

Minutes of the January 13, 2025, Hampton City Council Budget Workshop

The Hampton City Council Budget Workshop was called to order at the Hampton City Council Chambers by Mayor Steve Birdsall at 6:00 p.m. The workshop was also offered electronically through Zoom and YouTube. Council members in attendance were Kevin Blanford, James Davies, Jerre Grefe, Bill Hodge, Barry Lamos, and Patrick Palmer. Also present were City Manager Ron Dunt, Police Chief Mark Morrison, and Public Works Director Doug Tarr. Mayor Birdsall invited those present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag.

Mayor Birdsall offered time for public comment. There was none.

Public Works Director Tarr and Police Chief Morrison updated the council on nuisance properties. Morrison and Tarr have several court orders and hope to complete some court-ordered cleanups later this week when it warms up.

The council heard FY26 budget funding requests from Suzy Knipfel Hampton Public Library Director, Dale Schirmer on behalf of Main Street Hampton, and Mary Amsbaugh FCDA Executive Director. Jim Davies presented a request for funding for the Hampton Historic Preservation Commission. The council acknowledged a written funding request from the Hampton Municipal Band and Hampton Senior Center.

Mayor Birdsall reminded everyone budget cuts are hard, and no one likes them, but they are being considered everywhere including at the City level.

City Manager Dunt reminded the council a top priority for this 2025 legislative session is property tax reform which is expected to further restrict property tax revenues for cities and counties, and unfortunately by the time the legislator makes any changes most of the budgets will be set. Dunt explained the different tax levies being considered and said he is working through the budgeting process while prioritizing needs versus wants.

The Workshop ended at 6:37 pm.