



City of Naples

City Council Minutes

Workshop Meeting 08/11/89

City Council Chambers
735 Eighth Street South
Naples, Florida 33940

-SUBJECT-

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BUDGET DISCUSSIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1989/90.

City Manager

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City Clerk

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Non-Departmental

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Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)

City Manager

Community Development

Engineering

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COUNCIL
MEMBERS

M O T I O N	S E C T I O N	VOTE		A B S E N T
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Ms. Karen Peterson, who has since assumed that position, has taken over the responsibility of newsletters, activity reports, and also has outlined two major projects to be undertaken sometime during the upcoming year. The first project would involve a citizen survey which would identify the current level of service and any improvements which might need to be made. Another project would implement a service request system to track complaints and requests for service. In response to Councilman Graver, Mr. Jones explained each department would share a standard software so that it could track the requests or complaints. The information then would be consolidated city-wide for further evaluation.

Personnel

City Manager Jones advised there were also no significant changes within this division. He noted that the emphasis over the past year has been placed on recruiting efforts, especially for police officers which has been the toughest position to fill.

Personnel Director McShane explained during the recruiting process, she tried to target some minority groups. Staff has since hired one minority certified officer from a junior college in Miami-Dade. Mayor Putzell asked how staff could be satisfied with a recruit from that area with all the corruption being reported in the news at this time. The students at these junior colleges, Ms. McShane commented, have not been subjected to that corruption and must pass pre-application tests prior to being invited to Naples for an interview.

Referring to the professional services expenditure, Mr. Richardson asked for clarification. Ms. McShane explained that the City currently has a program, Employee Assistance Program (EAP), wherein employees can confidentially seek the help of a professional free-of-charge for an initial visit. Should that employee require additional guidance, she noted, then he would be referred to the David Lawrence Center.

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Discussion then ensued relative to nonessential items such as a loveseat, chairs, and office pictures. Ms. McShane contended the Personnel Division was an applicant's first impression of the City, and she wanted to make sure that it was favorable.

Council asked for the City's turnover rate excluding that percentage of police officers and communication operators during the past fiscal year. Ms. McShane said that she did not have those figures with her, but would provide them to Council as soon as possible.

Referring to the requested computer software upgrade noted in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget, Ms. McShane advised that this system would free up some of the personnel technician's time for other duties. In response to Mayor Putzell, Ms. McShane advised this computer enhancement reduced a part time position which she had originally requested. She added that while such computerization reduced personnel in her division, she could not speak for the other departments' needs.

Discussion then ensued relative to ideas which could increase the City's profitability. Councilman Crawford pointed out that in private industry, profit is the motivation, and in government, such motivation is lost because it is a nonprofit organization. Council then directed staff to come up with suggestions on potential cost savings and award bonuses for those STAR teams or individuals responsible for such savings.

Councilman Graver then referred back to the EAP and asked what type of training it provided the supervisors to spot potential problems. Ms. McShane noted the Program provided training to department and division heads, as well as supervisors, to recognize behavior which could be the result of a dependency problem, either drugs or alcohol. If the employee is admitted to a facility such as Charter Glade, she continued, a portion of his medical bills would be paid through the City's health insurance.

Mr. Muenzer then said he believed the amounts noted for furniture (loveseat and chairs) were

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Natural Resources

City Manager Jones noted there have been no changes to this division's operation.

City Clerk

City Manager Jones again noted that there were no significant changes to this department's operation; however, staff was investigating a possible change in personnel wherein the minutes for all boards would be handled by a contract employee. This would relieve some of the workload from those employees currently responsible for minutes of various boards, he said.

Mayor and City Council

Mayor Putzell noted that Robert Schroer's contract had been omitted from the budget and he suggested it be funded again. This person serves an entirely different function than that of the public information officer, he said, inasmuch as he prepares the Mayor's Newsletter and has a creative ability which the public information officer would not be able to achieve for a number of years to come. Mayor Putzell further noted that Mrs. Anderson-McDonald had advised him of her support regarding this matter.

Councilman Graver said that while he did not personally utilize Mr. Schroer's services, if the Mayor wanted to retain him for his personal use, he would support funding it. However, Mr. Graver recommended that it be funded only for the remainder of Mayor Putzell's term and continued at the discretion of the incoming mayor.

It was the consensus of Council, excepting Councilman Crawford, that Mr. Schroer's public relations contract be funded for another year.

Non-Departmental

Mayor Putzell said that under professional services, he would like to see the City pursue the budgeted annexation analysis in a timely fashion.

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Referring to the proposed parking garage, Councilman Crawford said he did not believe there was a need for that structure. He said the Committee received responses from its survey and found that no one would be interested in using that facility. Mr. Crawford did not support the proposal which would allow property owners to

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expand their existing buildings if they purchased or leased space in the proposed garage. This would only increase density and not help the existing problem, too high rents, he said.

It was the consensus of Council that staff should come in with a prioritized schedule of the proposed studies discussed during these budget proceedings for Council's review.

Discussion then ensued relative to problems many office buildings in the downtown Fifth Avenue South area and other areas of the City are facing, in particular, loss of tenants and the need to raise rents.

Councilman Richardson noted that the Police Department had advised if it was required to reduce its request of personnel by eight, the impact would be primarily in the area of sworn officers. City Manager Jones explained that sworn officers are work generators. Each hour that a sworn officer is in the field, he said, work for support personnel is generated. Mr. Jones further supported the Department's request and said that currently the City has been playing "catch-up" relative to administrative personnel and sworn officers in this Department. Discussion then ensued relative to the procedure which each department was required to follow prior to submitting their budget requests to the City Manager for his recommendations.

Mayor Putzell asked Mr. Jones how he would react if he was required to cut 10% of the proposed budget. City Manager Jones advised that because the Police Department accounts for approximately 37.3% of the entire budget, that would be the most logical Department from which to reduce personnel. The second area to be cut, he said, would be Community Services as that has the second largest budget amount.

Councilman Muenzer recommended that the Police Department budget fund a "Flex-Team" which has been responsible in recent months for reducing crime in questionable neighborhoods. City Manager Jones suggested that this program be funded on a part-time, or as-needed, basis.

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Discussion then ensued relative to other programs in the Police Department such as the canine patrol. Mr. Jones advised this program would be increased to three dogs sometime in the near future.

RECESS: 10:40 A.M. UNTIL 11:00 A.M.

Utilities

In response to Mayor Putzell, Utilities Director Chaffee noted that currently the City is servicing nine golf courses with its effluent reuse. Staff is very comfortable with this system, he said, and he further noted that the Naples Beach Club will soon have to use this type of irrigation as required by the Southwest Florida Water Management District. The salinity problem has been addressed, Mr. Chaffee continued, but will never be eliminated. It should not, however, have a deleterious effect upon the landscaping at these facilities.

In response to Mayor Putzell, Utilities Director Chaffee advised he was requesting 1 and 1/2 positions, 1/2 clerical position in sanitation and a lab technician at the sewer plant.

Discussion then ensued relative to disposal of wastewater into Naples Bay. Mr. Chaffee explained that the State has required a reduction of discharge into bodies of water such as Naples Bay. The City's effluent reuse program has helped in the reduction of this discharge considerably, and, in fact, it has enabled the City to meet State requirements two years prior to the mandate.

Councilman Crawford asked if there were any large expenditures which might occur that were not listed in this budget. Utilities Director Chaffee noted that possibly some pending State regulations might create additional expense, such as: stormwater management, water treatment, and waste disposal.

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Referring to the Halstatt DRI (Development of Regional Impact), Council asked if staff felt confident it could adequately supply water and sewer service to that area. City Manager Jones pointed out that the area was currently in the City's service area and interim service to that area would not adversely affect the City's water supply for its citizens. Mr. Jones further noted that this developer has agreed to use the City's effluent reuse for irrigation purposes.

Discussion then ensued regarding the horticultural landfill. Councilman Crawford asked for an update. City Manager Jones explained the City had a lease for property off Goodlette-Frank Road for use as a horticultural landfill. That lease expired approximately 2 years ago, he said, and currently is leased on a month-to-month basis. After considerable negotiations, Mr. Jones continued, the property owner submitted a proposal which was not in the best interests of the City. Staff has been studying the feasibility of either acquiring that property or moving the landfill to another site. The current site, Mr. Chaffee added, would only be operational for another year at most, unless it was mined.

Regarding the City's Recycling Program, Utilities Director Chaffee advised that the paper recycling program was proceeding quite well and was, in fact, paying for itself. The aluminum cans, glass, and plastic recycling, however, has not quite gotten off the ground yet, he said.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (CIP)

City Manager

City Manager Jones explained that a few computer related items were requested during the proposed CIP, including a laser printer and publishing software for the public information officer.

Community Development

Councilman Muenzer expressed concern that a 1985 Ford with only 26,000 miles was scheduled to be replaced. He asked why staff would consider

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trading a vehicle with less than 50,000 miles. City Manager Jones advised that he would have to check into the matter further and bring back his findings.


Engineering


City Manager Jones noted that this budget included many multi-year projects including existing sidewalk repairs and bikepath projects. Mayor Putzell pointed out that through the upcoming bond issue many of the sidewalk projects could be accelerated, including a five-year bikepath program. He suggested that staff prepare a schedule of proposed neighborhoods for such projects and bring its recommendations to Council. It was the consensus of Council that staff should prepare such a schedule.

Mr. Crawford, however, said that he did not believe sidewalks would be receptive in very many neighborhoods. He suggested this item be included as part of the citizen survey which the public information officer was preparing.

Citizen J. Sandy Scatena of 2990 Binnacle Drive spoke in support of a sidewalk on Fairway Terrace. He said that several of the citizens in that area have asked him to represent them at these proceedings and request the City construct a sidewalk on that street. Mr. Scatena cited Section 6.29 of the Appendix "A" of the Code of Ordinances and said that he interpreted this ordinance to include this area in those districts where sidewalks are required. Councilman Crawford and staff respectfully disagreed with Mr. Scatena's interpretation of multi-family districts.

ADJOURN: 12:00 Noon


 EDWIN J. PUTZELL, JR., Mayor


 JANET CASON
 CITY CLERK

JODIE O'DRISCOLL
 DEPUTY CLERK

These minutes of the Naples City Council were approved on 9/20/89.