

URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL
BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE SUMMARY

JANUARY 29, 2008

Dr. Stevens chaired the committee meeting, calling it to order at 1:00 pm. All committee members were present.

I. General Fund Revenue December 2007

Commissioner Koch gave an overview of the General Fund Revenue for period ending December 31, 2007. She stated she does not have a firm carry forward number yet for 2007. She stated they need another two or three weeks. Commissioner Koch stated everything except for the revenue side has been turned over to the auditors and they are making progress.

CM Blevins asked if Commissioner Koch expects to see a surprise when the carry forward number is finalized.

Commissioner Koch stated not really she thinks the 13.5 is probably very close to where we will be. She stated staff is in the process of going through approximately 3400 lines of purchase orders and closing some out from previous years. She stated they have freed up approximately 3 million by doing this.

CM Blevins asked about the sick payout figure.

Commissioner Koch stated she has different figures this week than she had last week and has not had a chance to look into why they are different. She stated it is in the millions. She stated they know that January will be a higher month for personnel numbers because of the payouts. She stated they are watching the retirement bills very closely in Frankfort.

CM Blevins asked when they can expect to hear an overall approach about the soft revenue that they are experiencing.

Commissioner Koch stated hopefully within two to three weeks.

CM Blevins asked if at the next Budget and Finance meeting they can expect to see proper STARS reporting information.

Commissioner Koch stated absolutely unless something goes completely off the charts.

CM Blevins stated if they are unable to do so then they need Commissioner Koch's best effort. He asked for actuals for comparisons on the next report.

CM Stinnett asked if the property tax accounts on the draft report include the money collected from the library.

Commissioner Koch stated yes it does.

CM Stinnett asked about personnel cost.

Commissioner Koch stated we are down a little bit.

CM Lane stated he is concerned that our last audited report is June 2006.

Commissioner Koch stated they made the decision to rebuild the revenue side of this so they could be clean as possible going forward.

CM Lane asked how things are going with monthly budgeting.

Commissioner Koch stated they have a meeting with Metaformers later this week. She stated they hope to have the monthly budgeting model available for 2009.

CM Gorton asked for more details regarding the purchase orders.

Commissioner Koch stated there were purchase orders on the mainframe that had money encumbered from prior years. She stated that money had been reserved in the fund balance so on the reports for those years the money was already spent. As they started working on the purchase orders they found a number of the ones rolled forward should have already been closed. In 2007 they had the issue of people learning to use the system and purchase orders encumbered money that people didn't mean to. She stated staff is going through all these to determine if purchase orders are active or needs to be closed. She stated they are going to start monitoring these monthly. She stated they are closed out through purchasing.

John Cubine, Senior Advisor for Policy and Budget, stated in building this years budget in terms of payroll they will look at current year salaries. He stated they are looking into filled positions and authorized strengths. He stated they are working on the budget and majority of the budgets will be in by the end of the month. He stated they are looking very carefully at the 13.5 carry forward number. He stated they will begin budget hearings around the middle of February.

Dr. Stevens asked when the management study will be available.

Mr. Cubine stated sometime in February.

Dr. Stevens asked if we can examine functions of employees that are no longer here to see if we contracted out for their work.

Mr. Cubine stated that is something they can report to the committee.

CM Stinnett asked what month end date budget will be used.

Mr. Cubine stated they will have to pick a date and this has not been picked yet.

CM Stinnett stated if we could get through the end of January that would be great.

CM Blevins asked if it is their intent to bring a structurally balanced budget this year.

Mr. Cubine stated they are not at that point in terms of discussions.

CM Lane asked if budget surplus was because expenses were less than projected.

Commissioner Koch stated it was both expenses and revenue was coming in at more than a hundred percent and expenses were coming in less. She stated they can get Council a report on it.

II. Discussion on Council Link

Dr. Stevens stated Council Links started six to eight years ago. He stated he would like to see Council continue this. He asked if they wanted to change links. Dr. Stevens stated the Department of Environmental Quality and Public Works be combined in the same link. He asked the committee to report to him which link they would like to serve on.

CM Gorton stated she favors shuffle of the members and chairs on the links.

Dr. Stevens stated the CIO will fall under the General Government link.

Vice Mayor Gray stated he will be discussing with CM Henson as to which committees she would like to be on and report back to the committee.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.