

**CITY OF FREEPORT**  
**AUGUST 24, 2015 BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES**

I. Meeting Opened

The Budget Workshop was opened by Mayor Russ Barley at 6:48 p.m. The workshop was held in the Council Chambers of Freeport City Hall.

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

Staff present: City Clerk Gary Mattison, City Planner Latilda Hughes-Neel and City Engineer Anna Hudson.

II. 2015-2016 Budget Discussion

Mattison: Sorry to miss the last budget workshop. We need to review the CIP and decide where and how much to set aside for those priorities.

Cuchens: We need to work it into City Facilities.

Mattison: This is end up being one of the tasks of the Fiscal Services Clerk...to get the budget in draft form prior to the workshops. IT will be a great advantage to the City. For employee salary increases, we can look at it several ways: COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment), a rate adjustment by position, reclassification, or by merit increases.

Cuchens: this or a portion of it should be tied to performance evaluations. We need a line item % for salary adjustments.

Mattison: we have fallen behind the pay scale of most organizations this size.

McLean: I like the idea of setting aside a percentage for salary adjustments. How about 6% of the total salary number?

Laird: I like that idea too. A portion could be cost of living and a portion could be for merit increase or step increases.

The Council continued to discuss various options for salary adjustments.

III. Meeting Adjourned

Mayor Barley called for a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman McLean motioned to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

APPROVED