



City of Freeport
TENTATIVE BUDGET HEARING
6:00 p.m./Council Chambers/Freeport City Hall a
September 8, 2016 Minutes

I. Meeting Opened

The September 8th 2016 Tentative Budget Hearing was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Russ Barley. The meeting was held in City Council Chambers of Freeport City Hall.

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

Staff present: City Clerk Rebecca Podraza, City Attorney Clayton Adkinson, City Engineer Anna Hudson, City Engineer Cliff Knauer, Billing Supervisor Jennifer Douglas and Sewer Supervisor Robert Fawcett

II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Tentative Budget & Millage

City Clerk Podraza opened the meeting and explained that the purpose of the Meeting is to approve the tentative budget and set the mileage rate for 4.7302. The Mayor then opened the floor for questions.

Councilwoman Brannon asked if the City will be adjusting the projected revenue for sewer and water, to reflect the rate increase in the 2016/2017 budget totals. Clerk Podraza informed the Council that it was not included because it is hard to project the amount until after the first year of the rate increase is in effect.

Councilwoman Brannon asked if the Fire Hydrant Fee is included somewhere else on the worksheet since that line item is reflecting a zero amount. Councilwoman McLean explained that it would not be reflected because the City has never charged the fee. It was never added to the bills.

Councilwoman Brannon asked if the Capital Improvement Projects line under the General Fund budget would be changed to: Capital Improvement Projects - Parks. Clerk Podraza informed the Council that it was decided to change the title that but it was not changed. She will take care of making that change. Councilwoman Brannon asked if it could be moved under Parks. It was explained that during the Workshop, Council decided to leave it under Administration so that it

The City of Freeport may take action on any matter during this meeting, including items that are not set forth within this agenda.

In accordance with Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons with disabilities needing special accommodations to participate in this meeting should contact the City Clerk's office at 850-835-2822 by 5:00 p.m. on the day prior to the meeting.

No verbatim record by a certified court reporter is made of these proceedings. Accordingly, any person who may seek to appeal any decision involving the matters noticed herein will be responsible for making a verbatim record of the testimony and evidence at these proceedings upon which any appeal is to be based (see Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes).



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would not have to be designated just for the park and could be used for other projects at the Council’s discretion.

City Attorney Adkinson explained the legal process for the budget roll back, and approval of the tentative budget and millage rate. At this time Attorney Adkinson asked if there were any comments from the public regarding the tentative budget or millage rate of 4.7302. No public comments were raised from the floor.

Council Action: Councilwoman McLean made a motion to adopt the tentative millage rate of 4.7302. Councilman Farris seconded the motion. Four ayes (McLean, Cuchens, Farris, Laird), one nay (Brannon); motion carried.

Council Action: Councilwoman McLean made a motion to adopt the tentative budget in the amount of \$4,646,200.00. Councilman Farris seconded the motion. Four ayes (McLean, Cuchens, Farris, Laird), one nay (Brannon); motion carried.

Council Action: Councilwoman McLean made a motion to set the Final Budget Hearing and advertise for the meeting to be held at City Hall on September 20, 2016 at 6:00 pm. Councilman Farris seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

Attorney Adkinson advised the Council that his office will advertise the Final Budget Hearing along with the budget summary. Councilwoman Cuchens reminded everyone that she will not be in attendance at the Final Budget hearing. She will be attending the Rural Economic Development Summit.

Adjournment

Mayor Russ Barley called for a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman McLean motioned to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

FREEPORT CITY COUNCIL

 Mayor

 Council President

ATTEST:

 City Clerk

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