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From: Crownover Shirley
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BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

December 9, 1997

5:00 P.M.

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

Others present included Adm. Boney, Chief Dotson, Bernard Gloster, Adm. Marcellis, Daisy Madison, Adm. Traughber, Mikey Glenn, and Adm. McDonald.

TELEPHONE SYSTEMS PURCHASE

Chairman Hakeem called the meeting to order and asked Adm. Boney to come forward.

Adm. Boney stated that before he began on the Capital Budget he would like to bring to the Council's attention a purchase that was in their books that he would bring forward at tonight's meeting. He explained that the City's telephone system is fragmented and that Alan Orrie with BellSouth was with us tonight if there were any questions about an upgraded proposal for our telephone system. He mentioned that three firms were capable and would all result in a savings but that BellSouth was cheaper, and he would present this tonight for approval.

Councilman Pierce stated that he needed a briefing on our system; that there were problems at the Police Dept., and he was not comfortable approving this without going into it in more depth. He stated that at the Police Dept. you had to listen to a long recording, and he did not like to listen to recordings.

Adm. Boney explained that this was a completely separate issue than what he was addressing; that this was a hardware-type thing and was

not an operating approach; that the reason he was bringing this up was because we had a deadline in order to get a discount, and it would require action by tomorrow.

Councilman Pierce stated that this "fast-track approach" got us into another issue; that sometimes the Council got rushed and did things without really going into it thoroughly and did not make the right judgement.

Chairman Hakeem questioned if there were any plans in the future for getting things to the Council without making them feel they were against a wall.

Adm. Boney stated we were trying to get the equipment purchased and there was a deadline.

Councilman Crockett clarified that Adm. Boney was making his recommendation on the technology and price and in making the recommendation, this was the one he wanted. Adm. Boney explained that all of the proposals were for the same equipment, and we would be building on the same technology as the Police Department which would give us city-wide compatibility. Councilman Crockett questioned if we did not do this right away, how it would change in the coming months. Adm. Boney stated it still would be the same--that BellSouth would still be cheaper. He asked Mr. Orrie to discuss the discount.

Mr. Orrie explained that there would be an executive discount to the City which would amount to 14% of the system cost; that when this discount was extended that it was contingent upon it being taken by the end of the year, and it expired tomorrow. Councilman Crockett verified that if we waited until January, we would have to pay the extra 14%.

Councilman Pierce asked what the overall cost of the equipment was and what the 14% savings would tally out to be. Adm. Boney stated that the total cost was \$762,000. Councilman Crockett tallied the 14% discount to be around \$106,000, which would be a one-time hit.

Adm. Boney stated that he would present this during Departmental Reports if acceptable.

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

Adm. Boney stated that he was open for Capital Budget questions.

Chairman Hakeem asked if there were any specific areas we needed to go over.

Adm. Boney stated there were a couple of changes and directed the Council's attention to the first page where the Human Resources System was listed at \$50,000 and stated the grants were \$63,000. On the second page he noted that the Eastdale Improvements showed for last year a three-year Plan of \$750,000, and the Mayor wanted them to go

back and show that.

Councilman Taylor asked Adm. Boney to elaborate on the Bicentennial Neighborhood Program. Adm. Boney called on Adm. Traughber for this.

Adm. Traugber explained that the State Housing Development Authority designated us as Bicentennial and as a result we have around \$2.5 million dollars from the State of Tennessee that will be used on M.L.K. and part of the Southside.

Chairman Hakeem asked about the 4-year Roof Plan on Page 3 and asked if this would mean three-four roofs a year. Adm. Boney mentioned Shepherd, East Lake and St. Elmo Recreation Centers. Councilwoman Rutherford asked if we did not do Shepherd last year. Councilman Swafford explained that we did a new building. Councilwoman Hurley stated that Shepherd was beautiful.

Councilman Taylor noted that this seemed to be a from year-to-year Plan and questioned if we had any long-range Goal or Plan to cover a particular District. He asked about a Five-Year Plan.

Councilwoman Hurley stated that there was funding in this Budget for a Parks and Recreation Plan and that we also had a long-range Plan for paving roads.

Adm. Boney explained that the various departments put this together with a city-wide perspective.

Councilwoman Rutherford asked if the citizens of District 6 were going to have to pay taxes--that there was nothing for District 6 in this Budget.

Chairman Hakeem stated to Adm. Boney that the Council might ask him for a year-to-year breakout for districts. Adm. Boney responded that he would encourage the Council to talk to the Mayor about this; that he thought the Mayor would object to this.

Councilwoman Hurley stated that it was her impression that the road money and stormwater projects covered all districts; that it would be a perilous task to separate everything by district; that the Capital Budget is not on-going like the Operational Budget; that when we start projects under the Capital Budget we sometimes need to complete them.

Councilwoman Rutherford stated that she did not think an explanation of where the money has gone by districts was unrealistic.

Councilman Crockett suggested referring this task to Randy and get about the business of doing it.

Chairman Hakeem, thinking that Councilman Crockett was referring to Randy Nelson, suggested that Attorney Nelson talk to Administration about this. Councilman Crockett clarified that he was speaking of the Council's Management Analyst, Randy Burns.

Councilwoman Rutherford stated that this was public money and public projects and questioned why the public can't know where the money has gone.

Councilwoman Hurley stated that she thought Councilwoman Rutherford would be very surprised.

Councilman Crockett moved that Management Analyst Randy Burns prepare a break-down of where capital money has gone by district since the beginning of the Council form of government. This was seconded by Councilwoman Rutherford.

Chairman Hakeem verified that we were asking our Management Analyst to go back to the existence of the Council and review our capital spending by district.

Councilman Pierce questioned if we were going to do this just for argument's sake--that he thought it would show that a lot more money had been spent in his District and questioned the unusefulness of trying to levy for a particular district.

Councilwoman Hurley seconded Councilman Pierce's reasoning; that the opportunities and needs were greater in some areas such as the Downtown Area and Warner Park--that some projects are for the community as a whole, mentioning Greenway, Warner Park, and Coolidge Park. She stated she thought this kind of thing would work to the Council's disadvantage--that we might find nothing going into some districts.

Councilman Taylor explained that when he was talking about a break-down, he meant showing a projection of where we want to go, which he felt would be more advantageous to the City than where we had been--that we would be saying to a particular district "you're not here this year, but you will be here next year"; that he felt this would be a systematic way of dealing with it, and he would propose this instead of going back.

Chairman Hakeem stated that the request was to go back. Councilman Taylor stated that he wanted to look forward. Chairman Hakeem stated that "going forward" could be another stage of such a review and project; that a determination could be made whether something was

district-oriented or city-oriented.

Councilman Crockett stated that he thought such a review would be intriguing and could be a perilous path. He referred to an observation made by former Commissioner Paul Clark who said that the Council form of government would be about "five votes" or "dog eat dog".

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 P.M.