

Minutes of the February 5, 2024 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. Council members in attendance were Kevin Blanford, James Davies, Bill Hodge, Jerre Grefe, Barry Lamos, and Patrick Palmer. 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. Melvin Brown from 700 S Federal St addressed the council regarding the condition of South Federal Street. He said there are a lot of cars, trucks, and semis that use that road daily and the road is sinking and getting narrower. Brown also asked the council to consider placing a snow fence along South Federal as they had done in the past. The council and city staff will look into both matters.

Public Works Director Doug Tarr reported he issued 11 new nuisance notices since the last meeting and helped the Police Department with a court order clean up the prior week. Chief Morrison reported the police department is also focusing on nuisances and received 2 additional court orders last week.

Mark Crawford from Crawford Engineering updated the council on the upcoming street projects and answered various questions from the council. He informed the council there would be an engineer service agreement at Thursday's meeting so they could continue to proceed with the projects.

City Manager Ron Dunt recapped the changes with House File 718 and presented the council with the proposed FY25 budget. The council asked various questions and the consensus of the council was to proceed with the budget as presented.

The council then addressed entity funding requests. After discussion the consensus of the council was to proceed with funding as requested: Library \$93,000, 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 council discussed fire department wage increases requested at the September 25, 2023 workshop. After discussion, the consensus of the council was to increase wages for fire calls to \$15 per hour, meeting/drill/training a flat \$15 per event, and the training officer an additional \$30 per drill/training.

The workshop concluded at 7:23 p.m.