

Budget Workshop
August 10, 2005

The Freeport City Council met for the budget workshop at 7:00pm on August 10, 2005.

Members Present: Mayor J.M. Marse, Council members, Earl King, Jean Arrant, Charlie Simmons, and Ray Jackson. Council member Mike Helton was absent. Also present Clerk Riley and Bookkeeper Robin Haynes.

Councilman King gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Marse opened the first budget workshop meeting.

Mayor Marse began with the General Fund. Each line was reviewed in the General Fund revenue accounts. Tentative figures were generated by projected figures from governmental agencies. (i.e. revenue sharing, gas and ad valorem taxes) A preliminary figure of total revenues is \$942,689.

Expenditures for the General Fund started with salaries. Two options were presented to the Council for elected official salaries. The Council stated that they were not looking for a raise. Since the Council authorized a \$1.00 across the board raise for all employees, there mostly like will not be raises give in October. They are looking at providing a state retirement, which is a benefit in itself. It is cost in the neighborhood of 8% for regular employees and 16% for elected officials.

Next in the General Fund were streets: a tentative budget of \$140,500, since there will be a large capital outlay for the paving of at least four (4) roads, namely, Joe Campbell, Old Euchuanna, Spring Street, and Tucker Town Road.

The Library funding was set at a low funding budget of \$1500 for utility expenses.

Councilwoman Arrant requested only a fence for her department capital outlay. After a discussion other Council members suggested other items for that department. The final tentative line item funding is \$100,000.

The final General Fund Department is the Fire Department. Chief Ray Sullivan provided a written budget request of \$250,000. The Council responded with a length discussion on the request. Councilman Simmons requested for the Council to allow him to talk with the WC Administrator and Public Safety Director, Ed Balzley on why the County did not fund the City like all others fire departments in the county.

The Council set a tentative date of August 16, 2005 at 7 pm for the next budget workshop.

Motion to adjourn at 9:00 pm by Councilman Jackson.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

J.M. Marse, Mayor

Diane Riley, City Clerk

Earl King, President of Council