The Council met in Budget Session on Monday, April 14, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Burke and roll call was answered by Commissioners Blackburn, Bridgeman, Contreras, Kelly and Mayor Burke.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

Mayor Burke turned the meeting over to Commissioner Bridgeman. Commissioner Bridgeman advised the deficit is now at $1,194,087.00. He then was advised by Mayor Burke that Greg Hicks and Judy Brantley were present tonight on behalf of the Main Street Committee. Greg Hicks, 852 Riverside Drive, addressed the Council, stating that he and Judy were here to request a $5,000 increase, making the City’s total commitment to Main Street in the amount of $20,000. He advised this Committee would still have a $16,000 deficit if this request was granted, but through fundraising events, they could raise the monies. Greg then provided a calendar of 2008 events, as well as a list of fundraising activities for the year. Mayor Burke thanked Greg and Judy for attending tonight, and Commissioner Bridgeman stated the Council would consider their request but he did state that department heads and Commissioners were instructed to keep their budgets the same as last year.

Commissioner Bridgeman advised there were not a lot of changes to the budget since the last meeting. He stated he is hopeful for a large cash-on-hand balance at the end of the meetings. He advised the sales tax revenues are looking better this year but are still running three months behind.

At this time, Commissioner Bridgeman highlighted the departments who had increases and decreases in their budgets. He discussed the Airport’s budget in detail, advising which line items were increases from last year and which ones were decreases. Commissioner Kelly advised the Airport received a $64,000 bill from Hanson Engineers to close out their work as the Airport has changed engineering firms.

A part-time Clerk at Oakwood Cemetery was then discussed with Commissioner Bridgeman advising that Jane in the Building Department could take on some of these secretarial duties. Curt Phillips advised they are looking for someone to work on site as all the records are there. Commissioner Bridgeman advised he and Commissioner Kelly would look into this. Commissioner Bridgeman spoke regarding the $20,000 increase for the Water Department meters. He advised this is to change meter reading from manual reads to being done by vehicle, which, in turn, would save on labor costs.

Commissioner Bridgeman then advised that non-union salaries have to be added. He stressed that budgets have to be cut or staff will be. He stated that it is tough on all of us and we receive less and less from the State. Commissioner Bridgeman added that the City has always operated on a balanced budget. He lastly commented that a final budget session would probably occur some time in May.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Bridgeman moved that the Special Council Meeting of Monday, April 14, 2008 be adjourned to meet in Executive Session to discuss non-union salaries. Voting Yea: Commissioners Blackburn, Bridgeman, Contreras, Kelly and Mayor Burke. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.
Commissioner Bridgeman moved that the Special Council Meeting of Monday, April 14, 2008 reconvene into Open Session. Voting Yea: Commissioners Blackburn, Bridgeman, Contreras, Kelly and Mayor Burke. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Bridgeman moved that the Special Council Meeting of Monday, April 14, 2008 be adjourned to meet in Regular Session on Monday, April 21, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Voting Yea: Commissioners Blackburn, Bridgeman, Contreras, Kelly and Mayor Burke. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Kathe A. Swanson, City Clerk