

**Freeport Planning/Development Review Board  
OCTOBER 7, 2015 MEETING MINUTES**

I. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Russ Beaty. The meeting was held in Council Chambers of Freeport City Hall.

Board members present: Russ Beaty, Mark Martin, Sue-Ann Cagle-Armstrong.

City Staff present: Board Attorney Clay Adkinson and City Planner/Board Liaison Latilda Hughes-Neel.

II. Invocation / Pledge of Allegiance

The Invocation was given by Hughes-Neel, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

III. August 5, 2015 Meeting Minutes Read/Approved

Board Action: Martin motioned to approve the August 5, 2015 minutes as read. Cagle-Armstrong seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

At this time, Attorney Adkinson swore in new Board Member Steve Thomas (oath attached).

IV. Odom Revised Variance Request (Action Item/Quasi-judicial)

Jay Odom presented his revised variance request, which included new information for the Board to consider; architectural renderings of the proposed residence and additional information regarding the construction. Odom stated that he had held an informational meeting with the Rhapsody subdivision homeowners to present them with additional information regarding his variance proposal.

Public Comments:

Bob Mims IV: he and his wife Jennifer live across the street from the lot. After reviewing the additional information provided by Odom, he is in favor of the variance and urged the Board to approve the variance request.

Pete Garcia: After meeting with Odom at the neighborhood meeting and obtaining the additional information regarding the build, his fears have been relieved and he is in favor of the variance request.

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Attorney Adkinson announced that new member Steve Thomas is an officer of Randy Wise Homes corporate and his company is in business with Jay Odom's company in constructing homes in Hammock and in the Rhapsody subdivision specifically. Mr. Thomas is recusing himself on that basis. Mr. Thomas stated that Attorney Adkinson was correct, that he was recusing himself on the criteria of "inured to the special gain or loss of his business associate Jay Odom.". (recusal form attached)

Board Action: Cagle-Armstrong motioned to close the public hearing to public discussion. Martin seconded the motion.

Board Action: Martin motioned to approve the variance request. Cagle-Armstrong seconded the motion. 3 ayes; 1 recusal (Steve Thomas).

Attorney Adkinson remarked that the Freeport LDC doesn't have a time limit separating requests for variances as some other jurisdictions have; i.e. DeFuniak Springs requires a 6-month waiting period between variance requests for a property; Walton County requires a year. There is no parliamentary procedure/waiting period as such that must be met under the current code for Freeport.

V. Adjournment

Chair Beaty called for a motion to adjourn.

Board Action: Martin motioned to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.