

Minutes of the February 3, 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, Bill Hodge, Jerre Grefe, and Barry Lamos. Patrick Palmer attended via Zoom. Also, present were Police Chief Mark Morrison, Public Works Director Doug Tarr, and City Manager Ron Dunt. 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 Doug Tarr reported he has court this week for 321 5th St SW. He also reported the Fire Department is scheduled to burn the house at 25 6th St SW in early March and there is an excavator at the property that had the fire on HWY 65 south now so is hopeful that will be demolished soon as well. Chief Morrison reported that the police department issued 8 new notices, 2 new municipal infractions, and has 4 other court orders they are trying to get pushed through court.

City Manager Ron Dunt presented the council with the proposed FY26 city property tax levy and FY26 budget. Dunt reported that if the city did not have to pay to rehab the old pharmacy building, the levy would have decreased for FY26. However, with the pharmacy project, the levy is set to increase \$0.73. The council asked various questions.

The council then addressed entity funding requests. After discussion the consensus of the council was to proceed with entity funding as: Library \$95,000 (increase of \$2,000), Historic Commission \$1,000, Municipal Band \$8,500, Senior Center \$4,000, FCDA \$45,000, Mainstreet \$17,500, and Mainstreet Building Improvement Grant Funding \$15,000.

The workshop concluded at 7:02 p.m.