

**CITY OF FREEPORT
JULY 23, 2015 WORKSHOP MINUTES**

I. Meeting Opened

The July 23, 2015 Budget Workshop was opened by Mayor Russ Barley at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Freeport City Hall.

Councilmembers present: Mayor Russ Barley, Councilwoman Jennifer Laird, Councilwoman Elizabeth Brannon, Councilwoman Janice McLean and Councilwoman Kasey Cuchens.

Staff present: City Clerk Gary Mattison, City Planner Latilda Hughes-Neel and Parks Director Dana Weiler.

II. Invocation and Pledge

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

III. 2015-2016 Budget

Mayor Barley asked Councilwoman McLean to introduce the topic.

Councilwoman McLean: Not a lot of new; everybody's working on their budgets. Mclean passed out hourly rates for all the employees to consider COLA (Cost Of Living Adjustment) and noted that the WC BCC's budget hearing is September 14th and September 21st and that the School District's budget hearing is September 15th.

Mayor Barley: CIP/Grants in the Budget; who is working on that?

City Clerk Mattison: Preble-Rish. We are getting a more detailed look at utility expenses and at various measures taken by other councils.

Councilwoman Cuchens: we need to be able to explain it to the public.

City Clerk Mattison: we need to concentrate on water/sewer rates.

Councilwoman Cuchens: I have asked for CIP dollar values.. The expenses in the budget book; the numbers are off; it needs to be reviewed line by line; maybe funds were not applied correctly?

City Clerk Mattison: I've asked Latilda to do a break-out Planning Budget.

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City Planner Hughes-Neel explained the concept of itemizing Planning Revenues and expenditures and why it was necessary.

City Clerk Mattison: all departments need itemized entries in billing

Mayor Barley: this is the perfect time to redo it.

City Clerk Mattison: still working on the new insurance rates; not sure what they'll be.

Councilwoman Cuchens: comfortable with the 8th and 24th for final hearings; perhaps 6:30?

City Planner Hughes-Neel: we need to check with the City Attorney on statutory requirements.

Councilwoman Cuchens: How about the 11th and 27th of August for budget workshops at 6:00 pm?

IV. Meeting Adjourned

Mayor Barley called for a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman McLean motioned to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

FREEPORT CITY COUNCIL

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

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APPROVED