

BUDGET WORKSHOP
JULY 22, 2008

A Budget Work Session was held on July 22, 2008, at 5:00 p.m. in the Margaret Way Building at 23 North Polk Avenue. Council members attending were Johnson, Goodman and Heine. Absent: Councilmen Dixon and Fazzone. Also in attendance: Administrator Strube, City Marshall Lee, Special Projects Coordinator Hewett, Parks and Recreation Supervisor Waters, Public Works Supervisor Reed, Waste Water Plant Supervisor Underwood and Recorder Baumann.

Mayor Goodman called the Workshop to order stating this workshop was to review budget request and recommendations for the 2009 fiscal year. Mayor Goodman thanked Administrator Strube for the hard work he put into preparing the budget.

Mrs. Linda Williams, President of the DeSoto County Chamber of Commerce, addressed the Council with a request for financial aide to the Chamber for the upcoming year. She reported that renovations to the Chamber building are almost complete and the Council will be invited to an Open House Ceremony. Administrator Strube advised Mrs. Williams that the normal donation from the City to the Chamber of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.) is in the proposed budget. Mrs. Williams thanked the Council for their continued support.

Ms. Kim Spencer, of the Main Street Association, addressed the Council with a request for financial aide. Administrator Strube advised Ms. Spencer that the normal donation from the City to Main Street of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.) was in the proposed budget. Ms. Spencer thanked the Council for their continued support.

Administrator Strube then reported that the following request are included in the FY 08-09 budget: Homeless Collation for Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.) 211 for Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.), the Selby House Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.) and the Historical Society for Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.). He noted that after the budget had been prepared the DeSoto County Health Department asked for assistance; however they did not specify an amount. And the DeSoto Community Development Corporation requested \$10,000.00. Mayor Goodman asked if the City could provide each agency with \$2,000.00 or \$2,500.00. Administrator Strube will request that both agencies submit a written proposal as backup for their request.

Administrator Strube stated that the budget for the Water and Sewer Fund is not complete at this time. He noted that Waste Water Treatment Plant Supervisor Steve Underwood is in attendance.

Administrator Strube then reported that Womack had some difficulty unloading the dehydrated sludge at the landfill. At this time due to the wet conditions at the landfill, it was decided to go back to using dump trucks.

Marshall Lee addressed the Council regarding the Police Department budget noting that he is requesting one new car this year. Councilman Johnson asked what would happen if the Police Department did not receive a new car to which Marshall Lee stated the Department would do the best they could with the resources available. Councilman Heine asked how many vehicles the Department has at the present time to which he was told there are twenty two (22) units. Administrator Strube noted that the budget for the

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Anti Drug Department needs to be corrected to show one (1) employee. Marshall Lee reported that the Victim Advocate position will continue to be grant funded for FY 08/09.

Administrator Strube noted that Garbage and Solid Waste Department employees are now working 8 hour days so when they are done with their route they work in the Street Department. Administrator Strube noted that other cities and counties are looking at adjusting their pickup schedule. Councilman Heine is opposed to reducing the number of days for garbage pickup although he is in favor of increasing the rates. Administrator Strube stated an increase of 25 cents would generate about Thirteen Thousand Dollars (\$13,000) in additional revenue per year. Councilman Heine suggested an increase of 50 cents might be considered. It was noted that Womack Sanitation has suggested taking over the pickup of garbage for the City. Public Works Supervisor Reed expressed concern noting that the City employees help the handicapped and elderly and he did not know if Womack would provide the same customer service. Mayor Goodman stated she had spoken with Mr. Womack, and he stated the same considerations of back door pick up would remain in place.

Mayor Goodman then noted that Councilman Dixon had presented the Council with a written list of possible suggestions that she read in full into the minutes as below:

"Suggestions: The following are suggestions that may help enhance our city revenue, during these hard times. That we will be facing during these major budget cuts. I for one will not support increasing the Citizen's taxes.

I. Ways to cut back on expenses

- a) *Garbage pick-up once a week or consider contracting services out, possibly employing our current workers.*
- b) *Limit "Bucket Truck" for debris/vegetation pick up to every 2 weeks*
- c) *Consider four (4) days a week= "Work Week" (8-10 hr. days)*
- d) *Cut back on fuel use by every Department*
- e) *Closely look at every department and down size any positions that's not mandatory needed.*
- f) *Each Council Member gives one (1) year of their salary back to General Fund*

II. Ideas:

1. *Require Dept Heads to submit ideas on how their departments can cut back expenditures without cutting services. This way they can be apart, by understanding the need to be part of the solution and sensitive to the concerns of citizens, over possible TAX INCREASE!*
2. *Give an incentive/stipend to employees who submit/present workable or doable ideas that can be adopted and ultimately save the city money. This can be done at employee's dinner/luncheon or "Employee of the Month/Year".*

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Administrator Strube stated that he still needs to work on the garbage revenues and expenditures noting again that these employees currently work in other departments when their route is complete. Marshall Lee asked that the Council take into consideration what happened when the Police Department dispatch staff was taken over by the County; after six months none of the original Police employees were still employed. He believes that this would be the case if the garbage services were contracted out. Mayor Goodman stated that she is not in favor of any employee losing their job.

Administrator Strube reported that the Street Department previously had five (5) unfilled positions; however he has allocated funding for three (3) of the positions to fund the Department of Corrections Guard position. The remaining two (2) positions were de-obligated to help with the budget shortfall.

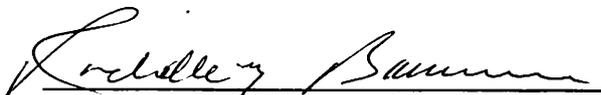
Special Project Coordinator Hewett addressed the Council regarding the taxiway to the T-Hangers noting that it has a lot of loose debris and rocks on it. It may need to be replaced in the near future and he is looking at the cost and type of materials needed

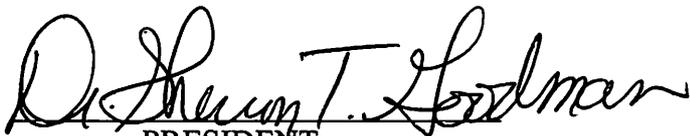
Administrator Strube stated Representative Vern Buchanan would be in town on August 5, 2008, touring various areas in the City and County. He stated that the City will discuss the intersection at Highway 17 and MLK and Palm with him at that time.

Don Waters, Parks and Recreation Supervisor addressed the Council regarding his department's budget. He has requested a new Dixie Chopper for grass mowing. Mr. Waters also asked that Administrator Strube review the fuel usage at the golf course as it appears to be incorrect. Mayor Goodman asked about the difference in salary from the FY 07/08 and 08/09 budget for the Pro Shop and was informed that in 07/08 part of the salary was classified as contractual labor prior to the City taking over the full operation of the Pro Shop.

Administrator Strube will re-balance the budget for the changes as proposed. He then asked that the Council be ready to adopt a millage rate at their next meeting on August 5, 2008.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.


CITY RECORDER


PRESIDENT