

CITY OF FREEPORT

SEPTEMBER 22, 2015 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

I. Meeting Opened

The meeting was opened by Mayor Russ Barley at 6:30 pm in 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.

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

II. Invocation and Pledge

Councilman Farris called for a moment of silence to honor of the slain Okaloosa County deputy Bill Meyers, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

III. 2015-2016 Millage Rate

Council Action: Councilwoman Cuchens motioned to adopt a 2015-2016 millage rate of 4.7302 which is greater than the rollback rate of 4.7095 by .51%. Councilman Farris seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

IV. 2015-2016 Budget

Council Action: Councilwoman Brannon motioned to adopt the 2015-2026 Budget in the amount of \$4,609,516.00. Councilman Farris seconded the motion.

Council Discussion:

Councilwoman Cuchens stated that before she voted to adopt the budget, she wanted to see the worksheets which showed the amounts for each department that were agreed upon in the workshops.

Councilwoman McLean stated that she was still working on the worksheets and they were very close.

Councilwoman Laird stated that she wanted to see the worksheets as well.

City Clerk Mattison: staff has been working on the balances all day.

Councilwoman McLean: we have worked on it all day and it is almost balanced.

City Mattison: we went back a pulled the last eleven months of expenditures and did a forecast for the 12th month to create the budget summary.

City Attorney Adkinson: I assumed the numbers advertised were the same numbers that cover your budget.

Councilwoman Cuchens: I requested the worksheets to see if the department budgets match the budget summary.

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City Attorney Adkinson: Bottom line – estimated revenues/expenditures should cover the budget and should match the budget summary.

City Planner Hughes-Neel copied the partially completed worksheets and distributed them to the Council.

Councilwoman Cuchens: if we set another final hearing, can we re-advertise?

City Attorney Adkinson: If your change the published figures, you will have to start over.

Councilwoman McLean: In trying to reconcile the published summary to the worksheets, we're \$200,000 over on expenditures.

Attorney Adkinson: I advise the Council to continue the Budget Hearing to a date certain. I need to talk to the State. We will need to re-advertise anyway because of the 12% increase in revenues was not reflected in the advertisement, and increases are required to be reflected.

Council Action on the previous motion: none taken.

Council Action: Councilwoman McLean motioned to continue the Budget Hearing to Wednesday September 30, 2015 at 6:15 pm. Councilwoman Brannon seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

V. Meeting Adjourned

Mayor Barley called for a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman McLean motioned to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.

FREEPORT CITY COUNCIL

Mayor

Council President

ATTEST:

City Clerk