

**CITY OF FREEPORT
FIRST PUBLIC HEARING**

**September 8, 2020
5:05 PM**

1. Meeting Called to Order

The Budget Workshop was called to order at 5:05 pm in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Barley.

Council members present: Amanda Green, Elizabeth Brannon, Mayor Russ Barley, Eddie Farris, Mark Martin, and Elizabeth Haffner.

Staff present: Finance Officer Sara Bowers, City Attorney Clay Adkinson, City Clerk Malani Robinson and City Manager Charlie Simmons, and Joyce Sunday.

2. First Public Hearing 2020-2021 Budget

-Mayor Barley opened the meeting by turning it over to City Attorney Adkinson who announced the millage rate at 4.7302 and the City's budget at \$16, 672, 350.00. City Attorney Adkinson then asked for a motion to adopt the tentative millage rate of 4.7302.

COUNCIL ACTION: Motioned by: Councilman Farris. Seconded by: Councilwoman Haffner. All ayes: motion carried.

Public Comment: Mr.Vance a new resident to the Freeport community expressed his concerns with the increasing budget and his displeasure with the City's services not being proportional to its revenue. Mr.Vance shed light on his increase in property taxes and requested answers from the Council. The Council informed Mr.Vance that his property taxes were not influenced by the City but by the County. City Attorney Adkinson offered clarity on the budget and explained why the budget increased each year.

City Attorney Adkinson asked for a motion to adopt the tentative budget for the 2020-2021 year at \$16, 672, 350.00.

**CITY OF FREEPORT
FIRST PUBLIC HEARING**

COUNCIL ACTION: Motioned by: Councilman Farris. Seconded by: Councilwoman Haffner. All ayes: motion carried.

Public Comment: Mr.Vance stated his concerns with the City's expenses on phone bills and shed light on his experience with managing communications. Mr.Vance sought clarity from the Council on this expense and wanted to know who was responsible for overlooking these expenses. City Manager Simmons informed Mr.Vance that he oversaw the City's expenses and welcomed him to his office hours. The Council informed Mr.Vance that this area had limited service providers which contributed to the high expense.

City Attorney Adkinson asked for a motion to set the Final Hearing for September 21, 2020 at 5:05 pm.

COUNCIL ACTION: Motioned by: Councilwoman Green. Seconded by: Councilwoman Haffner. All ayes: motion carried.

3. Adjournment

Mayor Barley adjourned the hearing at 5:17 pm.


Mayor

ATTEST:


City Clerk