

Budget Workshop  
August 5, 2003

The Freeport City Council met for a workshop at 7:00pm on August 5, 2003.

Members Present: Mayor J.M. Marse, Council members, Earl King, Jean Arrant, Janice McLean. Also present Clerk Riley. Councilman Helton and Brannon were absent.

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

Mayor Marse opened the first budget workshop meeting.

Clerk Riley stated that insurance rate quotes have not been completed yet. Lee Harmon of Harmon Insurance has been calling to give health quotes. Due to the problems we had last budget year Councilwoman Arrant suggested we stay with the current carrier if rates were not higher than a 15% increase.

Mayor Marse began with the General Fund. His first concern was about salaries and wants to make the Council aware of the current pay salary schedules. He wants to get the starting pay scale up so we can hire competent skilled employees at a competitive rate. Councilman King asked the Council if there should be a cap put on salaries regarding some positions. Councilwoman McLean suggested a good job description of each position that would allow capping to be feasible.

Each line was reviewed in the General Fund revenue accounts. Tentative figures were generated by project figures from governmental agencies. (i.e. revenue sharing, gas and ad valorem taxes) A preliminary figure of total revenues is \$644,151.00.

Councilwoman Arrant noted that there was a difference from last years' budget and this years' budget in revenues. It was shown that we reduced the projected income of the one-cent infrastructure revenues by \$75,000 and projected not receiving \$75,000 from water revenue next year.

Expenditures for the General Fund started with salaries. Elected officials salaries stayed the same. Councilwoman Arrant suggested a \$1.00 per hour raise for the Bookkeeper and City Clerk. Part time salary was increase by \$.10 per hour. Task assignments for positions were addressed.

Motion to adjourn at 9:30 pm.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

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J.M. Marse, Mayor

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Diane Riley, City Clerk

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Janice McLean, President of Council