

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

FY 2001/2002 Budget Workshop Meeting
August 21, 2002

The City Commission met in a workshop session Wednesday, August 21, 2002, at 9:40 a.m. in the de Aviles room at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Alexander, and the following were present:

1. Roll Call:

Mark Alexander, Mayor/City Commissioner
Raymond Connor, City Commissioner
Susan Burk, City Commissioner
William Lennon, City Commissioner
Henry F. Green, III, City Commissioner

William B. Harriss, City Manager
Jack E. Cubbedge, Assistant City Manager
James P. Wilson, City Attorney
Timothy A. Burchfield, Director, General Services
Mark Knight, Director, Planning and Building Department
Mark Litzinger, Director, Financial Services
Mark Simpson, Financial Services
John Regan, Director, Utilities
William H. Harding, Director, Public Works
James Owens, Fire Chief
Paul Williamson, Public Affairs
Dr. William Adams, Director, Heritage Tourism
Jason Sheffield, Administrative Grants Analyst
Martha V. (Nell) Porter, City Clerk
Karen Rogers, Recording Secretary

Also Present:

Shawna Sundin, Florida Times Union
Peter Guinta, St. Augustine Record
Gina Burrell

**2. REVIEW OF THE FY 2002/2003
CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE BUDGET.**

William B. Harriss, City Manager, stated that the largest part of the budget was conducted by Tim Burchfield and Mark Litzinger. He explained that the budget was a monitoring process throughout the year to be sure that they were staying within the plan, and to observe how the City reacted to changes in the

economy. He indicated that due to the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001 the City had held off on certain expenditures until they were on comfortable financial ground.

General Fund ¹

Mark Litzinger, Director, Financial Services, explained that the budget was a year round process of constant

¹ Hard copy of the power point presentation attached to the original minutes

monitoring and updating. He said the process that was most familiar encompassed five months beginning in May with staff meetings to distribute schedules, materials, and assumptions to the directors. He said in June the directors submitted expenditure and revenue estimates, whereupon the finance department did a philosophical review of the budget. He stated that in July the tax roll was certified, departmental expense reviews were completed, and a tentative millage resolution was adopted. He said in August the budget was balanced and City Commission workshops conducted, and in September the budget was finalized with two public hearings.

Mr. Harriss noted that the City always allocated two days for budget hearing; however, the current Commission had been through the budget process repeatedly, therefore the allocated time might not be necessary.

Mr. Litzinger referred to the page in the power point presentation listing the departments within the fund. He stated that the projection indicated that 2002/2003 revenues would exceed expenditures by approximately \$141,000, because of ad valorem taxes, sales and use taxes, franchise fees, and communications services tax.

Mr. Harriss stated that they had been conservative on the revenue side of the budget, therefore, there had been no ill effects in the general fund from the 9-11 attack.

Mr. Litzinger said the majority of the City's federal grants were through the law enforcement program. He said the Career Criminal Program grant was in the third year of a four year grant, and the City had received approximately \$39,000 to install an officer at the

States Attorney's Office, which had been a successful program. He said the City had received \$33,000 for the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant, which was used for technology and equipment.

Mr. Harriss explained that the City had a swat like program that served as a Community Service Unit team. He added that the City did not have the equipment or training for a normal swat team, therefore if there was a situation requiring that service the City would request help from the Sheriff's Office or Jacksonville. However, he said there were situations the City officers could handle; moreover, the team environment encouraged officers to stay with the City.

Mr. Harris referred to the exhibits noting that the City had received considerable funds through grants.

Mr. Litzinger continued that the City had received \$30,000 from the Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission, which had been used to remove eight derelict vessels from the St. Augustine waterways.

Mr. Harriss stated that some of the vessels were not within the City limits; however, they intruded on the City's visual landscape, therefore they had been removed.

Commissioner Connor commented that there were other boats that were not considered derelict that should be removed, but it took 9-12 months to classify a boat derelict, therefore it was a continuous project.

Mr. Litzinger stated that the City had received a \$300,000 grant from the Department of State, Division of Historic Resources to renovate the east tower of the Alcazar, and the

renovation had recently been completed. He said the City had received a Florida Recreation Development Assistant Program grant to construct passive recreation at Pomar Park, from which the City had constructed a 130-foot pier, landscaping, sidewalks and a gazebo.

Mr. Harriss reported that the park would be ready for ground breaking within a couple of weeks. He added that the City had further plans for the park.

Mr. Litzinger said the City had received a State Resources Grant for the Santo Domingo Redoubt to reconstruct part of the Cubo Line, and completion was expected by the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Litzinger referred to the projection of the seawall after hurricane Floyd and tropical storm Gabrielle, which had damaged the seawall south of the Santa Maria Restaurant. He said the City had received various funding for the seawall, and they were developing the conceptual plan with community participation for reconstruction.

Mr. Litzinger noted that the EPA clean up of the Sebastian Inland Harbor had been completed.

Mr. Harriss stated that the contamination was a hundred years old making the clean-up significant. He said the clean-up was handled jointly by the EPA, Atlanta Gas and the City.

Mr. Litzinger noted that the City sponsored events were the summer concerts and fourth of July fireworks, both of which had been successful.

Mr. Litzinger reported that the new fire station would be completed by the end of the year or shortly thereafter.

Mr. Harriss pointed out that the new station was state of the art and the best on in northeast Florida, plus the new location was ideal.

Mr. Litzinger stated that the new Target store and the bank on SR 312 had been major developments, which increased the tax base. He said the City had paved 15 streets primarily north of town and in the Davis Shores area.

Mr. Litzinger stated that some of the other City accomplishments were as follows:

- Purchased Fixed Asset System
- Expanded Handicap Accessibility Program
- Revised Recreation Interlocal Agreement with county
- Expanded Sidewalk Replacement Program
- Received 9th Consecutive CAFR Award
- Implemented fleet Maintenance System
- Completed Upgrade of City Web Site
- Expanded the Nights of Lights
- Hosted Olympic Torch Relay

Mr. Litzinger referred to the graph of the proposed revenue sources and said that ad valorem taxes composed the majority of that revenue.

Mr. Harriss pointed out that ten years earlier 40% of the City's taxable value had not been on the tax rolls; however, currently it was close to 35% as a result of annexations of taxable property.

Commissioner Burk questioned at what point in the year the City received the assessed value of property from the County.

Mr. Harriss pointed out that the assessment was completed by January 1st of the assessment date of record, and it had to be certified by July 1st.

Commissioner Burk clarified that when they established the millage they could not establish the amount of money generated for the year.

Mr. Litzinger referred to the graph depicting the intergovernmental revenue indicating that the county provided .2%, the state 13.%, grants .7% and sales taxes 6.9%.

Mr. Harriss pointed out that the state provided the bulk of the revenues based on population.

Commissioner Burk questioned whether the City received a portion of the bed tax.

Mr. Harriss replied that the bed tax was designated to the county, and the City automatically received \$50,000 but requested \$60,000 for the Nights of Lights and different amounts for special events.

Mr. Litzinger referred to the graph indicating the City expenditure categories, in which 38% was designated for public safety.

Commissioner Lennon questioned what the 6.9% for transportation represented.

Mr. Harriss replied that it was for street lights, street sweeping, and rebuilding. He explained that public safety was for police and fire, as well as building and code enforcement.

Mr. Litzinger briefly indicated the graphs for general government expenditure, physical environment expenditure, and public safety. He

said the general fund proposed budget was \$16,052,363, and they were decreasing the millage rate 0.2 mills for the 5th consecutive year saving taxpayers \$159,484.

Mr. Harriss referred to another display indicating the tax levy and millage analysis for the past five years. He said the community tax reduction was 1.6 million dollars over what had been assessed five years earlier.

UTILITES

Mr. Harriss referred to the projection of the water plant, which had been built early in the twentieth century and converted to the water plant.

John Regan, Director, Utilities, explained that the utility function was to bring in water, treat it for safety, distribute it to the customer base, collect back wastewater to process, and recycle it back into the environment. He said there were six division to accomplish that function as follows:

- Administration
- Water Treatment
- Meter Maintenance
- Wastewater Treatment
- Transmission & Distribution
- Pump Stations

Mr. Regan said the past fiscal year projections had indicated that the utility fund was financially stable with a \$4,771 surplus. He said the previous year activities included:

- Treatment and distribution in excess 1.119 billions gallons of water
- Treated in excess of 1.453 billion gallons of wastewater.
- Reused approximately 100 million gallons of treated wastewater

Mr. Regan pointed out that the City had a reclaimed water system at the water plant, which was focused on industrial processes, such as washing out the garbage trucks daily, and irrigation around the treatment plan.

Mayor Alexander questioned whether there were any grants for reclaimed water programs.

Mr. Regan replied that there was minimal grant funding for reclaimed water, because there was an economic hurdle to get into such programs.

Mr. Harriss pointed out that the purple pipe visible throughout town and the state carried reclaimed water, but the cost of modifying the plant and pumping to various areas was prohibitive. He said one reason they had moved the solid waste administrative operation to the water plant was to utilize reclaimed water.

Mayor Alexander questioned whether reclaimed water could be used at the Galimore Center.

Mr. Harriss replied that the level of treatment had to be taken into consideration in a recreation area.

Mr. Regan said the Utility Department had participated in a county wide reclaimed water study and the economic hurdle was in a charge of \$10.00 per thousand gallons. He said they were looking into unrestricted use of reclaimed water for irrigation of ball fields etc. in terms of meeting high level disinfection. He said a high level of treatment was possible but expensive.

- Installed over 32,000 LF of new water lines
- Installed over 3,800 LF of new sanitary sewer lines

- Installed over 13,000 LF of new force main

Mr. Regan said the last fiscal year activities included systems expansion into the US 1 north area, West Augustine and there had been continued expansion of Vista Cove.

Commissioner Connor questioned the situation with replacement lines.

Mr. Regan said they had replaced one of the main feeder lines on Davis Shores along with adjusting water quality, which had reduced customer complaint by approximately 90%. He said that was phase one of a three phase program of main system replacement in that region. He said they had replaced a tremendous amount of sewer systems on the west side of town. He noted that they had also developed a better sense of control with a new work order system that would guide decision making regarding replacement. He explained that they had put a higher emphasis on replacement of defective fire hydrants.

Mr. Regan said that in the 2002/2003 fiscal year utilities would continue growth in the Harbour Isle commercial area, SR 312 residential development, north service area and Olde Sebastain Pointe.

Mr. Regan stated that the residential connection fee policy had been successful allowing citizens to connect to City water and sewer with monthly payments.

Mr. Harriss noted that the City Commission had been responsible for that policy, as in the past there had not been a financing program.

Mr. Wilson stated that they were secure loans conducted through a mortgage process.

Mr. Harriss clarified that it was a low interest loan providing the City with the full connection fee.

Mr. Regan mentioned that there were plans for a 38-unit subdivision in north city and another 11-unit subdivision that would be connecting to the existing system.

Mr. Regan continued that from a long-term objective they would add two additional wells to the well field for reliability, as some of the wells and equipment were getting old.

Mr. Harriss stated that the City owned the site for the wells close to nine mile road, therefore the process would be easy.

Mr. Regan continued that every year lift stations required rehabilitation. He revealed that the masterplan for the water treatment plant had been completed, as well as the long-term viability of the water plant. He said that the key issue was to add another unit reactor clarifier, which was the heart of the plant, and currently they had only one. He emphasized that they needed a higher degree of reliability in the plant.

Mr. Harriss agreed that the City needed another reactor clarifier for reliability, plus it would add to capacity. He noted that it would cost approximately two million dollars to build. He added that they wanted to continue to work out of the old plant as the building was historic and fitting for St. Augustine.

Mr. Regan clarified that to build a new plant would encompass 80-acres and

cost approximately eleven million dollars.

Mr. Harriss said that if they did move the plant it would be to the area where the garage was currently located, and the plant would be the only thing existing on the site.

Commissioner Burk pointed out that the land the water plant presently sat on was increasingly valuable.

Mr. Harriss stated that the City would conduct a workshop to present a masterplan to the Commission.

Mr. Regan continued that the revenue sources were divided between water and sewer. He said the expense categories remained the same with the debt service in the range of a well operated utility. He concluded that the utilities proposed budget for 2002/2003 was \$11,283,590 without increase in water or sewer rates. He noted that in the past 5-years they had reduced the water rates close to 5% and the sewer rates by 14%.

STORMWATER FUND

Mr. Harriss referred to the projection of the damaged seawall during flooding. He said not only was the water over the seawall, but the wall was actually porous. He said the improvements on the seawall could not work by themselves, as the physical wall required repair.

Mr. Regan stated that the projection was an example of a lift station underwater. He said the lid on a lift station was not water tight, therefore the sea water got into the station, which was then pumped to the plant, therefore the wastewater plant treated a great deal of water.

Commissioner Lennon questioned why the lids were not sealed.

Mr. Regan replied that generally a lift station was designed for above sea level. He stated that continued work to reduce the issue was ongoing, and included sealing. He said that there were numerous ongoing stormwater projects in all parts of the City, therefore they had to check the original masterplan to measure progress. He said the 82 acre Maria Sanchez basin project was on the forefront as the lake was on the brink of disaster. He said there was significant progress on the Orange Street basin project, which would solve some long-standing problems. He noted that they had implemented stormwater improvements for the new Fire Station.

Mr. Harriss pointed out that the improvements were not for the new Fire Station, but they had been initiated because of the construction for the Fire Station. He said that currently the system from Malaga Street to the San Sebastian was quite good, therefore some streets had tied into it and more would in the future.

Mr. Regan noted that they had installed a one-way valve alleviating flooding on the eastside of Sebastian River bridge at King Street; however the westside would still flood, as the pipes on that side could not support the one-way valve. He said that a one-way valve on the southern side of Davis Shores had completely solved the flooding problem. He said they would install new valves on the bayfront; however, the seawall would continue to present a flooding problem.

Commissioner Green questioned the degree of maintenance problems involved with the valves.

Mr. Regan replied that trash and debris did get into the valves, but the new system did not clog as easily, and there was a maintenance program to keep abreast of the issue. He added that maintenance checked and cleaned the valves before a big storm.

Mr. Regan stated that the 2002/2003 proposed stormwater budget was \$733,213, which was down as a result of interest rates and the economy, and there would be no increase in residential or commercial rates.

Mr. Harriss stated that he was pleased with the success of the stormwater program.

A brief discussion ensued regarding some of the stormwater projects and the masterplan.

Solid Waste Fund

William H. Harding, Director, Public Works, reported that there was a savings of approximately \$61,000 for the 2001/2002 fiscal year. He acknowledged Charlie Hill and his crew for running a dedicated professional operation.

Mr. Harriss pointed out that the new plant had been constructed by City forces, and though it cost \$300,000 to build, the building was appraised at a million dollars. He noted that the style of the building was inexpensive but functional. He said that included in the Masterplan would be a new garage similar to the aforementioned building. He added that the building had been constructed oversized to provide storage for the City and some of the lights for the Nights of Lights were kept there.

Mr. Harding said that some of the 2001/2002 accomplishments were as follows:

- ◆ Collected over 23,000 tons of solid waste
- ◆ Recycled approximately 17% of solid waste collected
- ◆ Expanded the residential and commercial cart program

Mr. Harriss said the cart program was an asset for the citizens, as well as the City because there were hydraulic lifts on the back of the trucks to pick them up, thereby saving on workman's compensation.

- ◆ Expanded compactor service to commercial customers

Mr. Harriss noted that the City had replaced a number of dumpsters with a walled compactor on St. George Street. He said that in the downtown historical area the City wanted to eliminate those esthetic problems. He added that they wanted to install another compactor on the north end of St. George Street also. He said that the compactor required a special truck, which the City contracted from BFI; however, eventually the City would purchase a truck.

Mr. Harding continued that proposed 2002/2003 fiscal year activities were as follows:

- ◆ Continue expansion of semi-automatic collection for commercial customers
- ◆ Continue expansion of semi-automatic collection for residential customers
- ◆ Continue expansion of compactor service for large developments

Mr. Harding said they anticipated a surplus of \$60,959, and they had managed to maintain the rates for the past 10-years.

Municipal Marina Fund

Timothy A. Burchfield, Director, General Services, reported that for the fiscal year 2001/2002 the marina was projecting a surplus in excess of \$67,000. He said the marina had suffered some damage from Tropical Storm Gabrielle, but not as excessive as Hurricane Floyd.

Mr. Burchfield stated that the activities for 2001/2002 were as follows:

- Staged the annual Blessing of the Fleet
- Hosted the 10th annual King Buster Classic Fishing Tournament
- Hosted the 8th annual King Fish Challenge Fishing Tournament
- Continued repairs and renovations on the south dock
- Implemented no-charge pump-out program

Mr. Burchfield noted that the City received a state grant for the pump head that was installed at the t-head on the south end, which made two pump-out stations. He noted that there had been an increase in usage since they had implemented the no charge policy.

- Repaired damages caused by tropical storm Gabrielle

Mr. Burchfield stated that the cost for the repairs was approximately \$80,000, the majority of which was covered by FEMA funding. He said the cost to the City would be approximately \$12,000. He said the proposed activities for the fiscal year 2002/2003 were as follows:

- Continued development of five year infrastructure maintenance plan
- Continued improvement to strengthen both north and south docks

- Continue efforts to attract and host major events
- Study fuel tank replacement due to change out in Fiscal Year 2003/2004

Mr. Burchfield noted that currently there were two 12,000 gallon tanks underground that according to state mandate were due for replacement by the year 2009. He said they hoped to accomplish the replacement by 2003/2004, and they wanted to increase the capacity to 15,000 gallons.

Mr. Burchfield stated that they intended to conduct a study on the breakwater system north of the north dock, because currently the north dock was serving as a breakwater.

Commissioner Green questioned how the breakwater would be constructed.

Mr. Harriss replied that it would probably be a heavy floater.

Mr. Burchfield said they had researched some new technologies on breakwaters that was impressive.

Commissioner Green noted that Fort Pierce had a floating breakwater, and it worked well.

Mr. Burchfield said that hopefully the breakwater would be used for extra dockage in normal weather.

Mr. Burchfield referred to the projected graph indicating revenue sources as primarily from gas and diesel sales and dockage. He said the decrease was due to the diminished gas and diesel sales since 9-11. He said the proposed 2002/2003 budget was \$1,145,609 with no increase in dockage or associated rates.

Heritage Tourism Fund

Dr. William Adams, Director, Heritage Tourism, (which included the Visitor Information Center), reported that there were five divisions in the Heritage Tourism Fund as follows:

- ❖ Administration
- ❖ Facilities Maintenance
- ❖ Spanish Quarter Museum
- ❖ Museum Store
- ❖ Support Organization

Dr. Adams reviewed the Heritage Tourism activities for 2001/2002 as follows:

- ❖ Obtained over \$100,000 in state and local grants
- ❖ Sponsored the Menendez Birthday Festival
- ❖ Published "The Royal Visit to St. Augustine"

Mr. Harriss noted that Dr. Adams had written 99% of the book.

Dr. Adams noted that the city of Aviles had purchased 800 copies of the book.

- ❖ Supervised conservation of the Queen Isabella Statue
- ❖ Improved entrance access to the Colonial Spanish Quarter Museum
- ❖ Restored the West Garden located adjacent to the government House

Mr. Harriss stated that the west garden had been completed with the exception of the fountain, as the City was waiting for molds from Aviles.

Dr. Adams stated that the activities proposed for the fiscal year 2002/2003 were as follows:

- ❖ Implement the children's hands-on exhibit program
- ❖ Open the Taberna de Gallo (Tavern of the Rooster)

- ❖ Relocate Government House Museum to the VIC (to allow more visitor access)
- ❖ Publish the St. Augustine national register map
- ❖ Develop plans for the museum entrance on Castillo Drive

Dr. Adams referred to the projection indicating that the proposed revenue sources were composed primarily of the museum store, rental fees, museum admissions, support organizations and state funding.

Dr. Adams referred to the graph for proposed expense categories indicating the museum store, Spanish Quarter Museum, facilities maintenance, administration and support organizations.

Dr. Adams stated that they were budgeting \$1,562,400 for the 2002/2003 fiscal year.

Mayor Alexander questioned whether an entrance from Castillo Drive would be of any help to the VIC.

Mr. Harriss explained that the City was still trying to solve the issue of the Mary Peck House. He said it was an old house; however, it had no historic significance.

Mayor Alexander questioned how much it would cost to move the house.

Mr. Harriss replied that the cost was approximately \$40,000, as it was a large two story structure. He said the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee had recommended demolition, therefore the City had requested HARB's permission to do so. He added that the City had not given up on moving the house, but if funding was secured for the entrance, the City would have to make a decision.

Visitor Information Center Fund

Dr. Adams stated that the Visitor Information Center continued to expand its offerings during the 2001/2002 fiscal year while showing a modest excess of revenue over expenses, and some of the activities were as follows:

- ❖ Provided information to over 500,000 visitors
- ❖ Increased advertising and kiosk rentals
- ❖ Received a grant to restore windows in the main building
- ❖ Continued the landscaping and beautification of the VIC grounds
- ❖ Improved signage within the VIC grounds

Dr. Adams pointed out that many tourists visited St. Augustine and parked at the VIC without being aware of the center, therefore the signage had made a difference.

Dr. Adams stated that the proposed activities for the 2002/2003 fiscal year were as follows:

- ❖ Expand Heritage Tourism Signage Program
- ❖ Offer more advertisement choices
- ❖ Initiate advertising to promote visitor use of the VIC
- ❖ Transfer Government House Museum to the VIC
- ❖ Implement program to increase attendance at City museums

Dr. Adams referred to the projected graph and said the bulk of the proposed revenue sources were parking fees, rental fees, and TDC funding. He said the proposed expense categories were visitor services and debt services.

Dr. Adams said that for 2002/2003 fiscal year they were projecting a small surplus. He said they intended to increase parking fees from \$3.00 to \$4.00 per day

A discussion resulted regarding the parking fees, and it was determined that local residents had to be considered, the parking funds from the VIC were used for VIC purposes only, and it was time to raise the rates on City parking meters also. ²

Community Redevelopment Agency Fund

Jason Sheffield, Administrative Analyst and Grants Coordinator, referred to the projection indicating the historic transportation and parking Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) area. He explained that the improvement plan included the following:

- Construct and maintain parking garages at strategic locations
- Maintain and improve existing sidewalks
- Enhance pedestrian area and streetscapes
- Study changes to traffic patterns and implement as appropriate
- Implement Heritage Tourism Signage Program

Mr. Sheffield reported that within the subsequent five years the City would be included within the DOT 5-year work program to implement signage. He added that the City would have to match the funding, and CRA revenues would serve as a source.

- Encourage and enhance bicycle usage
- Periodically evaluate transit needs

- Implement transit system(s) when practical.

Mr. Sheffield stated that the activities for the 2001/2002 fiscal year were as follows:

- Completed design for the Lightner parking facility
- Initiated bid process for construction of the Lightner parking facility
- Continued negotiations on San Sebastian project for public parking

Mr. Sheffield stated that the projected activities for the 2002/2003 fiscal year were as follows:

- Begin construction of the first parking facility
- Further assess feasibility of additional parking structures

Mr. Sheffield said that the budget for the coming year was \$259,049, which represented a modest increase in revenues and expenses.

Mayor Alexander questioned how the areas for the parking garages had been chosen.

Jack E. Cubbedge, Assistant City Manager, replied that the Transit Greenway Study had identified the areas.

Mr. Harriss said the 1995 program also identified the areas. He added that the potential areas had been identified since the 1980's. He stated that the CRA encompassed the commercial areas not the residential areas, although there was some intrusion. He added that the revenue could only be collected from and used for the CRA area. He noted that the Commission was the actual agency. He said the county funded half the program as a result of their

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participation. He added that the state legislature had changed their policy the year after the City had secured the CRA, and currently the program could not be initiated without the county's permission.

Mr. Harriss stated that the budget represented what the department directors felt was necessary to run their departments for the year. He invited the Commissioners input in the event that modifications were required. He stated that he agreed with the Commission regarding the parking meter rates being too low.

Mayor Alexander stated that he did not like to raise rates; however, they had to keep perspective, and if they were to raise the VIC parking rates they should consider raising the parking meter rates.

Mr. Harriss pointed out that raising rates would make parking garages more attractive as people would not have to continue to put money in parking meters at fifty cents an hour. He added that many cities were charging a dollar an hour on their parking meters.

Commissioner Burk stated that they had talked for years about City decals for residents. She said that she would like to include funds in the budget to implement a plan of administering decals.

Mr. Harriss noted that providing decals for residents would be considered constitutional, which was the first hurdle for implementing a decal parking program. He said how it would work or how much it would cost was not clear, but he had a committee working on the issue. He suggested that the program include a fee for the decals, because if it was free everyone would want one.

Commissioner Burk said that the details could entail considerable discussion. She suggested that once the program had been implemented for the City perhaps it could be expanded to county residents. She stated that they had to start some place.

Commissioner Connor noted that implementing a decal program could attract the community downtown.

Mr. Harriss stated that they would rearrange the budget to include funds for the program.

Commissioner Burk noted that City residents paid high taxes, therefore they should get some perks.

Mr. Harriss suggested that they work toward a parking meter revenue increase, and the increase could fund the entire system. He said that meanwhile they could work on the program to provide the Commissioners with options.

Commissioner Burk noted that they needed to put visitor cars in certain areas and give some of the street parking back to the residents and encourage them to go downtown.

Mr. Harriss invited further questions.

A brief discussion ensued when it was determined that they would increase the parking rate at the VIC to \$5.00 and increase the parking meters to fifty cents an hour.

Commissioner Burk suggested a student competition to design the decals.

Mayor Alexander congratulated the division heads for their work on the budget, and the other Commissioners agreed that the City Manager had done a fine job.

3. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

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MAYOR

CITY CLERK