

BUDGET, FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
January 25, 2011

Councilwoman Berz, Chairman, called the meeting of the Budget, Finance and Personnel Committee to order with Councilmen Benson, Gilbert, Ladd, Scott, Murphy, McGary, Rico and Ladd present. City Attorney Mike McMahan, Management Analyst Randy Burns and Council Clerk Carol O'Neal were also present.

Others present included Daisy Madison, Dan Johnson and Donna Kelley.

Councilwoman Berz distributed the budget calendar for 2011 and noted non-profit requests were reflected as due on February 1 and should be changed to a due date of February 4; that a revised form has been developed that encompasses all the concerns Council members had earlier. She stated the document reflects March 1 as the date the total request for the operating budget would be given to the Council and suggested that the Council read the remainder of the schedule as printed. She stated a time should be set for next month to seriously discuss what the procedure will be for consideration of the budget as a process needs to be formalized and on record. She stated Councilman McGary needs to meet in the morning hours and suggested two dates: February 8 from 10 a.m. – 12 noon or some other time that day noting that the meeting will be outside the regular budget meeting of the Council; that the other date for consideration is February 20 prior to the Audit Committee meeting.

Councilman Gilbert asked for alternate times as he cannot be present some times during the morning hours.

Councilwoman Berz stated that this would be the first meeting and the schedule would be set accordingly; that there would be alternate times scheduled. She thanked administration and Randy Burns as everything is being recorded; that there will not be any tapes lost or crashed as happened previously; that everything is being recorded even as we speak.

Councilman McGary agreed February 8 from 10 a.m. – 12 Noon would be possible and noted Paul Page contacted him regarding a presentation of the lease program and asked if other Council members are interested in attending. Councilwoman Berz inquired if this is the same request Councilman McGary made previously regarding purchasing, to which he responded "no"; that Mr. Page contacted him personally and he (McGary) responded that he wanted Council members to receive the information, as well, as asked if this would take place when Councilwoman Berz' Committee normally meets.

Councilwoman Berz responded that she would like to set the first meeting as there are a lot of issues and would set a time to hear from Mr. Page; that there is a lot of discussion about revenue and the sales tax issue which Councilwoman Scott will be looking at.

Councilwoman Berz stated that she met several hours with Daisy Madison on yesterday and there are a lot of pieces to this; that she wants the process to be totally transparent, open and everything! She stated she would prefer to just set the first meeting and decide when we want to meet and what topics covered.

Councilwoman Berz stated one of the questions will be what to do about the sales tax and Councilwoman Scott may want to discuss that and noted the Council would be receiving the non-profit requests and asked them to think about whether they want to have any hearings. She stated she would like for everyone to be present for the first date, February 8 from 10 a.m. – 12 noon.

Councilwoman Robinson stated she was interested in seeing the new non-profit draft whenever it is available. Randy Burns indicated he would distribute it to the Council tonight.

Councilwoman Berz stated the non-profit form has all kinds of input including finance and administration; that they are asking for much greater accountability and thinks the Council will be pleased with the way it has been reworked as all comments were taken and noted one of the questions is how the agency intends to become independent of the city if they do intend to become independent. She stated the form requests that they do a lot of thinking so agencies that need the City's help can receive it as funds are limited and we need to think carefully. She stated Randy Burns has it on his computer and the forms needs to go out as we are behind time as it is.

The date of February 8 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon was confirmed and agreed to by all in attendance for the work session.

Councilwoman Berz stated that the other thing follows upon Councilwoman Ladd's comments as she does not ever want to silence any questions whatsoever as that is how we all learn and the public learns. She stated if the Council plans to ask questions of Daisy, Dan (Johnson), the Fire Chief or others to please give them a "heads up" so they can give the answers and have those on record.

On motion of Councilman McGary, seconded by Councilman Gilbert, the minutes of the previous Budget, Finance and Personnel Committee were duly approved as published.

The meeting was adjourned.