future. He said the company works with the U.S. Navy, the Air Force and NASA. He explained that due to size constraints in their current location that they have been unable to expand. He expressed his employees desire and excitement to live in Freeport to enjoy the outdoors, a quieter area, easy access to the beaches and more affordable housing. He said there were still a few negotiating items left but that American Metal Bearing has chosen Freeport for their relocation. He said their company is a firm believer in community and they will be working with the local schools to recruit potential long-term employees. He said in their current state, they routinely give tours to high school students to encourage them to explore their industry for employment. He told the Council historically that his company moves about every 40 years, and he is hoping Freeport is their forever home.

Clerk's Note: An electronic copy of the above-mentioned presentation is available to view in the City Clerk's Office.

e. City Clerk

f. Finance

g. Billing

h. Planning

i. Legal

1. Freeport, Inc. Annexation Ordinance – First Reading

City Attorney Adkinson asked the Council for a motion to hold first reading of the Freeport, Inc. Annexation Ordinance.

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Moved by: Councilman Farris
Seconded by: Councilwoman Haffner

To approve first reading for the Freeport, Inc. 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

Carried.

City Attorney Adkinson held first reading:

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 171.044, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

j. Engineering

10. Old Business

11. New Business

1. Liberty Partners - Update on 2022 Legislative Appropriations Project Requests

Tim Parsons provided the Council with a legislative session update and a written weekly legislative session summary.

Clerk's Note: A copy of the above-mentioned summary report is available to view in the City Clerk's Office.

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

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1. Great Hammock Bend Bridge – Councilwoman Haffner thanked City Manager Simmons for repairing the bridge.

- e. Councilman Hope
- f. Councilman Martin

12. Public Comment

Mayor Barley called for public comment and there was none.

13. Adjournment

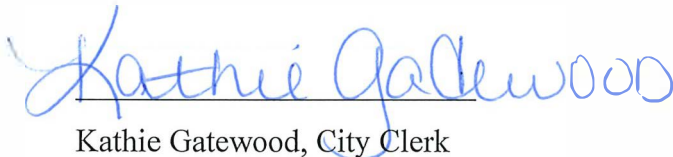
Mayor Barley motioned to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:46am.

Minutes were prepared by City Clerk Gatewood and approved by the City Council on February 24, 2022.



Russ Barley, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kathie Gatewood, City Clerk

