

CITY OF FREEPORT
BUDGET WORKSHOP &
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, CORRECTED
AUGUST 21, 2014

I. BUDGET WORKSHOP

A. Meeting Called to Order

The scheduled Budget Workshop was called to order by Mayor Russ Barley at 6:30 pm.

Council members present: Councilman Eddie Farris, Councilwoman Kasey Cuchens, Councilwoman Janice McLean, Mayor Russ Barley, Councilwoman Elizabeth Brannon, and Councilwoman Jennifer Laird.

Staff present: City Planner Latilda Hughes-Neel, City Attorney Clayton Adkinson, Water Supervisor Larry Tuggle, Fire Chief Chad Harrell,

B. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was given by Council Farris, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

C. Presentation by City Auditor

JoAnn Roque briefly gave an overview of the city audit process and findings.

D. Budget Workshop Discussion

Planner Hughes-Neel gave an overview of the budget process. She explained a pie chart of the 2013-2014 Budget and a pie chart of the General Fund. Mayor Barley asked the Council Heads of Water, Sewer, Fire, Recreation and Administration to be ready to present their budgets at the August 25th Budget Workshop and briefly discussed the time-line to complete the 2014-2015 City Budget.

E. Workshop Adjourned

Mayor Barley adjourned the Budget Workshop in order to convene the Special Meeting.

II. SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

A. Meeting Called to Order

Mayor Barley called the Special Council Meeting to order.

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B. Engagement Letter/ Lewis Longman & Walker- Labor Matters

City Attorney Clayton Adkinson presented a letter of engagement to hire Lewis, Longman & Walker to represent the City of Freeport in legal matters pertaining to the unionization of the Freeport Fire Department.

Board Action: *Motion by Councilwoman McLean to authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement with Lewis, Longman & Walker. Second to motion by Councilman Farris. All ayes; motion carried.*

C. Fire Department

The City Council reviewed the original correspondence received from County Administrator Larry Jones pertaining to terms for the transition of the Fire Dept. from City to County control, dated September 11, 2013. The City made the following adjustments to terms:

- The County would assume responsibility for operations and management of the FFF on October 1, 2014
- Freeport will retain ownership of all real property and lease to County ~~for~~ for \$1 per year.
- Freeport will convey all personal property, including vehicles, to County via title when appropriate.
- County will have full rights to utilize all available equipment to provide fire protection to the City of Freeport
- All vehicles will revert back to city ownership when taken out of service by Walton County for any reason.
- All current FFD employees which meet Walton County hiring requirements will be hired by Walton County.
- Those employees deficient in training or certification will be provided an opportunity to obtain such at the expense of Walton County.
- The City of Freeport will not consent by Ordinance to be included in the MSBU for Fire Rescue Services. For the benefit and consideration of its citizens, the City will pay the equivalent amount based on current numbers received from the Property Appraisers Office, pertaining to residential units, commercial square footage, industrial square footage, institutional square footage, acreage under 10 acres and acreage over 10 acres. The City will pay this amount out the General Fund either quarterly, bi-annually or annually, to be determined. The terms of payment can be negotiated.

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Board Action: *Motion by Councilwoman Brannon to submit the above terms to the County for discussion. Second to motion by Councilman Farris. 4 ayes to 1 nay (Councilwoman Laird). Motion carried.*

D. Meeting Adjourned

Mayor Barley called for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn by Councilwoman McLean. The meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

APPROVED:

Mayor

Council President

ATTEST:

City Clerk