

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

June 20, 2000

5:30 P.M.

The Budget and Finance Committee was called to order by Councilman Hakeem, in the absence of Chairman Taylor. Councilmen Lively, Rutherford, Pierce, Eaves, and Hurley were present. Also present were Randall Nelson, City Attorney; Randy Burns, Management Analyst; and Shirley Crownover, Assistant Clerk to the Council.

Others present included Adm. Boney, Adm. Mitchell, Adm. Marcellis, Mayor Kinsey, Scott Wilson, Adm. Traughber, Daisy Madison, Fredia Forshee, Randy Ray, and Simone White.

FISCAL YEAR 2001 BUDGET

Chairman Hakeem called on Mayor Kinsey. Mayor Kinsey stated that there had been a couple of consistent questions concerning the Budget. One revolved around a car allowance and the city judge. He stated that we did provide a car allowance for the second City Judge; that we had changed the policy for Administrators and taken away cars, but did allow a car allowance; however new Administrators do **not** receive a car allowance. He reiterated that we put in the car allowance for the second judge and Randy Nelson says it is not necessary to provide this for Judge Bean, and Judge Bean is comfortable with this, and the Budget can be reduced by \$4800 and follow the same policy we have with Administrators.

The second question concerns the positions being added on an ongoing basis. Mayor Kinsey stated that he did not give enough detail when he outlined the new positions at the last meeting; that there are 43 new positions and adding these positions will save money. There are eight new positions in City Court and 14 additional positions in the Fire Department; that is 22 new positions at a cost of \$740,000. He stated that the other 21 positions will also save us money; the Police Department has five at \$98,444, which will free up officers on the street. He mentioned that the Council approved eliminating captains and deputy chief at a net savings of \$410,000 a year. He noted that you can't look at one number without looking at the bigger picture. There are eight new positions in Parks, Recreation, Arts & Culture at \$177,000—one of those is a salary of \$24,000 which replaces a position paying \$28,000, which represents a savings; three are custodial positions, which were there before, amounting to an additional savings of \$6,000. The Forestry Inspector is being one-half paid for by the State. There is a Project Manager at \$54,000 and an Assistant Superintendent of Athletics. Mayor Kinsey stated that he regretted not giving the information on the savings on the front end. There are three part-time Carousel Assistants because the Carousel has been more popular than we could ever have imagined. He stated that this should give a clearer picture of the 43 additional positions.

Mayor Kinsey congratulated Daisy Madison on doing a good job on the Budget.

Councilman Eaves asked about the Judge's car and pay. He stated that he thought we should pay for both cars or not pay for either one.

Chairman Hakeem stated that he could appreciate this issue but asked that we not allow this to determine whether we supported this budget or not. He stated that it had been looked at legally. Councilman Pierce added that the City Attorney had said that it was legal to do it this way.

Councilwoman Rutherford stated that she thought removing the car from Judge Bean was different than Administrators. She stated that people on the Council receive an expense account and questioned if new members would not. She suggested leaving the \$4,800 in the Budget, stating that each elected official should be treated the same.

Attorney Nelson noted that the City Judge gets a \$4,800 car allowance and other elected officials don't get it; that if the Judge goes to a conference, he gets his mileage and other travel expenses just like the Council does.

Councilwoman Rutherford still had a problem with giving one Judge \$4,800 and not the other Judge.

Councilman Pierce pointed out that Judge Williams was grandfathered in; that if we allow Judge Bean to have a car, Judge Williams will say he wants a car. Councilwoman Rutherford pointed out that we are not voting for a car but a car allowance, reiterating that both Judges should be treated the same; that Judge Williams was grandfathered in and Judge Bean should be also.

Councilman Eaves moved to allow Judge Bean to have the \$4,800. This was seconded by Councilwoman Rutherford.

Mayor Kinsey pointed out that this was already in the Budget as it is. Chairman Hakeem stated that this could be removed on second and third readings.

Councilman Lively moved to leave the Budget as it is and recommend it to the full Council. This was seconded by Councilwoman Rutherford.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 P.M.