

**CITY OF FREEPORT
JUNE 25, 2015 WORKSHOP MINUTES**

I. Meeting Opened

The June 25, 2015 Freeport City Council Workshop was opened by Mayor Russ Barley at 6:00 pm.

Council members present: Councilman Eddie Farris, Councilwoman Kasey Cuchens, Councilwoman Janice McLean, Mayor Russ Barley, Councilwoman Elizabeth Brannon and Councilwoman Jennifer Laird.

City Staff present: City Clerk Gary Mattison, Parks Director Dana Weiler, City Planner Latilda Hughes-Neel, City Engineer Cliff Knauer and City Engineer Anna Hudson.

II. Invocation and Pledge

The invocation was given by Councilman Farris, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

III. 2015/2016 Strategic Plan

City Clerk Mattison: Staff looked at new goal to protect water resources; need to add to strategies as well. WATERSAVE program will be the way to go.

Strategy areas:

- Choctawhatchee Bay
- Choctawhatchee River
- Waterways
- The Bay and River
- Identify Areas of Need
- Develop a 50-Year Plan
- Identify Methods of Conservation
- Reduce Septic Tank Use

Councilwoman McLean: good name; somewhere to start

City Clerk Mattison: Operation WATERSAVE Freeport. This program is a game-changer for the state; we're just planting the seed; we have to start somewhere.

Councilwoman Cuchens: reduce redundancy on listing resources

The Council generally discussed strategies for Goal VIII. Protect and Conserve Water Resources.

City Clerk Mattison: will e-mail revisions to gain comment from the Council.

IV. CIP Update

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City Engineer Hudson presented information and rankings for the CIP (attached). Hudson stated that she had met individually with the Mayor and Council and had revised the draft CIP Rankings and Overall Rankings.

City Clerk Mattison: regarding obtaining additional property for city facilities; if we want to explore obtaining property, we will need council approval first.

City Engineer Hudson went over the rankings and breaking projects down to a schedule

City Engineer Knauer: there are multiple opportunities to fund under RESTORE. We have identified funding mechanisms (attached) . The City needs to budget match funds and project preparation. The knee-jerk last-minute grant submittals don't work. Need to plan at least one year in advance of any grant submittal deadline to be successful.

Councilwoman Cuchens: thank-you for the summary.

Scott Brannon/Project Manager for LaGrange Park Acquisition Project: Brannon gave an update on the Dept. of Interior application submittal. There were two (2) issues: 1) historical disparity on exact acreage and 2) a biological report is needed. Brannon stated that the City would have to authorize a survey being done. Brannon stated that he thought he could get the environmental assessment done by Walton County, if authorized to do so by the City in a regular council meeting.

V. Budget Financial Planning

City Clerk Mattison: time running short; he will bring the financial data to another workshop.

VI. Meeting Adjourned

Mayor Barley called for a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman McLean motioned to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

CITY OF FREEPORT

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK