

CITY OF FREEPORT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

July 11, 2023, 9:00 AM
Council Chambers, Freeport

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

Staff Members Present: City Attorney Clay Adkinson, City Manager Mark Martin, City Clerk Kathie Gatewood, Finance Officer Sara Bowers, Planning Director Latilda Hughes-Neel, Parks Directors Travis Digges and Charles Bartlett, Wastewater Supervisor Paul Johnson, City Engineer Cliff Knauer, Billing Supervisor Rebecca King, and HR Generalist Chris Quinley

City Clerk Note: Some items were not heard in the same order as the agenda.

1. Meeting called to order

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Mayor Barley in the Council Chambers of Freeport City Hall.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Councilwoman Haffner gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was recited.

3. Recognition of Guests

4. Consent Agenda

- a. Bills
- b. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – June 13, 2023
- c. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – June 22, 2023

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: Councilman Day

Mayor Barley called for public comment and there was none.

To approve the consent agenda as presented.

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

Councilman Dickey: aye

Carried.

2. Verandas Plat 2A-3

Planning Director Hughes-Neel requested a motion for approval of the final plat for Verandas Plat 2A-3. She noted the final signatures will be withheld until after the final inspection is complete.

Moved by: Councilman Farris

Seconded by: Councilwoman Brannon

Mayor Barley called for public comment.

To approve the final plat for the Verandas 2A-3 subject to final inspection results.

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

Councilwoman Haffner aye

Councilman Day: aye

Councilman Farris: aye

Councilwoman Brannon aye

Councilman Dickey: aye

Carried.

3. NatureView Development Agreement Addendum

Planning Director Hughes-Neel reminded the Council of the NatureView Development Agreement Addendum for this project as it relates to sewer and asked for a motion to approve. She advised the agreement before them was the same but was for water. The agreement outlines what the city is financially responsible for and what the developer is financially responsible for as it relates to water.

Moved by: Councilwoman Haffner

Seconded by: Councilwoman Brannon

Mayor Barley called for public comment and there was none.

To accept the proposed letter and authorize the City Manager to sign the addendum to the existing development order.

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

Councilwoman Haffner aye

Councilman Day: aye

Councilman Farris: aye

Councilwoman Brannon aye

Councilman Dickey: aye

Carried.

City Clerk's Note: Legal presented their item before the below Planning Department item.

4. Interviews for Engineering RFQ

Planning Director Hughes-Neel explained the top four engineering firms were present and ready to give their presentations. She noted staff had a difficult time contacting one the top three, so they invited the top four in case there was an absence.

The top four engineering firms were: Alday Howell Engineering, Moore Bass Engineering, Seaside Engineering, and Anchor CEI.

City Clerk's Note: A copy of the above-mentioned presentations are available by request from the City Clerk's Office.

Moved by: Councilwoman Haffner

Seconded by: Councilman Farris

Mayor Barley called for public comment and there was none.

To designate Alday Howell and Anchor CEI as the top two engineering firms and to direct staff to enter into negotiations with the top two firms to retain those two firms in addition to Dewberry Engineering and to bring back rotation or task list assignment and fees for Council approval.

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

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

Carried.

i. Legal

1. 3280 Lift Station Parcel Exchange

City Attorney Adkinson advised the Council that although there have been many discussions regarding this subject over the years, that there has not been a motion for it. He explained the city owns a parcel of land on CR 3280 and is approximately 0.86 acres and is one hundred percent in wetlands. The land was intended for a lift station, which is not an option. Developer Jay Odom has an approximate 50 by 50 parcel at 0.06-acre lot on CR 3280 and has proposed an even exchange of the two lands with no cost involved. The 0.06-acre lot would only be used for a lift station. Staff has reviewed the environmental study for the

0.06-acre lot. City Engineer Knauer summarized his experience with the lot and recommended the exchange. Councilwoman Brannon remarked the exchange was an easy decision but asked if the city would have legal easement access to the land, to which City Attorney Adkinson said there is a Walton County right-of-way, but the city would have a right to pass.

Moved by: Councilwoman Brannon

Seconded by: Councilman Farris

Mayor Barley called for public comment and there was none.

To approve a land exchange of a city-owned wetlands appropriately 0.86-acre lot, to DJFO, LLC. for an upland 0.06-acre lot, from Agora Development and DJFO, LLC, to be used exclusively for a lift station, as being the city's best interest and to authorize the City Manager to proceed with the execution of the documents.

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

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

Carried.

j. Engineering

11. Old Business

12. New Business

a. Mayor Barley

1. Employee of the Quarter – Travis Digges

Mayor Barley presented outgoing Parks Director Travis Digges with the second Employee of the Quarter Award for 2023. He thanked him for his service to the community. Parks Director Digges received an award certificate and a gift card.

b. Councilwoman Brannon

c. Councilman Farris

d. Councilwoman Haffner

e. Councilman Dickey

f. Councilman Day

13. Public Comment

Mayor Barley called for public comment and there was none.


14. Adjournment

With no other business, Mayor Barley motioned to adjourn at 10:58 a.m.

Minutes were prepared by City Clerk Gatewood and approved by the City Council on August 24, 2023.

ATTEST:


Kathie Gatewood, City Clerk


Russ Barley, Mayor

