

**BUDGET, FINANCE, AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 30, 1999
4:15 P.M.**

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

Others present included Ann Coulter, Donna Kelley, Susan Dubose, and Mayor Kinsey. Steve Leach joined the meeting later.

FINLEY STADIUM APPROPRIATION

Mayor Kinsey stated that the County would be voting on a \$250,000 appropriation from their room tax for Finley Stadium tomorrow. He noted that City Government had not been asked to put up any money; that this was pro-active on the County's effort. He mentioned that Carter Street had taken this operation over in the middle of the summer to go to January and have a handle on this on an annual basis. He again stated that there was no intention to ask City Government for money at this time; that Carter Street was operating it efficiently.

Councilwoman Hurley asked about the debts guaranteed by pledges—if they would be handled by the Stadium Corp.

Councilman Pierce inquired how Carter Street intended to deal with catering. Mayor Kinsey responded that there is already catering in place, and he did not know about future plans. Councilman Pierce stated that he did not know what minority participation we have; that he had been approached about this, but he did not know if the minority that had asked him had the capability.

Councilman Eaves stated that he had suspected that we may be asked for some subsidy; that he expected that it would have to be subsidized for a few years, and he would be willing.

PURCHASE OF VAAP PROPERTY

Mayor Kinsey spoke regarding the Volunteer Site and our efforts during the last 2-3 decades. He stated that Steve Leach, Becky Browder, and Ken Hays had been working with himself and the County Executive to get to the point where we can acquire some property that we can offer to companies interested in putting jobs in this area. He stated that we were comfortable that we have a contract that will be acceptable; that at this point we have contracted to purchase 940 acres of the Volunteer site for \$7.5 million which will be shared equally between the City and the County—our portion being \$3,750,000.00. He stated that the County would be looking at the Resolution tomorrow; that he knew this was fast track, but he had just gotten this, and we needed to move quickly.

Steve Leach presented a map and Mayor Kinsey pointed out that we were very close to TDOT's proposed new Interstate Exchange. He noted that there were many acres not suitable for economic development; that we have to buy from the Federal Government the property for economic development; that this 940 acres is clean, and the Federal Government will not sell us property until it is declared clean. He explained that there is also a 41,000 sq. ft. building that Raytheon built and some assembly buildings and warehouses. He noted that the frontage was on Bonny Oaks Drive, and he would envision that it would be saved for a large user; that the City would have to put in some infrastructure.

Councilwoman Hurley asked about the infrastructure already in place. Mayor Kinsey responded that we recently put in sewers, but some will have to be redone; that Eastside Utility did put in water next to our sewers; that this was a great opportunity, and he recommended we pay for it from the Economic Development Fund. Councilwoman Hurley agreed that this was a great day. Councilman Pierce asked how much per acre we were paying, and Mayor Kinsey responded \$7,000 an acre, ignoring the buildings.

Councilman Eaves asked to be shown on the map where the old Railroad was. Mr. Leach noted that we have 20 miles of railroad and showed this on the map. Councilman Eaves asked if it would be possible to "shunt" off the main track, and the answer was "yes".

Mayor Kinsey stated that we would get more property later.

Councilman Pierce asked about the recreation acreage. Mayor Kinsey stated that there was 2800 acres. Councilman Pierce stated that when he first looked at this Resolution, he did not realize it was developmental property to use. Mayor Kinsey stated that it would be a great tool to offer and something we had not had in decades.

Councilwoman Hurley congratulated the Mayor, noting that he had been working on this a long time. Mayor Kinsey added that Chairman Lively and Councilman Franklin had joined him at the Press Conference.

Attorney Nelson stated that this would be on tonight's agenda.

On motion of Councilwoman Hurley, seconded by Councilman Lively, this will be recommended to the full Council.

CENSUS 2000

Ann Coulter was present in regards to the Resolution on tonight's agenda authorizing payment in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 for the Full Count Committee of the Census 2000. She stated that the County would give a like amount in an effort to get census forms filled out. She stated that this Budget would carry us through the end of May and Census Forms should be mailed in by April 1st; that if Census Forms are not received by mail that there will be people who will knock on doors to try to get the forms; that it needed to be spread by word of mouth that people should fill out these forms; that the Budget reflects where their efforts will go.

Ms. Coulter stated that Gloria McKeldin had been working on this, and we would see a lot more going on at the first of the year to get people comfortable with filling out these forms; that we were told that the last time a Census was taken, at least one-half of people under the age of 18 were not counted; that Hamilton County was urging local governments to have these kinds of efforts, and the County would be asked for a matching amount. She stated that Ms. McKeldin could tell the Council more about implementing this Budget.

Councilman Pierce verified that the total budget figure of \$81,000 was total City and County. (A copy of the Budget is filed with minute material).

Ms. McKeldin stated that she had been spending time contacting as many in the County as possible to be on the Full Count Committee; that she had also asked each Council person to chose someone to be on the Committee, and she urged them to please respond at their earliest opportunity. She pointed out that "**Count Me In**" was their logo. She stated that December 9th was the kick-off meeting at 5:30 P.M. at the Central City Complex; that she would send information on this later, but she wanted to tell the Council about this now so that they could pre-plan,. She explained that they would get this Committee formed and then it would be broken into smaller committees to work on different issues; that they wanted to make sure they touched everyone. She handed each person present a piece of candy.

Chairman Hakeem asked in dealing with PR if we were monitoring the census people in this area—that they did not show any "real spunk". Ms. Coulter responded that they were working as closely with the census people as possible; that they only had one person working nine counties, and they were spread thin; that the Census is a huge Federal operation and one hand does not know what the other hand is doing; that the nearest place where we can ask questions is Charlotte or Atlanta or further away, and they can't deliver information like they should.

Ms. McKeldin stated that they were going to produce brochures that she did not think people would mind reading; that the first distribution would be week after next and they were trying to reach 4500 families throughout the County to get this started, and it would also be on a web page. Also, a little booklet entitled "*Count Me In*" will be distributed with indepth questions.

Attorney Nelson questioned if they cross-checked the results the Census people came up with—if we were checking new births to see if they were being counted. Ms. Coulter responded that everything is based on addresses; that the check Public Works did for address listings resulted in 7,000 amended addresses. She stated that they did not check births—that everything is address-based and not open to appeals from local governments to do corrected counts; that they are not allowed by law to use this type of information. Attorney Nelson suggested going to the schools and being sure the Census people have the addresses of those enrolled in City Schools—just be sure they send these forms up front so they can get counted. Ms. Coulter responded that we had this opportunity last year—that we did do checking of all addresses and targeted apartment housing and more dense housing. Attorney Nelson also suggested cross-filing building permits. Ms. Coulter stated that we do this now; that we want this to work well, but it is an incredible endeavor and unbelievable effort, and we do work with the school system for the students to have something to take home.

Chairman Hakeem stated that he thought everyone understood the necessity of having this done right the first time; that we need to work on public service announcements; that it is to all of our benefit to make this count as accurate as possible.

Ms. Coulter noted that some people will only do it if someone they trust and know helps them with it—that it is a long form. Ms. McKeldin added that it only takes 38 minutes to fill out.

Attorney Nelson asked if there would be people to help other people with these long forms, and the answer was "yes".

Councilwoman Hurley asked about people who want to participate and don't receive their forms—if there will be a number for them to call—that people would be more inclined to make a phone call than to go somewhere. Ms. McKeldin responded that there would be a "Help Line" to help people fill out the forms. Councilwoman Hurley stated that there might be some forms that got lost and people won't go to a lot of trouble to see that they get a form. Ms. Coulter responded that ideally, if you don't get a form, an enumerator should come out to see you.

FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT OF 1938 EXEMPTIONS

Ms. Kelley explained that a Resolution on next week's agenda, establishing new exemptions under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, pursuant to Section 2-152(a) of the Chattanooga City Code identified a list of positions that are exempt, and it will be addressed next week. Ms. Kelley explained that the Chattanooga City Code portion includes how we want to pay for current positions and may not have to do this; that these are our own provisions and if we compare it with the Federal guidelines it gets too confusing and she elected to run them separately.

Councilman Eaves stated that he wanted to be double clear—you may see some positions that are supervisory and exempt but the Ordinance has special provisions that we will pay them.

On motion of Councilwoman Rutherford, seconded by Councilwoman Hurley, the above will be recommended to the full Council.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 P.M.