

State of Texas

County of Brazoria

City of Freeport

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the City Council of the City of Freeport, met on Monday, September 25, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Freeport Police Department, Municipal Court Room, 430 North Brazosport Boulevard, for a budget workshop.

City Council: Mayor Troy T. Brimage
Councilman Larry L. McDonald
Councilman Brooks Bass
Councilwoman Nicole Mireles
Councilman Roy E. Yates

Staff: Jeff Pynes, City Manager
Gilbert Arispe, Assistant City Manager
Delia Munoz, City Secretary
Nat Hickey, Property Manager
Bob Welch, Finance Director
Chris Motley, Fire Chief
Kim Townsend, Park Supervisor
Jennifer Hawkins, Economic Development Director
Raymond Garivey, Chief of Police
Loni Kershaw, Human Resources
Ursula Reyes, Accounts Payable
Kari Perez, Recreation Supervisor
Brian Dybala, Golf Course Director
Billywayne Shoemaker, Building Department
David Hoelewyn, Street Department

Visitors: Melanie Oldham Sam Reyna
Don Lamont Ruben Renobato
Ruth Renobato Annette Sanford
Jerry Meeks Larry Fansher
Ty Morrow Douglas Domingues
Moby Burrige Evelyn Burrige
Jim Barnett Sandra Barnett
Jim Saccomanno Sabrina Brimage
Ed Garcia Donna Hayes
Kenny Hayes Desiree Pearson

Call to order.

Mayor Troy T. Brimage opened the Work Shop at 7:00 p.m.

Work Session:

Discuss and review proposed fiscal year budget 2017-2018.

City Manager Jeff Pynes reviewed and discussed the proposed fiscal year budget 2017-2018 with Council and audience.

Introduction by city staff and directors.

Mr. Pynes talked about two changes. The Police Department adding \$50,000 and \$48,000 to the City Hall Administration. The 2007 Toshiba city hall phone system that goes through the Police Department is failing and will have to be replaced.

Councilwoman Mireles questioned the amusement revenues. Mr. Pynes said they were an assortment of permits such as amplifying and dance permits.

Ruben Renobato asked if the Dow lease for \$5,000,000 is included in the total revenue of \$25,811,007 Mr. Pynes answered yes.

Don Lamont complained that he could not see the numbers on the screen. Mr. Pynes gave him a copy of the proposed budget.

Melanie Oldham asked if the closing of Gulf Chemical will affect our Industrial District agreement and what revenues will be coming in. Mr. Pynes stated that we had lawyers represent us in the bankruptcy courts and Gulf Chemical values have dropped from 12 million to 1 million.

Melanie Oldham stated that Clinton Wong has submitted plans to build townhomes and asked if revenues will be included in this budget year. Mr. Pynes answered that they will be single family homes.

Ty Morrow personally thanked the Mayor Troy T. Brimage for his leadership during Hurricane Harvey. Choosing Raymond Garivey for the Chief of Police was a good choice. He asked what happened to the \$10,000 that was allocated for the Superfeast. Mr. Pynes stated that money that is not spent goes back to the General Fund. The city will support and pay when the receipts are submitted.

Melanie Oldham asked if the City had included the Economic Development Corporation in the revenues. Mr. Pynes said no.

Melanie Oldham asked if the City had plans and how they plan to spend the \$5,000,000 from the Dow Lease. Mr. Pynes stated that Council will make that decision and allocate the funds.

Ruben Renobato's concern is that 9% of the \$25,811,007 budget is allocated on infrastructure. He feels that it is not enough for the quality of life for the citizens.

Melanie Oldham asked for the amount of Grant Revenues. Finance Director Bob Welch stated \$500,000 from all the departments.

Reuben Renobato stated that the auditors had written comments to the City on the Standard Accountant Procedure; reporting as net instead of gross.

Mayor Troy T. Brimage said the City for the past 9 years had the highest grade of audit possible. The comments were corrected.

Councilman Roy Yates asked what the Brazosport Industrial District consist of. My Pynes stated that it is a partnership contract with Clute and Lake Jackson. He also asked what the Freeport Industrial District consist of. Mr. Pynes said it was only Freeport contract.

Councilwoman Nicole Mireles asked about streamlining the council meetings. She had requested council tapes and they were inaudible. Mr. Pynes stated that he has Laura Tolar researching that project.

Ruben Renobato reviewed the past budgets and the proposed budgets. He commended Councilman McDonald for not voting on last year's budget. He feels that Council would rather spend on a splash pad than put more money on street drainage, spend on exercise work area, than 10 shelter covers for the citizens. He feels that Council lacks serious commitment to infrastructure needs. He objected to the employees raises and asked Council to vote "no" on the proposed budget for 2017-2018.

Melanie Oldham stated that the City had bought property for the Sport Complex between Ave. L and M. She asked what budget item the money comes from. She stated that the City has allocated 1.2 million for Verner Material for water infrastructure.

Melanie Oldham had personal issues that did not pertain to the proposed budget. She was asked to sit down.

Street Department is getting a small vehicle lift and painting the Service Center building.

Ruben Renobato asked if we still had the Brazoria Interlocal Agreement with the City that helps us repair streets. Mayor Troy T. Brimage said yes and will revisit that agreement so that we have it every year.

Police Department requests 3 Tahoe's, an animal control truck, new Tahoe for Chief, station lockers, DVD storage racks for evidence, locker system, and showers refinished.

Councilman Mireles asked how many police officers at the Freeport Police Department. Chief Garivey stated he had 33 full time sworn officers, 7 reserves, 1 part time.

Councilman McDonald asked why they were going from cars to Tahoe's. Chief Garivey explained that they carry a lot of equipment and are in and out of the vehicles and Tahoe's have more space.

At 8:15 p.m. Mayor Troy Brimage called for a 5 minute break.

Melanie Oldham's concern is that 1.2 million is not enough for infrastructure. The Golf Course is consider a chemical soup and needs to be shut down.

Mayor Troy T. Brimage just approved \$45,000 sewer improvement for one house in the East End and will continue to spend money on infrastructure. This present Council is committed to infrastructure.

Mayor Troy T. Brimage cancelled the workshop for September 26, 2017. Council will resume on September 27, 2017 for another public hearing.

Adjourn

On a motion by Councilman McDonald, seconded by Councilman Yates, with all present voting "Aye", Mayor Troy T. Brimage closed the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Mayor Troy T. Brimage
City of Freeport, Texas

City Secretary Delia Munoz
City of Freeport, Texas