

**Council Workshop
July 27, 2011**

I. Meeting Called to Order

Mayor Marse called to order the council workshop of July 27, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Mayor J. M. Marse, Council members Elizabeth Brannon, Ray Jackson, Earl King, Charlie Simmons and Harold Taunton Jr. Staff present: Fire Chief Ben Greenslait and City Clerk Robin Haynes. Also present were Ben Grafton and Matthew Parker.

II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

A. Budget Workshop

Items discussed during the budget workshop included:

- Clerk Haynes presented expected tax revenues for the following year, including ad valorem taxes at rates varying from 3.93 to the roll back rate of 4.72 – council discussed the need to use the roll back rate this year
- As of this date, the County has not agreed to the fire department funding as requested by the City of \$275,000 (showing as funded same amount as current year) and nothing showing as funded for the pool so far
- Raising pool rates for next year – if no County funding, one rate for City residents, separate higher rate for County residents
- Recommendation by Clerk Haynes to not operate separate pool concession stand if no County funding
- Purchasing gas/oil in bulk, many restrictions, Councilman Simmons to talk with local gas companies to see if discount program available
- No employee pay raises
- Fire department budget to be worked two ways – one with no County funding, one with \$275,000 requested funding
- Council discussed need to remain firm and withdraw fire services to City limits if not funded by County at requested amount
- Freeport Regional Sports Complex budget request same as last year with addition of approximately \$45,000 to split the two demand meters into approximately 13 additional accounts. Cost savings of electric bill to pay for the capital outlay now – bills to be reduced by half.

B. Draft Request for Qualifications/Engineering Services Contract

Discussion regarding the draft Request for Qualifications included some of the following items:

- Preliminary approval has been received from legal
- Draft as presented was compiled from a combination of a sample from Holmes County and the City of DeFuniak Springs recent advertisements

- Would filling this advertisement save City any money? Not necessarily – would just allow City to select engineer for projects without having to advertise again, up to a certain construction cost
- Desire by multiple council members to set an estimated construction cost not to exceed \$ (to be determined later) and to advertise for engineers if it does
- Having multiple engineers under contract would allow City to distribute jobs based on expertise of firms or project load

III. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

J.M. Marse, Mayor

Robin Haynes, City Clerk

Earl King, Council President