

CITY OF FREEPORT
AUGUST 11, 2015 WORKSHOP MINUTES

I. Meeting Opened

The August 11, 2015 Budget Workshop was opened by Mayor Russ Barley at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers of Freeport City Hall.

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

Staff present: City Planner Latilda Hughes-Neel and Parks Director Dana Weiler.

II. Invocation and Pledge

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

III. 2015-2016 Budget

Councilwoman McLean: The City has been paying the CHELCO electrical bill, water bill and Waste Management bill for the Fire Dept. That will have to be addressed. The County needs to reimburse the City back to the date that they took over the fire department.

Councilwoman Cuchens: Half of the Utility Superintendent salary needs to be added to the Water Department budget and half to the Sewer Department budget.

Councilwoman McLean: the City Clerk salary is divided over all the departments.

Councilwoman Cuchens: Ernie Godwin, the maintenance employee, needs to be under Administration. The City Clerk needs to be under Administration. The Billing Department doesn't need to be in the Water Budget. Each position needs to be reflected as a line item.

Councilwoman Brannon: I believe it is uneven because the Water Dept. has the most income; the Sewer Dept. doesn't bring in a lot of money.

Councilwoman Cuchens, the Council needs to be able to identify the salaries for each employee in each budget.

Councilwoman McLean: The overtime is about the same. The retirement went a little over.

Councilwoman Cuchens: Engineering services: how did sewer get hit so hard?

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Councilwoman McLean: all the sewer projects/ the lift station repairs

Councilwoman Cuchens: there were no engineering expenses in the Water Budget.

Parks and Recreation Director Dana Weiler went over her proposed budget for Recreation, which was in a different format then the others budgets.

Councilman Farris: will the chairs at the pool be replaced?

Weiler: We could, but we would rather know the final directive regarding the pool first. We can break out the expenses pertaining to the pool.

The Council discussed moving Bayfest, the Community Center, the Blount House and the Heritage Center under Administrative and out of Parks; to be placed respectively under City Events and City Facilities.

IV. Meeting Adjourned

Mayor Barley called for a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman McLean motioned to adjourn. The workshop adjourned at 6:50 p.m.