COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
May 26, 2009

Vice Mayor Gray chaired the meeting calling it to order at 1:00 pm. He gave a brief preview of the purpose and scope of council links and how they pertain to the budget process. All council members present, except CM Lane.

Council Link Report Outs:

FY 2010 Budget Links – Finance, Budgeting, Social Services, Outside Agencies

CM Henson covered links recommendations for the departments of Finance and Administration with no changes to the Mayor's proposed budget except in the Division of Human Resources. Which are YMCA membership subsidies for non-collective bargaining employees and LFUCG sponsored optional flu immunizations, recommended changes totaling $110,000.00.

CM James and Gorton had questions about the wellness programs and CM Beard asked if any other organizations other than YMCA offered discounts. Bill O'Mara said we don't subsidize any others. Michael Allen answered questions about discounts and the YMCA price structure.

Henson explained recommendations for the department of Social Services that included creating a new position of Social Services Coordinator for Black & Williams Center reassign interim Recreation Supervisor and a Program Administrator for Day Treatment Center, with salary and benefits included, bring the total net recommended changes for Social Services to $108,172.00.

General Government Links Report

CM Blues presented recommendations for several divisions and departments included under General Government, most of which included no changes to the Mayor's proposed budget. The recommended changes were:

Commonwealth Attorney: $6000.00 in legal professional services account.

Corner $30,040.00 link recommendation to allow corner office to go through reclassification process with possible increases of 7.5%-12% based on the market study and unique duties.

Council Office Administration total link recommendations +/- $95,701.00

CM Crosbie questioned the economic development fund recommendation of $25K.

Council Districts total link recommendation total link recommendations +/- $8470.00

Council Clerk additions to operating supplies/expenses $48,000.00

CM Feigel noted she is a member of a committee looking at staffing in Council Administration, Council Clerk and Citizen's Advocate offices and may have recommendations regarding resources as a result of that committee's findings at a later date.

Special Projects addition of $4000.00 to Sister Cities and deleting $45,000.00 from the arts program.

CM Martin expressed concern with a reduction in the arts program saying these organizations operate on a "purse string" and this would create hardships.

VM Gray asked Jerry Southers, Budget Analysis to address protocol for dealing with questions relating to link recommendations. Southers advised limiting questions to clarify and understand the recommendations. Any in depth questions or opposition should be reserved for future meetings where individual recommendations are voted up or down.

Office of Budget & Policy total link recommendation deleting $153,180.00 for civil service salaries and benefits.

Budgeting addition of $153,177.00 civil service salaries and benefits.

Internal Audit addition of $140,000.00 payroll, 2 remaining unfilled auditor positions.

Government Communications deletion of $10,227.00 civil service salaries, benefits.

Computer Services highlighted creation of a new division (which is already in the Mayor's proposed budget) with consideration of budget after COW presentation on June 2, 2009.

Law subtraction of $30,000.00 for subscriptions and publications.

Public Works and Environmental Quality FY2010 Link Report

CM James gave link recommendations which included:

$48,000.00 addition Public Works, Commissioner's Office for large animal removal.

PDR highlighted matching grant opportunity for additional $1 million –Recommendation was to ask Mayor to add to the budget as a late item.

CM Blues asked for recommendations for purchase of easements. Billy Van Pelt, PDR replied the total would be $3 million.

Planning recommendation is to hire Senior Planning position which is funded with no impact to budget.

Historic Preservation $2000.00 addition for mileage reimbursement.

Traffic Engineering total link recommendations $55,847.00 addition for market study analysis resulted in re-classification of the 10 Traffic Signal Tech Sr. positions and Neighborhood Traffic Management Program.

CM Stinnett confirmed no changes on bonded items. He asked if $45K included benefits and commented funding traffic management is a good thing.

There was also a general list of recommendations resulting from Links Committee;

Place the issue of nepotism into the Intergovernmental Committee for discussion.

Presentation to Council regarding Urban Services Fund.

List of ordinances and laws that require funds to be allocated.

CM Myers asked Commissioner Taylor if there were any recommendations regarding approx. 50 vacancies in Waste Management. He asked for a presentation of a master plan for hiring, such as permanent and temporary staff. Taylor responded she did not recommend hiring as many as 50 at this point. However there is a draft presentation to go before council on June 9, to which she can include such a presentation.

CM James asked Comm. Taylor to ensure the presentation shows connection to dollar amount or revenue generated with permanent versus temporary labor, such as using jail labor.

Outside Agency Agencies Link Report Out:

CM Myers said the link committee unanimously agreed with the Mayor's Proposed Budget with the exception of two agencies: Downtown Development Authority and Commerce Lexington. He added, the committee has requested more information from those agencies and recommendations are pending that review.

A recommendation to be brought before the full council for review and consideration was made in the form of a motion.

Motion by CM Myers recommendation that all partner/outside agencies that are currently covered under an LFUCG health care plan move to their own health care plan effective July 1, 2010, with the exception of the Health Department, Housing Authority and County Attorney to have an effective date of January 1, 2010. seconded by CM James, passed without dissent.

CM Crosbie noted the recommendation for the Human Society is contrary to what was addressed in the outside agency report out. There is actually a different recommendation than that in the Mayor's proposed budget.

CM James clarified they have heard from DDA via email regarding additional requested information, but have not had an opportunity yet to review it.

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Motion to adjourn passed, meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.