

Burns Randy

From: Crownover Shirley
Sent: Wednesday, November 12, 1997 2:27 PM
Subject: 11/11/97

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE November 11, 1997--5:10 P.M.

The meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee was called to order by Chairman Hakeem, with Councilpersons Eaves, Pierce, Hurley, Rutherford, Swafford, Crockett, Lively, and Taylor being present. City Attorneys Randall Nelson and Mike McMahan were present. Management Analyst Randy Burns and Shirley Crownover, Assistant Clerk to the Council, were also present.

Others present included Chief Dotson and Chief Coppinger.

AMENDMENT TO FIRE AND POLICE PENSION

Chairman Hakeem called on Attorney Arvin Reingold to go over this issue. Attorney Reingold stated they were trying to restore some benefits under the Firemen's and Policemen's Pension dating back to "pre-1993" benefits. He stated the Ordinance was narrowly drawn and had been in limbo; that an actuary had looked at this, and it could be done.

Attorney McMahan stated that it would cost \$80,000 a year, which is a modest figure. Attorney Reingold noted that the Pension Fund was healthy enough to absorb this.

Councilwoman Hurley questioned if this had Administration's approval, and it was noted that it did with Attorney McMahan adding that the City Attorney's office drafted this.

On motion of Councilman Crockett, seconded by Councilman Pierce, this will be recommended to the full Council.

CAPITAL BUDGET DISCUSSION

Chairman Hakeem stated that there had been a "glitch" in the figures of the Capital Budget and Administration had asked to put this off a couple of weeks.

NEW BUSINESS CONCEPT FOR DOWNTOWN TOURIST AREA

Bob Moore and Mike Cound were present to explain a business they were trying to establish.

Mr. Cound stated that he had sent a fax out to Council members explaining a movie theater and restaurant concept; that they would like to be able to serve beer and wine, and they wanted it discussed whether they could or not.

Mr. Moore stated they were close to finalizing their location and were certain it was going to be in this location; that their business would cater to a good clientele and would have a very classy look inside.

Chairman Hakeem verified that it would be a restaurant serving beverages and also a theater.

Mr. Moore showed a drawing of their floor plan, which is made a part of the minute material. He stated it would be nicely done.

Councilman Pierce asked if there would be any "x" rated movies. Mr. Moore responded that they would show classic movies with some first runs and matinees for kids; that they hoped to appeal to middle and high income families with the cost of the movie being \$3.50.

Councilman Pierce asked if they would be in competition with the theaters that we have now.

Mr. Cound explained that they would only be be a second-run theater like at Four Squares; that they would not be showing first-run movies but would be showing Classics.

Mr. Moore added that they would show movies like the Godfather series and on nights that they showed these films they would serve Italian food.

Councilman Pierce asked the seating capacity, and Mr. Moore responded there would be 60-65 seats and the restaurant could accomodate 75.

Councilwoman Hurley asked if this would become a new type of business allowed all over the City or would we restrict it to this specific location and site. She stated this was an interesting idea. Attorney Nelson stated there would be a restriction on theaters selling beer everywhere. Councilwoman Hurley questioned if we could regulate the sell of wine. Attorney Nelson stated that this would relate to those theaters with restaurant facilities only--that theaters that did not sell food and meals could not have beer and wine. Councilwoman Hurley stated that it would need to be defined in a certain way to combine the restaurant facilities. She asked about the distances from churches.

Councilman Swafford stated that if this were adopted, he would not want it to open doors for any movie theater to do this with alcohol.

Attorney Nelson reiterated that they could not unless they also had a restaurant license. Councilman Swafford asked if we were talking about restricting this to downtown. Attorney Nelson stated that we were not.

Councilman Lively stated we needed to make sure there were no loopholes--that all theaters did serve snacks.

Councilwoman Hurley questioned if they qualified for the sale of wine under State regulations, and they answered yes.

Councilwoman Rutherford pointed out the problems that the Beer Board had with microwaving, etc., stating that we must be specific.

Attorney Nelson stated that they wanted the Council's ideas on this.

Attorney McMahan noted that we needed something to prohibit minors from having alcoholic beverages in the dark. Mr. Cound stated there would be overhead spot lights and lamps on each table; that they would have to card somebody if they looked too young.

Councilman Taylor asked where this would be located on Market St. Mr. Moore responded that it would be where Vinnie's had been, near the Boiled Frog. Councilman Taylor asked about parking, and Mr. Moore responded there would be no problems.

Councilwoman Hurley noted that with the wine restrictions and the avoidance of microwaves that this would have a different ambience.

Chairman Hakeem directed his comments to the City Attorney, stating that he had not come to peace with this; that if there was a loophole that would give us trouble in neighborhoods, that he would certainly be on the attorneys, because he was concerned about neighborhoods and did not want to see a loophole; that we wanted business but questioned at what price. He reported to Mr. Moore and Mr. Cound that the City Attorney would prepare an Ordinance and bring it back to the Council, and it would again be discussed in committee.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 P.M.