

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**JANUARY 24, 2012**

Councilwoman Berz, Chairman, called the meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee to order with Councilmen Benson, Gilbert, Ladd, McGary, Murphy, Rico, Robinson and Scott present. City Attorney Michael McMahan and Council Clerk Carol O'Neal were also present.

Others present included Dan Johnson, Daisy Madison, Randy Parker, Donna Kelley and Richard Beeland, Warren Logan, Tom Edd Wilson and Robert Bradham.

**On motion of Councilman Rico, seconded by Councilman Gilbert, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published.**

Councilwoman Berz stated there are two things on the agenda: the Urban League/Chamber proposal which everyone received and an announcement regarding the city's website. She stated the website can be accessed by going to the Council's menu where the application can be found for the various service agencies online. She stated this is the first step toward being transparent and noted **the deadline for the application is February 10 and only electronic returns will be accepted**. She stated after February 10 and everything is in the folder, the information will be made available for the public to view what people are asking for and why. She stated the Council approved United Way taking a look at the applications and giving us their expertise on the matter; that a list of United Way designations/categories has been distributed and highlighted in yellow are the agencies United Way is already looking at and evaluating on a regular basis. She stated United Way will give us their best ideas about the proper most cost effective, efficient funding; however, the final decision will be up to us. She stated in six months we will get accountability of how our funds are doing; that the Council asked and received noting United Way representatives are present if there are questions about the process.

Councilwoman Scott stated her question is not so much to United Way and asked if we are going by a deadline for applications what will happen if someone says they did not know about the deadline a month-to-three months later.

Councilwoman Berz stated for all the public to see **the deadline is February 10** and all the forms are on the web. She stated they will complete the form and return them electronically and go into a folder for immediate access. She says it very clearly states on the website that no applications will be accepted for consideration after February 10, period; that it also says on the website we will only accept electronic applications and the information has been configured in Word and has been made very, very simple. She stated this is the first time this has been done and a lot of hard work has gone into it from IS, the City Finance Office and United Way and it is her thought all the glitches have been covered.

Councilwoman Berz asked members of the media who were present to put the information in the paper so the public will know that is what we are doing; that we are interested in the social service agencies that help our city. She stated after February 10 we are going to start educating ourselves on the agencies; that this budget is an administration budget. She referenced last year's schedule and noted administration's budget comes to us around May and discussion is moot until we get administration's budget and then we have discussion. She asked if the Council still wants to schedule agency hearings after February 10 for questions they might have and if so we need to start scheduling those; that it does not mean all have to attend as some may not have questions, however, she wants the public to be aware we do give due diligence to every request as it taxpayers' dollars and we need to be respectful of that.

Councilwoman Scott asked if we have an organized process whereby either our Management Analyst goes through or a Council group or what have you that the audited financial statements would be addressed ahead of time rather than after the fact.

Councilwoman Berz responded "yes"; that we have an excellent group that will be looking at all of this called the United Way.

Councilwomen Scott asked for clarification of the agencies that are not.

Councilwoman Berz stated they are going to look at all the agencies; that there are agencies that are not part of the list as this is the first time attempt at what we are doing and at the end of this cycle they will come to us and suggest and we can take their suggestion or not on how we might do it better or simply. She stated every application will be looked at according to the law.

Councilwoman Scot asked if they will be doing CARTA, Air Pollution Control . . .

Councilwomen Berz stated the social service agencies; the quasi-governmental agencies like Air Pollution Control, all of those, we will be looking at them . . . that they are part of a larger budget with the city, so "yes" that will happen.

Councilwoman Scott stated last year the financial analysis of all of the organizations were a little bit messy and long and drawn out; that she wants to make sure we have some "point people" that are taking that on as a task, whether it be a City Council Sub-Committee, some way we can make sure. She stated she understands United Way will be primarily looking at all of these, but there are others that also have financial reports that do not need to be left out.

Councilwoman Berz stated there is a "point person" and she is it! She stated "the buck stops with her" for the other agencies to make sure all those pieces are in place, however, because they are great quasi-governmental agencies they also have to fall under some government regulation, too. She stated it was not those agencies we had problems with as much as it was social services that came in late and did not have the audits and we have that corrected.

Councilwoman Berz asked if Council members want to schedule hearings. Councilman McGary responded “yes”.

Councilman Benson stated we are going to let United Way look at and analyze the social service requests; that he would like to do whatever the United Way would want us to do in that first step because we have the final step, anyway. He stated he does not know what kind of hearings they plan to have, but if they do have some he suggested they tell us and we can go and listen ourselves like any other citizen.

Councilwoman Berz asked if he is not for having social service hearings. Councilman Benson stated “no”; if we are going to let United Way do this first step, let them do it and not interfere.

Councilwoman Ladd expressed agreement with Councilman Benson’s comments; let them do it as that why we asked them to come in and see what recommendations they provide; quasi governmental we definitely should.

Councilwoman Berz stated “yes” we will have hearings on the operational budget, as well.

Councilman McGary expressed disagreement; that the United Way serves in an advisory role; that it is our responsibility to continue to hear the various non-profit organizations we have historically heard and would not be for changing the process at all. He stated we should keep it the same, at the same time inviting feedback from Untied Way, but not outsourcing to them.

Councilman Gilbert stated United Way has the experience and knows the agencies as well as we do; to let them listen and give us advice on what they think as we make the final decision, regardless. He stated this is the first year we will do this and will see how it works; that we should give them the opportunity.

Councilman Murphy expressed agreement with Councilman McGary’s comments.

Councilman Rico expressed agreement with Councilman Benson’s comments.

Councilwoman Robinson expressed agreement with Councilman Gilbert’s comments.

Councilwoman Scott stated when the Council gets the opportunity to look at the packets if they are completed properly there is an abundance of information that can be gathered from reading it. She stated she does not feel we have to have a formal process because if there is a question she can call that agency and ask that specific question; that two-and-a-half years ago when she first became a part of the process she did not know as much about the agencies as she now knows. She stated it is her thought the hearings would not be that beneficial.

Councilwoman Berz stated all but two Council persons are saying dispense with the hearings on the social service agencies and use Untied Way as the “sounding board” for the merits because everyone will have access, including the public.

Councilwoman Berz stated if the Council wants to meet with agencies or have comments otherwise we will do those in public, but no hearings. She stated she would get an agenda of the schedule to Council members as soon as it is finalized.

### **URBAN LEAGUE/CHAMBER OF COMMERCE JOINT PROPOSAL**

Councilwoman Berz stated this portion of the meeting is for the \$75,000 to go to the partnership of the Urban League and the Chamber of Commerce; that everyone received their proposal and asked if there are questions or concerns before going forward in making the award.

Councilman McGary referred to the document regarding the minority business report and the last two pages noting his curiosity as to the duplication stating if this is truly a partnership, printing copying and mailings are on both expense sheets. He stated he a curious as to mailing and printing costs, marketing and promotion, training materials; that the only different he sees between the two is personnel with the Urban League at \$32,000 and speaker fees with Chamber Minority Partnership is \$7,000. He stated in reference to printing, copying, mailing, marketing promotion, training materials, there are two costs.

**Warren Logan**, CEO of the Urban League, stated one thing in our proposal is that we indicated we would be promoting the Spring Board training which is about 20-25 persons per class and about four classes during the course of the year; that in doing that it would entail printing and copying and a number of other things because each of the recipients basically require a notebook and in addition to that there are various and sundry other supplies necessary to support that particular training. He stated in addition to that what we identified in the proposal in terms of the joint effort were the things we felt we could work together on to the extent it would enhance the minority business community to the extent they would build up their capacity to hire more people in the community; so what we started out with were four or five major things that we thought would be of value to add to the community but that did not necessarily take away from the individual work we would be doing separate and aside from that in terms of still trying to ready that community.

Councilman McGary stated the costs for printing, copying and mailing, are for the separate program; that he heard M. Logan identify two costs, one for joint programming and the separate cost for the programming the Urban League and Chamber will continue outside of this joint partnership. He stated when looks at the printing, copying, mailing and training material costs is that the separate programming or for the joint programming.

Mr. Logan stated the training material is basically for the Spring Board course we are putting on and that was basically the training we indicated initially which is ongoing anyway. He stated basically, the Chamber has an ongoing scope of work and we have an ongoing scope of work but there are several things we come together on that we felt would basically add to the minority business community.

Councilman McGary asked for the sake of clarification where the couple things are.

Mr. Logan stated the four-to-five things indicated to come together are to cross market each other's programs; work together to identify and establish business people to serve as mentors particularly for emerging minority entrepreneurs, serve as an interface when connecting minority entrepreneurs to the large community to the extent we can enhance purchasing opportunities and then we will communicate contracting opportunities to the minority owned business community, as well, and in addition to that we will collectively, in terms of certification, assist those firms that are interested in securing small business set aside certification.

Councilman Gilbert expressed appreciation for both agencies coming together working as a whole for the community; that it seems both have expertise in different areas and are pulling together for better opportunities for minorities. He stated this is a great time for this to happen because of the all the negativity in the community; that they are providing hope for some people to own businesses and create more jobs in the community. He expressed appreciation to and for both.

Councilwoman Berz stated we have already approved the money and asked if we go forward and release the funds to them to implement the program. The collective response was "yes".

The meeting was adjourned.