

# CITY OF CANAL FULTON

January 27, 2007

## **SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

Linda Zahirsky, President Pro-Tempore called the January 27, 2007 Special City Council meeting to order at 9:00 AM in Council Chambers at City Hall.

**ROLL CALL:** Linda Zahirksy, Tony Crookston, Nellie Cihon, Jim Deans, Diane Downing and Victor Colaianni.

**ABSENT:** Mayor John Grogan

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dave Frisone, Police Chief; Ray Green, Fire Chief; Dan Mayberry, Service Director; Mark Cozy, City Manager; Scott Svab, Finance Director; Mark Stewart, Assistant Fire Chief; Mike Mouse and Paul Bagocius, Residents.

## **BUDGET REVIEW**

Mr. Svab reported the general fund non-encumbered balance is \$17,259. The encumbrances of \$62,000 carry-over are for Gary Fink and Associates and a few other vendors which are definitely going to be paid in 2007. The other accounts have been zeroed out. In October it was hoped that the carry over would be \$300,000. He stated there is a need for cuts because there was almost \$280,000 in salary and wages which consumed most of the carryover from 2005. This was due to wages, salary increases from union and FOP and additional staffing at the fire department. These increases have resulted in no carry over for 2007.

The actual collections of income tax were a little over \$1.2 million, which was projected. Possible suggestions from the Finance Department:

1. Budget cuts in the Parks Departments general obligation debt for the park. There is \$100,000 for principal payment and the interest payment is \$31,000.
2. There is a vacancy in the streets. They have a \$49,000 carryover. If they put a hiring freeze on that position they would not have to transfer an estimated \$70,000 over from the general fund.
3. Have community service director clean City Hall every other week. Have current cleaning person do every other week and he would do other week. This would save approximately \$2,000 a year.
4. Water and Sewer Department would stay the same.
5. The City had an 18% decrease in premiums on medical coverage. Mr. Svab also was able to get a reduction in the liability insurance for the city. He received price quotes from other vendors which resulted in a savings of \$21,000.
6. The bonds for the fire department were at \$1.4 million. They have spent close to \$100,000 on the architect and other fees. Since they leased the fire squad, there will be a \$120,000 carry over in that department.

## **Chief Frisone, Police Department:**

He asked Council when making cuts the department to consider that there are only eight officers (including himself). As a result, they are not able to pick up misdemeanor warrants in many cases because of only having one officer on

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duty. He has changed this policy due to leaving the city uncovered when they had to pick up the warrant, wherever they may be and transport to jail. They are having a hard time investigating criminal offenses. They have one officer working twelve hour shifts to help with weekend coverage, which will reduce overtime expense. The Chief has worked 650 hours of overtime. Some of this is due to help with coverage and some due to work that would be done by additional help. He stated adding more officers, two part-time officers, is not going to solve everything. It still doesn't get them to what the FBI standards are for a population of 5,000 residents. There is no fluff in the police budget. If he were to suggest any cuts it would be in non-essential expenditures such as college tuition reimbursement. They still don't have a resolution on the radio system. He would like to assist Mr. Svab in any budget cuts for his department if need be.

Mr. Cozy stated to do across the board department cuts and then come back with what they have.

Mr. Zahirsky stated with only paying the interest on the Puffenberger property, they are never paying anything toward the principal. She stated they need to continue to do cutbacks, not just to get balanced.

There was discussion on different scenarios of an increase in income tax and tax credits.

Mrs. Zahirsky asked what percentage does police, fire and administration have to reduce their budget.

Mr. Svab stated he would like to calculate the numbers based on the cuts that have been already agreed upon and then come back with the figures at next council meeting.

Mrs. Zahirsky asked "to hear from all of council if they were to get an income tax increase, is Police and Fire going to get additional funds or are they just taking money out from the general, the burden that they are doing to the general fund, are they getting additional dollars plus the general fund that they are already getting now?" It was stated no. She wanted to make sure that neither of these two people go out and tell people they are going to be getting funds. Mr. Colaianni stated neither of these two people are going to do that because they understand it. Mrs. Zahirsky stated that is what happened the last time. It was stated that the person that did that is no longer here. Mrs. Zahirsky stated she wanted to make sure that everyone who goes out pounding on doors is on the same page. They are not getting additional funds. The Chief may not be getting an additional police officer.

Mr. Colaianni stated if the tax would pass, the general fund does include those funds because those funds are earmarked from the income tax.

Mr. Crookston stated since they are asking each department to make cuts and sacrifices, he stated they could save \$30,000 by council not receiving payment this year. He stated he didn't know when he ran for council that he got paid. He feels that it would go a long way with morale if they didn't get paid this year. Mrs. Zahirsky stated she didn't know if they could cut their salary by law. They will check in to it. Mr. Colaianni stated he would also not take a pay.

It was consensus of council to look at the tax rate increase of 1.5% or 1.6% credit. They will contact Mr. Kincaid to put together a resolution.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Zahirsky adjourned the January 27, 2007 Special Council meeting.

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Tammy Marthey, Clerk of Council

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Linda Zahirsky, President Pro-Tempore