

BUDGET WORKSHOP, TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2012

The Mayor and City Council met for a budget workshop on Tuesday, August 28, 2012 with the following members present: Mayor Nunez, Council Members Rivas, Diaz, Lee and Garcia; City Manager Maner and City Secretary Raines. Council Member Gonzales absent due to work.

City Manager Maner advise that as they knew, we had already had one workshop and at that time he gave them a basic budget, however, at the last workshop on this he made a mistake but he thinks that they would agree that if he was going to make one, this was the way to make it, He stated that when he was doing the excel program it left out one row of adding the income and that row had \$200,000.00 so what he was telling them tonight was that the revenue for General fund was projected to be \$200,000.00 more than he had projected at the last meeting and that was a good thing. He stated that the basis difference in the budgets that he handed them tonight and the proposed budget that he handed them before and it was all based upon the fact that we had more spendable money if we wanted to use it and he was not in favor of using all of it just because it is there but there were some project, as they knew, that some of the department heads had requested and he had been unable to provide funding for and there were about four of those in here.

He stated the first one was in Department 11, 6903 Commercial Christmas Tree that was discussed at the last workshop, 6902 was raised by \$8,500. for a copy machine for City Hall which we were in need of.

Department 14 – Capital Outlay item 6904 for a Thermal Imager for the Fire Department, which the chief advised him that our is dead and we need this and explained the need for the equipment.

Department 15 – Parks and Recreation – Mr. Maner explained this was the biggest single item that he had added into it. He stated that Kim and Kyle both had tried to talk him into this in the initial budget but we just couldn't do it and this was another Capital Outlay 6907 Wilke Park Rehab Project - \$76,000.00, he stated that was a lot of money but what it was new bathrooms for Wilke Park and we have been needing these for no telling how long.

Council Member Lee ask if they could add Smith Park to that.

He was advised it depended on how the bids come in.

Mayor Nunez ask how many bathroom we had at Wilke Park.

She was advised that we had one and there was general discussion on the age of the bathrooms and the condition.

Kim advised that the bids that she got were for prefab bathrooms that come with everything installed, vandal resistant, not vandal proof and hopefully we could get more than just one bathroom for \$76,000.00. She explained how the bathroom was built and advised that we would have to knock down the existing restrooms plus the slab and with the rehab, they were also going to do some new fencing, etc. and get as much out of the rehab as they could.

Department 22 – Heritage Hall – Mr. Maner advised that this was a surprise because he just came up with it this afternoon. He stated that we were going to get a new bus, \$70,000.00 and he thought that everyone who had ridden on that bus knew what condition it was in, that it was not super high mileage but it had seen it's better years and we hoped to be able to upgrade to maybe a 20 passenger instead of a 13, that Kyle had been looking into this and told him that 20 is as high as you can go without having a CDL License driver and he thinks we want to stay under that.

Mayor Nunez ask if we went out for bids on this and Mr. Maner advised that not technically and the reason for that is because it is handled through HGAC Buy Board which we are a member of and they meet all of the requirements of the law.

Mayor Nunez stated that she had a question about 6794 in Heritage Hall, did Cindy's longevity stay the same or did it go up. Mr. Maner stated that we have had personnel changes in that department, Kelly wasn't there anymore. There was discussion about longevity and Mr. Maner advised that it should be \$432.00 and longevity was set by city ordinance.

Mr. Maner stated that those were basically the changes and if they would turn back to the very first pages of the budget to the summary they would see that it leaves a balance in General Fund of income over expenditures of \$29,580.00 and like he said, his goal was not to spend all of the money we had but on the other hand, his thinking in choosing these projects, he stated that we had talked at the council meeting and budget workshop about how fortunate we had been because of some of these folks sitting here and various other things with getting these grants and things to do the infrastructure projects of water and sewer lines, the streets the county did for us, so we haven't had to use our money and we got those things done but as far as the infrastructure is concerned, the sewer and the water, the citizens don't see that, all they see is the guys working out there and they know

that their commodes work and the water come on but these are all visible things that the citizens can see and appreciate because it is things that we have been getting comments on from the citizens for years and he thinks it would be a wise use of city funds to do these while we can. He explained that we could pay for the bus over a period of time the way we did our police cars but in all honesty, no more interest than we can draw on that money he thinks it is wiser to just use it.

Mayor Nunez ask who all was getting new vehicles.

City Manager Maner named the police department and public works and Mayor Nunez ask how many and was advised there were three.

Mayor Nunez ask what trucks were they replacing and Mr. Reed stated they were going to get rid of four and replacing three.

Mayor Nunez ask if they were the old blue trucks that had been here for a long time.

Mr. Reed stated two of the blue truck and one that was at Mr. Edgars now that could not be fixed and the mosquito truck and the mosquito truck was used for the mosquito truck only during the summer and he believed the trucks were 1995.

Mayor Nunez stated that he had some good truck, that she sees them up and down the streets and she thought that last year we got some new ones.

City Manager ask to make a comment and stated that one of the things that he had always been impressed with, especially with Kyle, is that he believed in and did a good job on preventative maintenance, that he took good care of, not only our vehicles but all of our equipment and we get a lot of use out of our vehicles and equipment and it pays off in the long run.

Mayor Nunez ask about the big truck that picks up the heavy stuff, was it still running good.

She was advised that it was the grade all and it was old when we got it and they had just spent \$9,000.00 on it for a new transmission and it should be good for another few years.

City Manager Maner stated that he wanted to remind the council, that like the other budget, it did include the 2% pay raise for all city employees and no one was being laid off

and if they would look at their monthly print out of the cash balances they receive, the city was in good financial shape and he thinks this is an ideal time to do these huge projects, we don't do them for this reason but it would please the citizens out there.

He advised these were the only real changes in the budget from the last meeting and he and the department heads were here to answer any questions they might have or hear anything they wanted to say about it.

Mayor Nunez ask if we had any extra money to give to Lon Squyres over there, that he was going to kill her, that he was a very good employee.

Lon stated that we had a lot of good employees and Mr. Maner stated that yes we did.

Council Member Lee ask about the parks budget, did we still have \$10,000.00 budgeted for trees.

Mr. Maner advised that he didn't take anything out of there.

Council Member Lee ask if it would be possible to forgo some trees and get another bathroom built at Smith Park with some of that funding.

City Manager Maner stated that he wouldn't recommend it because he thought the trees were so important and if we don't start doing something about them it would be to late.

Mayor Nunez ask if we had gone out to see if we could get some trees donated and Kim advised that we had trees coming that were donated too, that we have that money in the budget to make sure that we have enough to finish one park before we start another.

Mayor Nunez ask if the \$10,000.00 was Wilke Park and Kim stated for the moment and the next year work on Smith Park.

There was general discussion on the trees and restrooms for the park.

Council Member Lee stated that he had a question that Council Member Gonzales ask him to convey and he thought that he already knew the answer because he talked to him about it but he wanted to know if it was absolutely necessary for him to get three trucks this year but he probably didn't know that we had an extra \$200,000.00.

Mr. Reed stated that whenever he ask for vehicles he needed them but if the council decided that we need one or two, he would go with that.

Council Member Lee stated that Council Member Gonzales's other question was could we get some netting for the little league field to stop foul balls from hitting those kids in the head.

Kim stated that was one of the projects that she wanted to get in the \$76,000.00.

Council Member Garcia ask if we were going to get rid of three truck from the public works and one from the police department would we be auctioning them or what and when that money come in could we fix one street at least, one that Harris County didn't get to like on Oswego or Muscatine.

Mr. Maner advised that in Department 19, Code 6910, we had \$50,000.00 for street repair.

Lon advised that it was a possibility that the County might be repeating that effort and it might be a good idea for them to be jotting downs some street and what their priorities are if we get ask.

Mr. Maner advised that we would also have the sidewalk project going on.

Mayor Nunez stated that Commissioner Morman had been very good to Jacinto city.

Mayor Nunez ask Mr. Maner how did he come up with all this money, where did he find it.

Mr. Maner stated that he wished he could make up a better story but the fact was that when he was doing the excel program he left one row out.

Mayor Nunez stated that was good news.

Mr. Maner stated, that again, this budget, as he tell them every year, is balanced, there will be a little excess but not much and it is one that he honestly believe we can live with without sacrificing any service that we give our citizens and he thinks it is the best we can do now and he thinks that if we use it for these things we will be accomplishing a lot and our citizens will know it and will realize that city council is trying it's best to provide everything they can for them.

Mr. Maner stated that on any of this, if during the year, we see that we are not going to spend it, the council can choose to do something else.

Council Member Diaz thanked him for a good budget and for the Christmas Tree and the bus.

Council Member Lee stated that he prepared some questions but he answered them before he go to them.

Kim thanked them for the park renovation, that she and Kyle had been after this for five years, that they didn't put it as bathroom project, that hopefully they would have money for other renovation in the park.

Kyle stated that he and Kim had already talked about it and he would like to make a suggestion that the project needed to be done right, the elevation on the building needed to be raise and we had just pipe bursted over there with the grant money so we were going to have excellent exiting of the sewer but it was going to be expensive and it need to be done right from the foundation up and they did build them now for 30 or 40 years.

Mayor Nunez ask how they were doing on the rental of the gym and swimming pool and Kim advised that they were rented all the time.

There was general discussion about purposed purchases.

Mayor Nunez adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,



Joyce Raines
City Secretary