

**Finance Committee Meeting
December 14, 2017**

Councilwoman Gloria Kates: At this time, we'll call to order the meeting of the Finance Committee. We'll start off, if you would please with Counselor Smith, with invocation please.

[Indiscernible] [0:00:16 to 0:00:44]

Councilwoman Gloria Kates: Amen. Thank you. *[Indiscernible][0:00:49]* you have a roll call of the committee meeting, which is Miss Sherry Fortenberry and a councilwoman, Vice President Sherry Fortenberry, Councilwoman Miss Tamara Smith and President Lori Kates. The primary reason, and we also have present is our Mayor, Mayor Wendy Perrette, we have our Finance Director, for the record Miss Stacy Smith and our CPA, Bob Neilson and we have a public, a citizen Mr. Fate Farrow and our secretary Miss Brenda Ford for the record. Primary reason why we're here today is to meet and review as a committee our upcoming two thousand eighteen budget. Okay and for starters with the cover pages, itself, there has been a revision of our original city logo to

Mayor Perrette (Speaker 2): That's not true. One is the shred, one shows the other *[indiscernible] [0:02:06]* revised and that ones for your budget.

Fin Director Smith (Speaker 3): This is not a formal party budget.

Chairman Kates Speaker 1: I know, I know but yet still I really think we should not change the logo of the City. We've had

Finance Director Smith: I could just put a blank page on here and say City of *[indiscernible][0:02:30]*

Chairman Kates Speaker 1: Okay,

Finance Director Smith : There's no format on the

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: We've had since two thousand six the same, well before then, the same logo and I just think maybe we should put it to a vote on the change of the logo.

Mayor Peerrette Female Speaker 3: She's not changing. We're not changing that, that's ridiculous.

Finance Director Smith Female Speaker 2: I'll tear it off and not have a cover sheet.

Chairman Kates: Well as I said we don't have to get you know, beside I believe that I will put it to a vote and if

Female Speaker 2: *[Indiscernible][0:03:01]*

Chairman Kates Speaker 1: Excuse me. Excuse me. Excuse me, at this time I put to a vote if the committee, if there is any comments on the change of the logo, the City of Bogalusa logo on our annual operating budget. As I said, it's not a primarily about parks, recreation and culture, but it's about the City of Bogalusa, State of Louisiana, the logo itself. That's my taking on it. Does anyone else have any.

Vice Pres Fortenberry Female Speaker: I just think that I don't see a single thing wrong with it, it's just my opinion.

Finance Director Smith Speaker 2: I think it's pretty.

Chairman Kates: Excuse me, Miss Fortenberry .

Miss Fortenberry: I could see it *[indiscernible][0:03:49]*

Councilwoman Smith Female Speaker: Madame President *[indiscernible][0:03:58]*

Chairman Kates: At least our city, I understand, but it should have been preapproved prior to putting it on here. Who, I mean where did the idea come from? I'm just saying.

Female Speaker 2: *[Indiscernible][0:04:12]*

Chairman Kates: I'm not trying to ruffle feathers, I'm just asking a question.

Finance Dir Smith Speaker 2: It is just an aesthetic thing, I wanted to change it, instead of having a paper mill on here, to promote, something the City actually does, we provide sports recreation. We do not provide the paper mill.

Chairman Kates: But we also are the City of Bogalusa, that's my point.

Finance Dir Smith Female Speaker 2: And it says City of Bogalusa, right there.

Finance Dir Smith Female Speaker 2Female Speaker: Whatever.

Chairman Kates: Even if there is a small logo at the bottom, I mean.

Female Speaker: There was it was all throughout this budget.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Not the City of Bogalusa logo and I'm going to move on with that, this just

Female Speaker: *[Indiscernible]* [0:04:47]

Chairman Kates Speaker 1: That's just how I feel about it so, any consensus or do you feel as if we need to vote on it or, I make a motion.

Female Speaker: *[Indiscernible]* [0:05:05]

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Yes, I make a motion that we include the original City of Bogalusa, State of Louisiana logo on the front of our annual operating budget.

Chairman Kates Female Speaker: Roll call.

Female Speaker: *[Indiscernible]* [0:05:22]

Councilwoman Smith Female Speaker: I second.

Chairman Kates Female Speaker: Now roll call.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Roll call, Councilwoman Smith?

Councilwoman Smith: Nay.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Councilwoman Fortberry.

Councilwoman Fortberry: Nay.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: And Councilwoman Kates, yay. So the nay's have it. Okay moving on to our next subject matter, okay on page four if you turn to page four and I'm going to look to see the new ones to see if the correction has been made, on page four where the second paragraph whereas an occurrence was said five oh two and five oh seven, at least forty-five days prior to the beginning of the next fiscal year which begins January, it's indicating January first two thousand seventeen, it should be January first two thousand eighteen.

Fin Director Smith: Yes, I missed that date.*[Indiscernible]* [0:06:39]

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: And I did verify that with our actual ordinance that was presented at our last council meeting.

Council Fortenberry Female Speaker: *[Indiscernible]* [0:06:47]

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: I did verify it with our ordinance that was presented at the council meeting in December fifth. Okay, I'll come back to that. Okay on just

keeping in mind on page fourteen, I wasn't certain what this meant Bogalusa Housing Authority state law exempts housing authorities from taxes, however state law allows local governments to enter into agreements for payments in lieu of the taxes based on the number of occupied housing units. So are we receiving any type of funds from there?

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: I don't think we received anything this year.

Mayor Perrette Female Speaker: *[indiscernible]* [0:07:52]

Finance Dir Smith emale Speaker: We did?

Female Speaker: Other than a water bill.

Female Speaker: No they have made payments before and if you look on page

Speaker: *[Indiscernible]* [0:08:02]

Female Speaker: Yeah they are one of our bigger water bills but as far as taxes on

Speaker: As far as property taxes or anything like that.

Female Speaker: No they've got to pay property taxes.

Female Speaker: If you look on page thirty-three, it looks like in twenty sixteen we received about eleven thousand dollars, so far we haven't received anything this year and I've budgeted zero for next year.

Speaker: When did we receive that thirty thousand dollars?

Chairman Kates: It's on page

Fin Director Smith emale Speaker: It's on page thirty-three, it's the third line on the left reports.

Chairman Kates: That was in two thousand and sixteen?

Speaker: PILOT Tax payment.

Fin Director Smith Female Speaker: Yeah there was eleven thousand in twenty-sixteen, we haven't received anything to date as of this year so I put zero and projected zero for next year because I erred on the side of caution. So I didn't want to say we received it if I don't think I mean I'm not sure

Speaker: What's a PILOT Tax.

Female Speaker: That's whatever they pay in the end based on this.

Speaker: Okay.

Finance Dir Smith Female Speaker: It's really not a tax, it's just what it's called in there.\

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Okay, thank you. Okay on page fifteen I just want to make clarification of the Advolrim taxes, the definition is would be the same as the special, the taxes are dedicated to special revenue funds

Finance Dir Smith Female Speaker: Right and the general fund and utility.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Okay which brings to mind on page and I just brought this with me, on page eighty-nine of Mr. Nielsen's report of two thousand and sixteen, it talks about the special, I don't know if you all have that, but it talk about the special revenue funds and it does give a review of the funds that are supported by the Advolem taxes which is the employee pay rate, sales tax.

Female Speaker: That belongs to landfill municipal buildings.

Chairman Kates: May I finish please? I just want to go over this list for the special revenue funds so they are not

Mayor Perette Female Speaker: What if you got the definition of alogram in the tax confused [*indiscernible*][0:10:22]

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: No that's not my point.

Mayor Perrette Female Speaker: I know that you should understand the difference between the two because there is a difference and she was trying to explain it to you.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Okay my point being is that with the special revenue funds listed here there is a senior citizens program, a council would receive fifty percent of a formula and evaluating tax dedicated for acquiring, constructing, improving, operating and maintaining senior citizens programs which is I think what we talked about before as kind of like a. Okay moving on,

Finance Dir Smith Female Speaker: [*Indiscernible*][0:11:11]

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Because it's listed in Mr. Nielsen's report as not listed in our report exactly.

Mayor Perrette Female Speaker: I don't understand.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: The senior citizens advolem n

Female Speaker: [*indiscernible*][0:11:29]

Finance Director Smith : Where is it not listed in our report, I included it on page, what page is it on,

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: For us it's on page, it's on his page eighty-nine.

Finance Dir Smith : Eighty-nine.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Uh huh and on our page

Finance Dir Smith Female Speaker: Where you saying it's not listed at?

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: I said the definition is not the same. Okay on page fifty-three, at the bottom, the promotions. We know that those taxes were changed over to municipal billings when it was renewed but, I just didn't see any in the municipal buildings, in the

Female Speaker: *[indiscernible]* [0:12:24]

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: The functions, sixty-three, sixty-three. The functions.

Fin Director Smith Female Speaker: It says on here it was approved by the voters in two thousand and nine.

Chairman Kates: Is that two thousand.

Fin Director Smith: Two thousand and nine it was rededicated to the municipal buildings which I have another municipal buildings schedule which is on page sixty-six.

Chairman Kates: As a response to collect a dedication, senior citizens building and facilities will remain for that purpose until the funds are entirely expensed.

Female Speaker: Apparently it is entirely expensed.

Female Speaker: It's entirely expensed.

Female Speaker: You see as the end of twenty sixteen there was no fund balance left.

Chairman Kates: However the taxes are still good.

Female Speaker: The tax is moved and rededicated to this other building.

Chairman Kates: I know but you can't, we cannot

Mayor Perrette Female Speaker: But listen to the professionals, she's a professional and he's also a professional, so you just said Mr. Nielsen but is it, she's saying that it's not being utilized for what it's supposed to be utilized for. Okay.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Well it's zero amounts.

Female Speaker: There are no funds left in it.

Mr. Nielsen: *[Indiscernible][0:13:36]*

Chairman Kates Female Speaker: It says to use it until the funds are gone.

Mr. Nielsen: And the funds are gone.

Female Speaker: And it's gone.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: But the Secretary of State's definition is totally different also by David Wolfe said it differently as well, however to resolve that particular issue I do have a

Mayor Perrette Female Speaker: David said the same, I have the email, *[indiscernible][0:14:05]*. It's spent *[indiscernible][0:14:08]*

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Let me get his email and tell you exactly what he said. I mean what he sent to me.

Finance Dir Smith Female Speaker: *[indiscernible][0:14:14]* because we have the prior year column, twenty sixteen it was zeroed out. As of twenty seventeen on it's all zeros. So next year it probably won't even be in here.

Female Speaker: It shouldn't be.

Fin Smith emale Speaker: Yeah after twenty, after this budget,

Chairman Kates: I can't find my other one.

Female Speaker: *[indiscernible][0:14:49]*

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Well upon the request of our prior conversation from the council members, we will be voting on a Resolution to go forth to the Attorney General's office to get an interpretation of that particular interpretation of that. I wasn't going to go over this until the end but it does say that it will be a Resolution to Amend the City of Bogalusa operating, oh no that's not it, that's not it. Where is it. I'm just really nervous you all.

Smith Female Speaker: You're making me nervous.

Female Speaker: Take your time.

[Indiscernible][0:16:14]

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Where is it, I know I brought it. That's not it.

Female Speaker: This is not it in the white bag?

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Yeah that's the old one. I'm sorry you all.

Female Speaker: *[Indiscernible][0:16:30]*

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Here's my copy, that's the letter itself, which we'll be presenting through our City Attorney so he could, I will be but I want to. A Resolution to request an opinion from the Attorney General of the State of Louisiana concerning an interpretation of October seventeenth two thousand and nine, Maintenance and Park Recreation tax four mill Abalonian tax proposition tax. Exactly and the legislative officer is also aware.

Female Speaker:*[Indiscernible][0:17:34]*. Send them a letter, this Resolution and they will send back a formal, written letter *[indiscernible][0:17:42]*.

Female Speaker *[Indiscernible][0:17:46]*.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Exactly and we've been in contact with the legislative auditors.

Female Speaker *[indiscernible][0:17:57]*.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: To vote on the Resolution to adjust the language so that it will reflect the correct language.

Female Speaker: Legislative officer or the Attorney General.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: I call both. I'm in contact with both and the legislative auditors are in the process of getting us an answer back.

Council Fortenberry Female Speaker: This case is not sufficient for me, I would like it in writing from both parties please.

Chairman Kates: Okay no problem. No problem.

Female Speaker: *[Indiscernible][0:18:25]*.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Yes this is going to be brought up this week at meetings once we get with Attorney Dale on it.

Female Speaker: *[Indiscernible][0:18:31]*.

Chairman Kates: Yes to the Attorney General's office. Yeah. Do you need a copy Brenda for your records?

Brenda: Yes. *[Indiscernible][0:18:55]*

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Well actually I need to run it by Attorney Dale first to get his approval.

Female Speaker:*[indiscernible][0:19:02]* Parks and Recreation that *[indiscernible][0:19:14]*.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Well let me, if you read further, you'll see exactly what's in the Proclamation and I can read it to you if you all want me to. Okay. Does anybody want to take a moment to read over it and I want to find some of Robert, I keep calling your name. Bob Moore's, the information that he *[indiscernible][0:19:55]*. Yeah

Bob Neilson Male Speaker: *[indiscernible][0:19:58]*.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Really?

Bob Nielson Male Speaker: That's right, Bob Moore, actually was my boss when I was a stock broker in New Orleans, that's how I knew him.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Really?

Male Speaker: He and I have spoken about it. In fact his *[indiscernible][0:20:14]*. They decided they had to register me to become a stock broker. I could go out and spend six months in New York *[indiscernible][0:20:26]*

Chairman Kates Female Speaker: So did you keep up with your license?

Bob Neilson Male Speaker: If you don't work full time *[indiscernible][0:20:41]*.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: I do not have the letter from Mr. Wolf, however part of it was sent in my packet during our last minute and I cane-mail it to everyone as well and then he sent me an additional response to it, how the council.

Mayor Perette Female Speaker: *[Indiscernible][0:21:09]*.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Well I just believe if the law states one thing, stick with the law, and not interpretations of the law.

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: *[Indiscernible][0:21:29]* I don't understand how you can change something if it's already been voted on.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Well it has been in our budgets, it's been changed and that's my exact point. That's my exact point. It's been changed and the public didn't vote on this change that's in our budget. That's my point right there.

Female Speaker: *[Indiscernible][0:21:51]*.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: No we can't interpret the law unless the citizens vote upon it.

Fin Dir Smith Female Female Speaker: Regardless of how it's worded in the budget, in twenty, in two thousand and nine, it moves to municipal buildings until the funds are due, until the funds have been used up. So regardless of language or anything, it was moved and the funds were gone. I don't understand.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: That's the reason why we'll have the Attorney General to make a decision on interpretation.

Chairman Kates Female Speaker: Okay let's move on to the next thing.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Exactly.

Mayor Perrette Female Speakers: *[Indiscernible][0:22:30]. Have to leave*

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Well if anyone needs to be excused, they can be excused. If anyone needs to be excused they can be excused.

Female Speaker: Well we're here for a new law and answer questions, *[Indiscernible][0:22:41]* well that's what we're here for.

Chairman Kates: Okay now moving on,

Male Speaker: *[Indiscernible][0:22:45]*.

Female Speaker: Yes does that not have to be voted on?

[Cross Talk][0:22:52].

Female Speaker: So we have a municipal building fund. *[Indiscernible][0:23:03]*. Back in two thousand and nine.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: However the language that the citizens voted upon is not the language that it's our budget, that's the point.

Female Speaker: Conversation at one time.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Sorry about the over talking.

Female Speaker: Okay anyway, moving on.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Okay on page twenty-two everybody, on page twenty-two. Okay we're looking at positions, our positions and okay I do see an increase in the Mayor's Office of Community Outreach Coordinator. You know in this area where it says if it's an elected position or an appointed position, how did his position come about?

Mayor Perrette Female Speaker: *[indiscernible]* [0:24:00] There's not enough of me to go around, I'd be happy to explain it at a council meeting, but I'll explain it here. Community Outreach, I had *[indiscernible]* [0:24:13] this month alone, I have not had two consecutive days off in a row, whether I'm getting home at eight o'clock at night and I'm double-booked or whatever. For example, last Tuesday night when we had the council meeting, there was a garden view club auction going on at the same time. I'm here at the council meeting because I'm mandated to be here. I couldn't be at that function, so that position goes to those types of city events when I'm double booked. Saturday I was at the meeting club dinner and he went to the *[indiscernible]* [0:24:45] ball as a representative of the City. That's what we do, so basically attend and also I cleared the Board that it's been established that they're doing with the community, it's a community board to help with better living of the city, he is currently working on the *[indiscernible]* [0:25:07] because we have plenty of talent *[indiscernible]* [0:25:10] but these types of events I don't have the deal to see through because I have other things that are more pressing and more demanding and this position takes up those things that everybody *[indiscernible]* [0:25:34] because I can't be at every board meeting, I can't be at everything, everywhere, but I'm on call twenty-four seven. This alleviates me in these areas, because I think it is important because *[indiscernible]* [0:25:57], there was an issue with somebody's water running, he goes out and fixes that, he does things like that in each department, but he's not just in my department. He's utilized by all supervisors in the City of Bogalusa.

Chairman Kates: Okay thank you and primarily my question Mayor on that would this increase the salary is that I know that the legislative auditors are working with us to help us as well as Mr. Nielsen to help us to get out of the red and you know I just couldn't, this is additional funds that I mean so is it, which fund account.

Mayor: It came out of my budget in the mayor's account. If you notice my travel was up with my room, I'm not traveling or attending anything if it was like two hundred dollars this year, I went to Bond Commission and I had to be there at eight o'clock rather than being *[indiscernible]* [0:27:04] at five in the morning and that type of stuff, to stay over or not that night. *[Indiscernible]* [0:27:11].

Fin Director Smit Female Speaker: I have seven hundred and twenty percent.

Mayor: Administration and type of events that would put us in the thousands and you will see that it's less than five hundred dollars.

Fin Dir Smith Speaker: No it was seven twenty for this year is what I'm projecting it to be, which is still good.

Mayor: I mean if you look

[Cross Talk][0:27:32]

Mayor: To date ours is still going to be lower.

Female Speaker: Thirty seven.

Mr. Nielsen: I just got the budget so that's why I had to ask.

Mayor: No but I'm saying if you were to look at the past mayors, they went to conferences and so forth that they were in the thousands and you can compare and contrast to see the difference because there is, I would say, at least a ninety-nine or ninety-five percent decrease in that area. There is no travel.

Female Speaker: *[Indiscernible][0:28:06]*.

Mayor: Which I think that shows *[indiscernible][0:28:09]*.

[Cross Talk][0:28:13]

Councilwoman Smith Female Speaker: *[Indiscernible][0:28:18]*. The question we had on the community outreach coordinator where Miss Robbins was actually *[indiscernible][0:28:27]*.

Mayor Chairman Kates: Main Street.

Mayor: The development, Main Street. It's a hundred and thirty-eight thousand dollars.

Councilwoman Smith Female Speaker: *[Indiscernible][0:28:34]*.

Mayor: Not downtown that but outreach wise he is working with the chamber of commerce because they are *[indiscernible][0:28:43]*.

Councilwoman Smith Female Speaker: How does this work in other departments *[indiscernible][0:28:50]*.

Mayor: He collects the rent, like we were behind some rents out there in the industrial park and he would go and collect that. He does all kinds of things.

[Cross Talk][0:29:05].

Mayor: Basically he's doing all the little leg work that we can't get to when we are in our meetings and like everything else. He comes back and reports to us rather than me riding out there and why that trash can can't be provided.

Fin Director Smith Speaker: So things are getting done rather than just sitting there waiting all this time.

Mayor: Yes, for example we had over how the trash truck would not, it refused to go pick up the trash. Well we went and tried to resolve that issue before it comes to the city, it alleviates that me fighting with the trash people whenever all this is conversation, he's got time and he can go out there and comes back and reports to me, tells me what is down and what *[indiscernible][0:29:52].* But it's not just me, it's issues throughout the building.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Did the legislative auditors give us an opinion pertaining to his position?

Mayor: They said that I could hire whomever I wanted, so I did or whatever, that if we were to, with him being hired was aware that from the beginning that we might have to make cuts at the first of the year and that he would be one of the first ones gone. But you have to remember we have an at-will clause that he wouldn't fall under. He wouldn't be able to go at will, but the rest of them, it's not jut one position in other words. Explain without, it's not enough to be whatever *[indiscernible][0:30:41].*

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: What did he say?

Mayor: Mike said that it didn't make a difference because see I hired the person without consulting with Stacy or anyone for that matter

Note: Mike Battle, LLA

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: You know what that's funny that you mentioned that because in our meeting the other day you said Stacy's, she's my boss but she's not my boss and if she say no, she says no, so I.

Mayor: I went to her when I had the idea in my head but she didn't know what I talked to her about it and she said that we can make it happen because you do have cuts in this area, this area and this area, but there is a reduction, she agreed to that and she didn't see at first where it would be used, how it could be used and then I didn't like announce it before, but I had agreed to do so. That's what they told me that I had to do, that it's my choice basically and to keep in mind that that person would be one of the first people to

leave. It's not just that department, he couldn't be here, thirty-five thousand dollars is coming out of my budget, that's a lot each year, it could be utilized where, I mean it's sort of saying like he would be *[indiscernible]* [0:32:00]. It's got to still be, it's not enough, I don't know how to put it, but it's not

Finance Dir Smith Female Speaker: Thirty-five thousand isn't enough to make or break us trying to come up with retirement money or anything like that. I mean when you've got that much, I guess that's what he's saying, it's not like we're spending two hundred thousand, three hundred thousand dollars. Yeah, it's not that

Mayor: He said that you know as long as you were aware and when I *[indiscernible]* [0:32:32], I told him I said hey look at the first of the year, because we already know where the cuts would start because you're a huge person actually has a name, there is not a number, I don't have to even, I wouldn't have to list the names of the people, but there would be people without jobs in the police, fire and public works and the water tower. It has to go across the board.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Okay, well I'm just kind of looking at the revised budget that we voted upon in September, I do see the salary budget which is one hundred nineteen thousand seven hundred and thirty dollars, that was in September of two thousand and seventeen and on page twenty-two, the total is one hundred thousand,

Mayor: One thirty-eight.

Finance Dir Smith Chairman Kates: One thirty-eight four sixty-one.

Finance Dir Smith Female Speaker: That was because he was only employed for half a year or so in twenty-seventeen. Twenty-eighteen will be a full year so it's going to be high.

Mayor: It started, he was hired in July, so it would be half.

Fin Director Smith Female Speaker: So the twenty seventeen budget isn't going to have a full year of salary in there.

Mayor: Right. Does that make sense?

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Yeah but it does make sense but the thirty-five dollars, I'm just saying, speaking.

Mayor: I'm just saying the cost, well that liberty as well as the mayor.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: I understand that.

Mayor: That is not a union job, that is not anything and there are no benefits.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: I understand your reasons why you hired him in, but I'm thinking about some of the other concerns of the citizens that you know perhaps it could have been utilized.

Mayor: They are one hundred percent of the reason why the job was put there is because he reaches out to them, he has a board established that he meets with and comes back and reports to us in our huddles in the mornings and he lets me know that look this is the concern, we've got to get this done over here.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Well how does he, I mean I know, I'm not going to get into that right now. That's something different.

Mayor: I mean now is the time because I'm not getting in the council meeting and discussing it. I'm not going to call out people in a council meeting *[indiscernible]* 0:34:44].

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Well as I said, let's move on.

Mayor: Well don't expect the answers then.

Councilwoman Fortenberry Female Speaker: No I don't, excuse me.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Well I am transparent, I will continue to be Mayor as I told you the other day, so that's my prerogative.

Mayor: Yes.

Councilwoman Fortenberry Female Speaker: Thirty-five thousand dollars, half of the year was in two thousand and seventeen and you said seventeen thousand five hundred, it comes to one hundred eleven thousand one hundred sixty-one so that was below in my opinion if my figures are right for the entire half of year. So the figures for last year for the total

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Plus salaries,

Councilwoman Fortenberry female Speaker: Would be one hundred eleven thousand one hundred sixty-one.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: The total last year

Councilwoman Fortenberry Female Speaker: So the total for this year is going to be higher because you're including six more months of work. I mean that's just *[indiscernible]* 0:35:39]. Anyway.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Well actually two thousand sixteen total was one fifty-six four fifty-two for two thousand and sixteen.

Councilwoman Fortenberry Female Speaker: So two thousand seventeen was cheaper.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Well that's because it was in September, she budgeted up to September thirtieth for this one which I didn't understand because is it some way that our timelines because this budget is produced in December but it has numbers for September, it stops in September, I just.

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: What?

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Okay, the numbers that you have in our budget is budgeted up to September thirtieth, two thousand seventeen.

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: That's not the budget, that's September thirtieth is our actual as of that day.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Right those are the dates.

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: As of September thirtieth, that's what we spent. That's not a projection, that's not a budget number, that's our financials as of September.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: I'm just wondering why it wasn't like at a later date like in November or because today is the fourteenth.

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: That's when I started working on it.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Oh it's the thirtieth.

Female Speaker: I started working on it in October and that's the last month I had available.

Mayor: So whatever she, it doesn't matter where

Fin Director Smith on this in October. I don't have October or November financials whenever I'm doing this.

Mayor: It's a *[indiscernible]* [0:37:15].

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Okay you don't have the financials when you're doing this but you do have the financials, you do have the financials for October, November?

Fin Director Smith Female Speaker: Yeah they'll be on the computer. I'm not sure, November is not completed yet. October might probably be.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Because I know that was one of the concerns with the auditors as well with the council receiving the reports timely.

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: Well if you say it's so behind, we're actually staying caught up, we have three

Female Speaker: *[Indiscernible][0:37:41]*.

Mayor: You've got the budget here but you'll get your *[indiscernible][0:37:48]* from the council meetings.

Mayor Female Speaker *[Indiscernible][0:37:55]*.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Well I'm just saying since we were written up by the auditors, I want to be in compliance..

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: I'm trying to get us there.

Mayor: Yeah but in the past whenever I served on the council, we didn't get reports at all.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Was that mandatory at that time?

Mayor: It was always mandatory, it was mandated by the State of Louisiana, we've been audited before and did nothing.

F Chairman Kates emale Speaker 1: Were we written up for that Mr. Nielsen?

Female Speaker: We might be backed up.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Back in the day we was continuing to be written up by the legislative auditors for not receiving our reports?

Mr. Nielsen: It probably was.

Mayor Female Speaker: It was.

Mayor: It was, I vouched for that for twelve years it was written up.

Mr. Nielsen: We wrote it up ourselves.

Mayor: I can also say that one of things was this, we only got a revised budget in November, when I served on the council for twelve years, and there was no monthly financial things and he started to try to put them in there whenever Charles was mayor.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Who tried to put them in there?

Mayor: The financial person and he tried to get them in there, but I probably got two on average, we were still written up about it. I feel like Miss Smith has been getting them to you all, it might be a month behind, and you might get two at one time, but at least you're getting them, whereas before we didn't get them at all.

Councilwoman Smith Female Speaker: For a while there,

Mayor: Well we did one, *[indiscernible]* [0:37:55]

Councilwoman Smith Female Speaker: If you ask her for something, she'll tell you she's working on it and she'll make sure she gets them to you.

Mayor: And she stops what she's doing which is a conflict for me and because these things aren't getting done. Her job can't be done, filling the public request things, that needs to be changed in the Charter. It needs to be somebody else. She's got more

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: She's designated according to the Charter.

Mayor: I'm just saying Mr. Nielsen will also tell you that she is pulled too much to get what she needs to

Mr. Nielsen: She can't get her work done.

Female Speaker: I can't, that's why on the budget a lot of times I

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Well that is very, it's very absolutely you know I appreciate you but if it needs to be changed, we need to change the whole Charter. I mean I'm not going to go into that subject matter right now, but that's different all together.

Fin Director Smith Speaker: I don't really trust anybody else to handle it because at least I know I'm answering it correctly.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Yes and you do.

Mayor: But at the same token, it's this, that when she's not having to deal with those types of things, she's not able to get you the reports so she does stay behind and she like Sunday, we were both here Sunday afternoon working on the budgets and stuff, but she worked from home.

Fin Dir Smith Speaker: Yeah because if I'm here I can't work. I'm constantly being, you know I laugh I'm like there's a butterfly because I cannot stay focused on something because I'm pulled a thousand different ways. So

Mayor: Emails, phone, interruptions [*indiscernible*][0:40:51]. I always have an office full down there.

Fin Director Smith Speaker: I never had ADD until I worked for you.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Moving on, moving on. The City Prosecutor we have a salary base of twenty-four thousand and just looking at comparing the two thousand and seventeen budget that base for him is twenty-four thousand, correct?

Female Speaker: His doesn't change

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: And two percent of that is four hundred, yeah that's what I wanted to ask, his two percent is not in?

Fin Dir Smith female Speaker: No his is a set rate. His is a set rate, the auditor is a set rate. I mean those are not subject to the two percent. Now his secretary is subject to the two percent.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Yes and she's on point, she's on point with it. Moving down, on page twenty-two at the bottom, we have accountant manager and in seventeen we had bookkeeper.

Fin Dir Smith Speaker: Yeah we took the bookkeeper out, it was originally part of the contract, we got with the union and all that and took it out, that way we could hire who we needed. So we kind of changed it to

Mayor: But the account charter stayed for basically somebody who graduated from high school they need some sort of schooling or experience, somebody can't just move up into that job position, because the water clerk just moves into that job position, be there for three months and then get fired from it and you see what I'm saying, they weren't qualified or trained in that matter. I couldn't do it.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: This is OPE union?

Mayor: It was all through the union to fill that in, so it's all in formal writing whatever.

Finance Dir Smith Speaker: That's why we changed it to accountant manager and accountant.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: That's why you changed it to accountant.

Fin Dir Smith Speaker: Rhem is the accountant manager and she is expected to retire towards the beginning of next year, I'm saying probably around March. The accountant is the new one that we hired.

Mr. Nielsen: Can I say something about that? The way it is set up down there, is it really, really needs to stay.

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: Rhem doesn't want to stay.

Mr. Nielsen: I understand that, but

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: I want her to stay as long as we can, but just saying.

Mr. Nielsen: But my whole point is, is that nobody understands the accounting function better than we do, right. *[Indiscernible][0:43:29]* people go crazy with this question of document, the information, the phone calls, and the legislative auditor, we know we go through it ourselves. So I encourage you all to try to maintain those accounting situations as you have them down there, it functions very well, they are doing an excellent job, even though it doesn't look like they are and they are getting their stuff out and getting it where people can make decisions with it.

[Cross Talk][0:44:01].

Mayor: He told me that this is the best that's ever been down there and tell them what you told me.

Mr. Nielsen: I mean this.

Mayor: He said you've got the perfect set up where before it was like that you all got a team down there and it's like no other. They are professional.

Mr. Nielsen: You've got all your costs run through the roof *[indiscernible][0:44:24]* they didn't have the personnel putting that stuff together and now you do.

Mayor: *[indiscernible][0:44:32]*

Mr. Nielsen: Have the education, people you have here, we've been asked before to sit in on one, to hire someone and we ask one basic question, well they generally can't answer that question, sometimes they get hired and they don't stay long because they don't understand government accounting. *[Indiscernible][0:44:50]*.

Chairman Kates Speaker 1: Well my question has she ever been in a retirement status, Miss Rhem.

Fin Dir Smith Speaker: Yes.

Mr. Nielsen: Yes.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: And she's back now under contract, correct?\

Mr. Nielsen: *[Indiscernible][0:45:04]*

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Okay, now and I know she's very good, she's very good, but was there like, there wasn't a two year period, see that's why our charter needs to be changed. The charter says if you're out,

Mr. Nielsen: That job is not in the charter.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: But it does say if you are employed, period, and you leave there has to be a two year

Mayor Female Speaker: There was, that was before our time.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Yes, but no it's still in the charter.

Mayor Female Speaker: No, no I'm saying that it was before our time,

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: That charter?

Female Speaker: That two years

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Right and that's why the charter needs to be changed because it's still effective. The charter has not changed.

Mr. Nielsen: But also remember this, this thing is truly a specialty. There are only two CPA's in the Parrish that can do this work as an auditor. I mean seriously, we've got twenty-five in the Parrish, just doing what they're doing it's a specialty kind of thing. So if somebody goes you can't *[indiscernible][0:45:59]* so then they come back in and do the contract, it would be shut down, down there.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: My issue has been amend the charter on that piece.

Mayor Female Speaker: *[indiscernible][0:46:12]*. Anyone that has ever taken *[indiscernible][0:46:19]* but when you go to college for this type of degree, forensic CPA, you know this myth of twenty thousand dollar pay check coming here, I hate to say that but it's true. You're either going to be

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: You use to work with the legislative auditors correct?

Mayor: *[indiscernible][0:46:44]*. The thing is this, she's got to have this one play and we don't have anyone younger that's going to come work for this *[indiscernible][0:46:55]*.

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Without the experience.

Mayor: And engineers, no it's not enough to

Fin Dir Smith +

Female Speaker: You won't see somebody come from the outside making what I'm making.

Mayor: Fifty thousand dollars a year, you went to college and spent eighty,

Chairman Kates Chairman Kates: Well actually he's not an engineer, actually. His experience

Mayor Female Speaker: *[Indiscernible][0:47:13]*. There's not a worker fifty thousand dollars. Nobody, I mean look here's the thing, they're not going to work for that type of money. Like I *[indiscernible][0:47:25]*. Way, way back way before I

Chairman Kates: Right, exactly.

Female Speaker: Before any of us and now we're getting the blunt of it because it's happening.

Chairman Kates: I mean it's just in the charter,

Female Speaker: Back to two thousand sixteen.

Chairman Kates: Yeah, nineteen seventy-seven, yeah. Nineteen seventy-

Female Speaker: And the thing is, is this, that the main thing is this that you can't have people you now I mean, you can't go to college for that long and come back home and say oh okay I'm going to work whenever I know that because in Baton Rouge they're making a hundred thousand dollars, better yet, I mean I've got cousins in *[indiscernible][0:48:09]* making a hundred thirty.

Mr. Nielsen: With no experience, fifty, sixty thousand with experience a hundred grand. Easy.

Female Speaker: This position a hundred grand.

Female Speaker: They were trained *[indiscernible][0:48:23]*

Mr. Nielsen: These are people who do very specialty work for a hundred thousand dollars. A hundred thirty-three thousand, do the math.

Chairman Kates: Oh I get it.

Female Speaker: But we cannot afford the people we need.

Mr. Nielsen: That's the reason why you.

Chairman Kates: Well I don't have a problem with keeping the people that we have, I just want to make sure we are in compliance with the laws that's been set forth, that's why it's important to get that charter changed, that's all I'm saying.

Female Speaker: We all agree that the charter needs to be changed. My biggest *[indiscernible]* [0:48:59]

Chairman Kates: Well we were on, okay, now. Let's move on.

Mr. Nielsen: Absolutely so you need to keep her.

Chairman Kates: Okay now, in which back to the salaries, account manager which is Miss Reed, correct?

Finance Dir Smith Speaker: She doesn't get two percent either.

Chairman Kates: I saw because her two percent is one thousand two hundred forty-eight dollars and I was wondering.

Female Speaker: Yeah she just gets, I mean she just stays flat, she doesn't get two percent.

Chairman Kates: Okay, no two percent. Okay thank you.

Female Speaker: Which means I just got above her. I was making less than her.

Chairman Kates: Okay on page twenty-four, accountant, is that a new position? Accountant?

Female Speaker: No that's twenty-three, that's the person we hired under Rain. That's

Chairman Kates: That's Miss Miller?

Dir Smith e Speaker: Yes. *[indiscernible]* [0:50:08].

Mr. Nielsen: From Buddy Adams.

Female Speaker: *[Indiscernible]* [0:50:13].

Chairman Kates: Well I guess primarily my question is, under advisement, under legislative auditors, what was their comments on hiring her in? This lady, I'm just looking at the documents.

Dir fin Smith Speaker: That's to replace Rain when she retires. Rain is wanting to retire, you know she'll say Stacy I'll stay another three months. I'll stay another three months and I just hang on because she knows so much.

Chairman Kates: But what was the legislative auditor's comment on that?

Mayor Perrette : They encouraged it because

Chairman Kates: They encouraged, okay.

Mayor Perrette Speaker: We are able to provide the reports and give and to do our daily duties and to give them what they want. And she got to train and to remind in compliance we got people in place. I've heard that from Mike Bell, I've heard that from him himself, he said you finally have what we needed set up.

Dir Smith : Yeah but legislative auditors are very happy with what we've been doing.

Mayor: And that's our other person, don't hire him and he tells me don't change a thing. Don't change a dam thing you all. He says you all got it finally have it.

Chairman Kates: Except for at the end of our meeting he does have a great comment that will help us, so.

Mayor: He also has a great comment to say that he gave us, well how many years did he say, he said that he at least four for us to not get *[indiscernible]* [0:51:42]. He couldn't believe that.

Mr. Nielsen: And then the next year you got a balanced budget again, I mean that guys.

Mayor: We're busting balls, we know we can't *[indiscernible]* 0:51:52] we're trying to get it

Mr. Nielsen: *[indiscernible]* [0:51:54] the Mayor, the administration, you all are doing a wonderful job in the situation that you're in. You just are. I'm sorry.

[Cross Talk] [0:52:04].

Mr. Nielsen: I just looked at it overall and I just say.

Chairman Kates: Okay, moving along, Police Chief, has a base salary of fifty-five thousand, his ten percent is one thousand

Female Speaker: Two, two percent.

Chairman Kates: I mean his two percent is one thousand one hundred dollars, which will be fifty-six one hundred, however the base salary in our budget is fifty-seven, five eighty-seven.

Mayor: Yes because whenever I hired the Police Chief, I hired him at fifty-five thousand because

FIN Dir Speaker: No, no, no, the police does not actually work out to an exact twenty percent.

Chairman Kates: Two percent you mean..

Fin Dir Smith Speaker: To a two percent because when they figure in the two percent, they've got to figure in supplemental pay, the two percent on that and all this other stuff is added in to the hourly rate to get the two percent. So police will never actually and Rhem can maybe explain it to you better. I just kind of always guesstimate about two and a half percent because of all the little, because of their contract and all.

Chairman Kates: Because I know we always say, no nobody is over their two percent. So I'm just asking, you know within our meeting.

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: The two percent, but it's no based on their actual, like say they make fifteen dollars an hour right now, the two percent increase is not calculated on fifteen percent, they have to add in like the two eighty-eight for supplemental pay, they add in all this other stuff to get the new two percent. It's really weird and complex so for simplicity purposes when I do the budget, I think I try and use like two and a half. So if maybe that equals two and a half percent.

Chairman Kates: But the contracts say, the union contracts doesn't say two and a half, it says two, right?

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: I don't know what the contract says, but the contract says that you have to add to calculate their two percent increase, you don't just use their current salary.

Chairman Kates: I just want to make sure we're in compliance, that's all.

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: Yeah we are. We are and I don't know the formula totally off-hand, so I'm trying to guesstimate for the budget, I just use two and a half because I know that's kind of a safe bet if that makes sense.

Chairman Kates: Okay.

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: Because the police and fire they are totally off the wall, it's just weird.

Chairman Kates: I noticed that there is some other

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: Yeah so that's never going to equal that two percent because of that other stuff.

Chairman Kates: *[indiscernible][0:54:30]* and we have some of our citizens out there because this is public knowledge now, we've got to keep in mind, and they are looking like no that's not two percent. So we need to be able to justify, clarify you understand what I'm saying.

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: Because of the additions that have to be added to calculate the two percent, that it's not going to be exactly two percent from the prior year because of those additions that have to be taken into account.

[Indiscernible][0:54:56].

Chairman Kates: You see what I'm saying? Just that answer. Okay, well we as committee we need to, we want to know.

Fin Dir Smith : So it makes my life *[indiscernible][0:55:08].*

Mayor: Just that type of question for you all, if the public comes and asks that question which the public *[indiscernible][0:55:17]* that's when you look at us and you say, Stacy somebody wants to know this and I'll tell you.

Fin Dir Smith *[indiscernible][0:55:25].* She is the professional in this, I'm not a professional in this and I can't do it.

Chairman Kates: Exactly I just think it's good for the finance committee to understand.

Female Speaker: So yeah police and fire are

Chairman Kates: I don't have no problem sending nobody to you.

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: It will never equal exactly two percent. I don't know the base calculation, I don't know the full calculation of how it's all built in so I estimate about two and a half, I might be a little low or high, but I figure err on the side of caution. I'm very conservative like that. I always pick the worst case scenario.

Chairman Kates: Okay now I presume, I don't want to presume, but with the fire, his base is fifty-six three thirty-nine, the two percent is one thousand one hundred twenty-six dollars and eighteen cents, and which totals fifty-seven thousand four hundred sixty-five dollars. We have fifty-seven thousand in our budget six hundred forty-seven dollars.

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: And it's probably because of the little things.

Chairman Kates: Two percent plus supplemental pay. Two point five percent for

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: I kind of guesstimate based on two and a half. I think I might be

Bob Neilson : That's a good estimate.

Mayor Perrette Speaker: I can't be exact because they have to go through each line by person.

Bob Neilson : She's right on target with that.

Fin Dir Smith : Yeah I just do the best I can based on what I have.

Male Speaker: Trust me on this,

Fin Dir Smith r: The police and fire payroll will kill me. I probably spend over a week on both trying to figure this stuff out.

Chairman Kates: Okay, now on page twenty-four, if we go down to carpenters, this is in public works, everybody else above is on point for their two percent, but the carpenters originally

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: We had one and then we had two.

Chairman Kates: Yeah we had one and now we are increasing it.

Mayor: The job *[indiscernible]* [0:57:24] and within the department I had to explain that. It's that one a year they are allowed to move up and it's like being at the paper mill, that's the best way I can explain it, my husband worked there and that's the way I think of it, is that once a year they can bid on jobs and qualify and if they qualify for that job, it's based on seniority, they move up into that position. That position was unfilled and whether or not somebody fills it or not. For example, recently the custodian here had applied for another position and wasn't qualified for the position, so he stays in the custodial position. That's what they do, they can move up and there aren't that many top jobs around, but it's bidding on jobs, that's what they do at the paper mill, it's based on the union and it's in compliance with all of that.

Fin Dir Smith le Speaker: It depends on whether there's an opening in it.

Mayor: That's right. Someone may have passed away or it might have been a vacant position. Like remember when we didn't have someone for the ditch witch, okay and that's because somebody didn't want it. *[Indiscernible]* [0:58:31]. We put it on the board and nobody put in a bid for that job. So you know they have to bid in order to get it. In November is about the time that they all start filling these positions I believe

[Cross Talk] [0:58:48].

Councilwoman Fortenberry : If no one within the city employed bids on it or is qualified for it, somebody from outside knows that there's an opening then they can come and put in an application for it and if they are qualified, would they be hired?

Mayor: Not necessarily because there is still somebody that just didn't bid on that job that's still going in that position

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: Generally the people that come in from the outside start at the very bottom.

Mayor Perrette : Yeah but also they

Chairman Kates: Pecking order, yeah within the union yes.

Mayor: They have to be here so many years before they can move up or year or something, so many months, but

Fin Dir Smith So nobody is going to come in starting at the rate of the equipment operator. They will come in as a laborer.

Mayor: A laborer or mechanic, they start off in the shop. I can't just send somebody to the shop. It's like when we were hiring for the police station and you might have worked at the sheriff's department and you worked as a detective at the police station and the sheriff's office, you're not going to come to Bogalusa Police office and you're going to be a detective, nope, you're going to ride the roads, you're going to answer the phone, you start off, it's a ranking thing. It's a ranking that takes place within the organization that happens with fire, police and the parks, but you just can't come in and show up and make more money than everybody else. Right.

Bob Neilson Male Speaker: Right.

Chairman Kates: Well my point again is that I know in two thousand seventeen, one position; two thousand eighteen we are proposing two positions and has it been cleared. Has this been suggested or just numbers?

Fin Dir Smith This was based off what I had and the positions being filled currently.

Chairman Kates: Okay now, you know what, since you brought that up, back to the beginning, the other day when we met the positions that were filled and make sure that I have this correctly, you indicated the positions filled were not the actual positions that we had, but it was positions of a projection and I was wondering why we didn't use actual numbers.

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: Well because like this is what I'm proposing for next year, for the whole year basically. So like fire, I know they are not filled yet, but we hope that they will be filled.

Chairman Kates: I got you.

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: So I want included in my base salaries right now because I don't know if they'll be hired in January or March.

Chairman Kates: So when we get, that's why I think it's important to include this part in our revised budget, you know I was asking you do we have this in our revised budget so we'll know actually.

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: Remind me when we are doing the revised. *[indiscernible][1:01:34]*.

follow it, but if you see something like that that you would like me to add, let me know and I'll put it in.

Chairman Kates: Yes because I normally ask what we have actually.

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: If that would help you, just remind me when I'm at that point.

Chairman Kates: Not just for me, but for the accountant.

Female Speaker: *[indiscernible][1:01:53]*

Mayor: Let's move on.

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: Yeah because I would kind of like to do that too.

Chairman Kates: If you want to be excused, if anybody needs to be excused, I understand time frames.

Mr. Nielsen: I've got to go.

Chairman Kates: Okay.

Mr. Nielsen: I would like to say one other thing before I get out of here, *[indiscernible][1:02:08]*. You're doing a good job.

Female Speaker: Thank you.

Chairman Kates: Could you share that idea before you leave too right quick.

Mr. Nielsen: What I have been saying?

Chairman Kates: Yeah the idea about the contractors. I think we talked about it the last time, getting a listing.

Mr. Nielsen: Just something right quick, budgeting and cutting costs are the quickest way to solve your problem you have, but the cutting of a five thousand dollar company with this, is it's five thousand dollars. If we can take five thousand dollars and spend our money in our community and it adds up to twenty-five thousand dollars, so one of the things that I keep saying over and over again is that maybe you all could look at a committee and come up and take a look at all of the major contracts and see who or who is doing those contracts and is there anybody in the City first, that can do that work because I'll give you an example,

Mayor: We only have one engineer in the Parrish.

Mr. Nielsen: Right but what I'm *[indiscernible]* [1:03:26]. But I understand that, but still we need to try to work a few examples, we wouldn't based on another entity just recently, it required us because we *[indiscernible]* [1:03:39] and well that because they use us, that enables them for us to hire people that now take that hundred thousand and now it's five hundred thousand economy in here so that's what I keep saying about it. Of course, I haven't looked into it so bare with me, I always go back to maybe the health insurance for the city. You know again,

Mayor: Yeah we did that and the thing was we *[indiscernible]* [1:04:16] the same thing Lord Jesus knows spent months and months of the health insurance issue, okay so we had everybody hooked in, the thing about it was there was no lower cost in bringing it locally.

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: And service.

Mayor: The service is what was the key. The office, the way that they even kept us, the cost doesn't change from her, if she sells insurance, it doesn't matter who it is, it goes into an international database, everybody is going to have the same price on that, it's the commitment of service and the service that we get from our provider has not been able to, we have not been able to get that from anybody locally and we tried, we met with Chris Varmette, she met with a bunch of them too, but I

Female Speaker: *[indiscernible]* [1:05:07].

Mayor Speaker: Laura Jenkins, they can't provide that service to us that we need. For example, this past year my son was not insured and I didn't realize he was no insured in Virginia. Remember I was freaking out, that was great. So they were like oh well you've got to go back and pay eight hundred dollars for each month that it wasn't there. I called the insurance man, our provider, they went over and beyond, needless to say he was insured for the rest of this year. This just happened in June, because I didn't know it, because I kept getting a thing back from Blue Cross Blue Shield and I was like well *[indiscernible]* [1:05:52]. Well my son was not insured by, they just dropped him

because and then when I tried to do it work insurance it was because of change in conditions lapsed the time, they were able to provide us with the services that we were needed and

Chairman Kates: That makes a difference

Mayor: It makes a big difference whenever you can make a phone call to that person and we had someone who had cancer this past year who passed away, a phone call isn't a *[indiscernible][1:06:26]* and they go over and b*[1:06:28]*

Mayor: Chris and I and I'm going to give you an example with that, Chris and I have been friends since we were twelve years old. I told Chris this, Chris says, wait that's pretty *[indiscernible][1:06:39]*. He said so that's pretty much babysitting, so what does that say to me?

Mr. Nielsen: You didn't receive the *[indiscernible][1:06:47]*.

Mayor: The bills have something to do with the municipal side of things, that he's not able to

[Cross talk][1:06:55].

Mayor: When we had openings for that, he didn't even know it. Ward Genius was the only one who Chris had working at the time, but

Female Speaker: Let me give an example,

Mayor: They say it's babysitting.

Fin Dir Smith: Everybody that we talked to, I said what would you all do if we had an employee with a problem? They said well then policy would give them United Spawn, that ain't happening with who we've got now. They *[indiscernible][1:07:17]*

Mayor: Sylvia King came and they wanted to charge her fifteen hundred dollars to call in Heat Pro. Now *[indiscernible][1:07:27]*. You call somebody, Chris told me, quote unquote it was babysitting. So I don't want to be babysat.

Chairman Kates: Well since you mentioned public works and I know you have to go, but since you mentioned public works,

Mayor: *[Indiscernible][1:07:42]*.

Mr. Nielsen: But it's crazy,

[Cross Talk][1:07:46]

Mr. Nielsen: But we've got to figure out a way,

Mayor: But didn't we, wait for the best part is at least we can say, *[indiscernible]*
1:07:56]

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: Well I worked on that for like five, six years,

Mayor: But no one ever would do that and that was one of my concerns and why are we doing this locally.

Mr. Nielsen: Everything should be done locally.

Chairman Kates: Right.

Mayor: But I understand that,

Chairman Kates: But if the services aren't there,

Mayor: The services, could you imagine if you had an one eight hundred number,

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: That's what I was going to say, could you imagine some of our employees trying to have to deal with some of this stuff on their own.

[Cross Talk]
1:08:22]

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: I don't understand some of it.

Chairman Kates: Oh yeah.

Mr. Nielsen: Bill Magee was my insurance carrier, I have a hundred different insurance carriers, the adjuster comes out and he says we're going to pay you five hundred dollars for clean-up, so I call Bill. Bill had three separate meetings with him, before it was over they paid me seventy thousand dollars to clean it up and they gave me a seventy-five dollar check and you go why, because it makes a huge difference because they paid me for what's called across insurable interest that nobody understood but Bill Magee.

F Fin Dir Smith emale Speaker: Exactly.

Mr. Nielsen: So that seven thousand or six thousand I pay a year in insurance, I hadn't paid, well for the last ten years I didn't have to pay it in effect because of having the top notch insurance person.

Mayor: That's how we see it and that's how I feel about that. But we tried.

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: We did.

Mr. Nielsen: But we've got to do something.

Mayor: That was the number one thing, *[indiscernible]* [1:09:20] since we were here we opened it up for everybody and here's the thing, I don't think and still to this day, for example whenever Rex was not insured, I called Chris Workman, he's in my favorites list, Chris Rex isn't insured he was like hey let me get a number to this lady over here.;

Mr. Nielsen: That's insane.

Mayor: So I called her who basically turned around and gave me Mickey's number, so I should have been with Mickey the whole time and *[indiscernible]* [1:09:47].

Mr. Nielsen: I agree with you.

Mayor: *[Indiscernible]* [1:09:49].

Chairman Kates: Thank you so much for coming.

Mr. Nielsen: It's because we don't want to do it, I agree.

Chairman Kates: Thank you, thank you so much for coming.

Fin Dir Smith : *[Indiscernible]* [1:09:54] for that money.

Councilwoman Smith : How long will you be at your own office?

Mr. Nielsen: I'll be there at two o'clock. No I'm going to be there at two o'clock. I've got to run.

Councilwoman Smith : What time is it?

Mr. Nielsen: It's twelve twenty.

Councilwoman Smith Speaker: Okay.

Chairman Kates: Thank you for your comment. Thank you, it was appreciated.

Mr. Nielsen: Thank you all, you are all doing fine.

Chairman Kates: Okay moving right along since he made the comment on public works, I'm trying to really move this on.

Mr. Nielsen: Tomorrow?

Councilwoman Smith: Tomorrow is *[indiscernible]* [1:10:22].

Chairman Kates: Thank you. Moving right along, still in public works area the heavy equipment operators, looking at their two percent which is a five thousand five hundred forty-three thousand eighty-six cents and help me to understand this please, we have a total of two hundred and twenty-seven thousand four hundred and thirty-one dollars,

Fin Dir Smith: But it just went down.

Chairman Kates: Okay.

Fin Dir Smith : Because people have moved around.

Chairman Kates: Okay you're saying, okay, so you're saying this is effecting, okay I've got that.

Fin Dir Smith: Yeah comparing this to this isn't always going to work because things change so much.

Chairman Kates: Okay,

Mayor: Look I want to tell you all that, we tried to get health insurance, we try to do everything locally but the thing, and that was another thing that I

Chairman Kates: Before you go, Stacy just one question, electrical.

[Indiscernible][1:11:34 to 1:11:39]

Councilwoman Fortenberry: So when do the city employees

Mayor: No we pay one hundred percent for every employees insurance, which is nine thousand dollars a year. So if a person is making, for example I can give you for community outreach person does not receive health insurance, so that nine thousand dollars that they would normally receive through health insurance was not received, so that nine thousand dollars was saved and there is no retirement.

[Indiscernible][1:12:03].

Mayor: Each person is nine thousand dollars. Curtis is nine thousand dollars and

[Indiscernible][1:12:09].

Mayor: It's nine thousand dollars a person, so every employee, if we have a hundred and forty-four, forty-six employees in the City you multiply that by nine, that is all our health insurance is a month. We do make the premiums every and when we became mayor we were not making the premiums correctly and I had two with cancer who were getting in trouble when they would go get chemo. But the premiums weren't being paid on time and so it was messing them up going to their doctor because, yeah that was *[indiscernible][1:12:44].* No that's not including any of that.

Chairman Kates: So that says that we

Mayor: But we have men and women who work for the City of Bogalusa who work strictly for health insurance and that's one of them that you can't afford to *[indiscernible][1:12:58]*, I can't afford to put braces on my health insurance, it's eight hundred dollars whether it's one or five.

Female Speaker: A month.

Chairman Kates: And speaking of improvements, if I may, just meeting with the Mayor the other day, you know it really surprised me but I'm glad it's put in place is the overtime. Our overtime, I understand our overtime was affected because we did not have timesheets in place. Can you believe that. No time and attendance in place.

Mayor: Can I tell you all what there was when I got there, it would shock you because *[indiscernible][1:13:33]* for twelve years, I did not realize that the people we were on a faith basis with them, we would say who was at work and not,

Chairman Kates: That's ridiculous.

Mayor: There was no accountability.

[Indiscernible][1:13:46]

Mayor: But there were every *[indiscernible][1:13:49]* there was never any accountability in the City, so for example even if Stacy takes a day off, I know that Stacy's going to be off and she has also reported it to people that are beneath her, so that they are now aware, but there is a whole system there of accountability that there was none. You cannot believe because we worked somewhere other than the City of Bogalusa and you know that it's not like that.

Chairman Kates: No not according to the Federal Labor Standards Act.

[Cross Talk][1:14:19]

Mayor: We pissed people off.

Female Speaker: *[Indiscernible][1:14:23]*

Chairman Kates: Yeah how does that legislative auditors feel about that?

Mayor: Well they didn't, they were unhappy because actually Stacy was the one who asked and we told that there was no timesheets because we had

Female Speaker: *[Indiscernible][1:14:36]*

Mayor: I know but I'm saying this

Councilwoman Smith [*Indiscernible*][1:14:38] punch in and things like that.

Chairman Kates: A time and attendance policy that's

[*Cross Talk*] [1:14:42 to 1:14:50]

Mayor: When we got here we didn't some of the issues that came about. One being that nobody in the City of Bogalusa was told that they were going to a bi-monthly payroll

Chairman Kates: Payroll system.

Mayor: That was one. We didn't know nothing about it.

[*Cross Talk*][1:15:07 to 1:15:13]

Chairman Kates: How could they not inform you?

Female Speaker: [*indiscernible*][1:15:18]

Chairman Kates: It's all about what?

Female Speaker: It's all about that base, because everybody kept saying base pay, base pay, base pay.

Mayor: Base pay because nobody knew about that, okay that was one thing, there was one [*indiscernible*][1:15:33] computer system, okay, whole new thing. I'm telling you it was twelve years old. I'm talking twelve years.

Chairman Kates: Not under your administration, I remember when a computer went down,

Female Speaker: Day one of me walking in. The day we were walking in they were changing the payroll period, from bi-monthly to bi-weekly and

[*Cross talk*][1:15:56]

Female Speaker: And we were

Mayor: [*indiscernible*][1:15:56] try to go for insurance, health insurance [*indiscernible*][1:16:00] for every tom, dick and harry across the country here trying to

Female Speaker: Affirmative

Male Speaker: *[Indiscernible]* [01:16:03] Computer to google one insurance you're going to get calls and emails and *[Indiscernible]* [01:16:07]

Female Speaker: and then employees *[Indiscernible]* [01:16:11] oh no you are cheating us out of a check *[Indiscernible]* [01:16:15]

[Cross Talk] [01:16:22]

Female Speaker1: everybody *[Indiscernible]* [01:16:09] nobody was told any of these new computer systems all these things there was no accountability.

Female Speaker: I can't believe I asked *[Indiscernible]* [01:16:27]

Male Speaker: *[Indiscernible]* [01:16:35]

Female Speaker: yeah, they did time sheets, but it wasn't any *[Indiscernible]* [01:16:41]

Female Speaker1: I thought there was no timesheets *[Indiscernible]* [01:16:44] No they didn't have it then, I know she told me they didn't have timesheets then.

Councilwoman Smith 1.33.39 eaker: No, no so I could have just filled my time sheet out for a week and I could have been home for a week.

Chairman Kates: Well I, I like I said I cannot wait until we have our comparison next year. *[Indiscernible]* [01:17:04]

Mayor: There's a lot of these issues *[Indiscernible]* [01:17:23] like accountability and health insurance and these things were all at score. But I tried to communicate with you all and work some, *[Indiscernible]* [01:17:32] This is not you all's business it's not your business, but you should know about it.

Chairman Kates: Well the problem is I brought it up because the budget is our business and, and every penny I don't care how it's spent, how it's spent it's our business.

Fin Dir Smith Speaker: I will say *[Indiscernible]* [01:17:40] anywhere I can

Mayor: But if you not going to quote it if you won't sit down with somebody, communicate with them that some of them already do what we've been trying to get health insurance. But if you won't sit, if you're not willing to, it's not, it *[Indiscernible]* [01:18:06] me as a counsel woman I can't recount every single day that I here with you unless you sit down with me I cannot do it in a council meeting. I will not sit there and do it. It's not about transparency. It's not transparency.

Chairman Kates: Oh, oh, absolutely it's about transparency I mean we are public we a public servant and we just open to the public. I don't care what Female Speaker: It's not a time, it's not a matter of opinion well I'm saying

Chairman Kates: What I'm saying, with this *[Indiscernible]* [01:18:34] it is. You know.

Mayor: I'll be able to tell you these things I never asked for it to be here many times, I talked to you just the other day *[Indiscernible]* [01:18:40] with the other things going on in the city. I'm not going to be in the council meeting and tell her in our district what's going on. If you can't make a phone call or you can't talk to me in my office and that's not transparent luck you can go *[Indiscernible]* [01:18:54]

Chairman Kates: I understand your position mam, we've got to move on here

Mayor: you are

Chairman Kates: We've got to move, it's not about me, we've got to move on here. As I told you before, I'm completely transparent. Okay now, I've missed, I've missed, um public works electrical, an electrical person.

Mayor: Yeah it was up because, it was up

Chairman Kates: May I finish please, may I finish, may I finish. That's not the point, um I see electrical is forty-one on our old budget, two thousand and seventeen up forty-one five eight, eight and then on the projected budget is two percent from that would have been um eight hundred thirty-one dollars and seventy-six cents. So, and then the *[Indiscernible]* [01:19:50] dropped on page twenty-four

Fin Dir Smith r: I'm going to double check on that because *[Indiscernible]* [01:19:54]

Chairman Kates: Yeah please

Fin Dir Smith: Because we had an electrician who had been here for years and he retired,

Chairman Kates: Okay

Fin Dir Smith le Speaker: So, this is the new electric, electrician salary.

Chairman Kates: Okay, okay

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: We had earl martin and he retired

Councilwoman Smith Speaker: Is it higher

Chairman Kates: It's lower, It's lower on page twenty-four. It's forty thousand

Fin Dir Smith: I'm going to double check that number better *[Indiscernible]* [01:20:15]

Mayor: Retired

Chairman Kates: Yeah *[Indiscernible]* [01:20:16]

Councilwoman Smith:: You all say you have to start from the bottom and work your way up correct.

Chairman Smith:: Right

[Cross Talk] [01:20:26]

Fin Dir Smith: This, this one's kind of different because there is only one person in that department and that's a union job, so they have to try to find somebody through the union and all that other stuff. *[Indiscernible]* [01:20:34] Let me double check that number.

Chairman Kates: Please,

Female Speaker: *[Indiscernible]* [01:20:44]

Chairman Kates: Yeah because it sounds like what you are saying this forty thousand is his base salary. But

Fin Dir Smith: Yeah, I don't know how

[Cross Talk] [01:21:00]

Chairman Kates: Oh yes, I do, I couldn't,

Councilwoman Smith: You need me to start at the bottom

Chairman Kates: I do at in some point. *[Indiscernible]* [01:21:10] but that new position that um.

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: It was saved

Chairman Kates: that community relations position

Female Speaker: it didn't seem to work they had to start from the bottom

Councilwoman Smith: In whatever department they were in

Mayor: So, it depends on *[Indiscernible]* [01:21:24]

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: So, from my department I would say, say Patty Wells retired people would move up to her position the new person they would hire would be at the *[Indiscernible]* [01:21:35] because everyone else would move up.

Councilwoman Smith: So, would they, would the salary be different, or would it stay the same or would it be more?

Female Speaker: Generally, it's not probably about what their making currently

Chairman Kates: Because I understand what you're saying to hear. *[Indiscernible]* [01:21:50]

Councilwoman Smith:: Here's where I'm going with this, and I'm not to micromanagement just given the word your saying that if someone moves up in a position that I was told this down in our department that you have supervisors who make less than some of their employees.

[Cross Talk] [01:22:12]

Chairman Kates: In public works, okay yeah.

Councilwoman Smith : How does that work

Chairman Kates: I was told that too.

Fin Dir Smith: Because, the person who makes more has been doing, she she's in a pay goes position right, and she does so much for the water department I'm talking about bough coo, and Jerry before he left told me that she needed to be compensated for that. Because it is so much work. Anytime there is a problem with water it ends up on her desk. Most of the time they don't even go through the supervisor, they go directly to this person. And there was a big stink about it and I hate to talk about this on the record there was a big stink about it and I went to the supervisor and I said do you have a problem with it and you want to take over those duties and get the pay you're more than welcome to do it. I will take it away from her. She didn't want it.

Mayor: Okay, but she did want the extra responsibility

Fin Dir Smith: but we offered it, she had been doing it for years and years for no compensation. And it really just isn't fare. She is an elected official *[Indiscernible]* [01:23:16]

Female Speaker: Not for you, I, no one *[Indiscernible]* [01:23:18]

[Cross Talk] [01:23:22]

Councilwoman Smith: anything with water *[Indiscernible]* [01:23:25] adjustments is going to make

Chairman Kates: Right

Female Speaker: It said that whenever we originally

Chairman Kates: Exactly

Fin Dir Smith: *[Indiscernible] [01:23:31]* for those duties because she worked her tail off on it. It's its far beyond just doing the payroll. This isn't even the payroll department this is the water stuff. And um, it didn't even cross my head about it being higher than a supervisor. I just wanted to give her something fare. For doing all that.

Chairman Kates: Right

Fin Dir Smith: It was a big stink about it *[Indiscernible] [01:23:56]*

Chairman Kates: Exactly

Mayor: At that point, I understand.

Councilwoman Smith: I didn't even think about it

Mayor: You didn't think about what you want to do is right

Councilwoman Smith: And then when it was brought to my attention ... I know someone who has been her ten years versus twenty years.

[Cross Talk] [01:24:10]

Chairman Kates: Exactly, Right, Right, Right

Mayor: I feel bad for them.

Fin Dir Smith: They get the two percent raise every year but their doing the same job, same job, same job, why should they get paid more?

Chairman Kates: Well my thing is that the individuals that would have normally create a job are the seniority people offer the opportunity for that job and where they can get in a status of more money.

Fin Dir Smith: After all that happened I went to the supervisor and I told them I honestly, I didn't even check I didn't even compare what her salary was going to be compared to other people. I just wanted to pay her a fare, a fare increase, for all the extra headaches and stuff she deals with.

Chairman Kates: So, has that been corrected? Did you, did you look at the

Fin Dir Smith: Yeah, now I know she does probably make a little bit more now. But, we gave her the other one option of saying if you don't want her to have it, you want to make

the extra money you take on the duties and you can have the money, and she turned it down.

Chairman Kates: I mean that's, that's about the union, uh, uh, guidelines. You know the pecking order of promotions.

[Cross Talk] [01:25:15]

Councilwoman Smith: Let me ask you this, this is hypothetically speaking, you supervise over someone they need to share in this glory use us for example and I take on an extra duty and you are my supervisor you should know how much I make. So, you just saying, that you didn't think about or even look at how much I make you just would have gave me ten dollars more. *[Indiscernible] [01:25:46]* But say they been there thirty years.

Fin Dir Smith: Are they doing all the extra work?

Councilwoman Smith: No

Female Speaker: So, just because

Chairman Kates: But according to the union seniority hold president. I don't care, I don't care what *[Indiscernible] [01:25:58]*

Councilwoman Smith: And I'm okay too, but I'm just saying you said *[Indiscernible] [01:26:04]*me till just this year

[Cross Talk] [01:26:06]

Fin Dir Smith: But I'm her supervisor shouldn't I still be making more than her. *[Indiscernible] [01:26:18]*

Chairman Kates: Well, maybe it's consideration that she's training you as well. And she does some of the duties.

Mayor : She is already at the salary.

Councilwoman Smith ; You are her supervisor, I would think you would make more than her, because you are her supervisor. *[Indiscernible] [01:23:56]*

Chairman Kates: You just what now?

Fin Dir Smith : I just went over rates *[Indiscernible] [01:26:41]*

Councilwoman Smith: If she leaves I'm quite sure you're going to pass along on her salary.

Chairman Kates: No, Miss Miller's already in place, Miss Miller's already here. Forty thousand.

Councilwoman Smith : But what I'm saying normally in the real world, because we live in the real world. When you hire someone, when you hire someone *[Indiscernible]* *[01:27:04]*

Female: She's got to get Brenda's pay.

Councilwoman Smith : But listen to what I'm saying. Brenda's leaving and I'm getting Brenda's job. She's making ten dollars *[Indiscernible]* *[01:27:14]* I'm going to come here making twelve knowing that someone that come into this position will normally make more than the current person that's *[Indiscernible]* *[01:27:22]* I guess.

Chairman Kates: We hire through attrition , I mean we try to get out of debt normally it is a lower salary. You know for a new person, but.

Speaker: Where was it? Electrician? *[Indiscernible]* *[01:27:43]*

Female Speaker: I want to check his numbers.

Chairman Kates: Okay, *[Indiscernible]* *[01:27:46]*

Councilwoman Smith r: Trying, to see though I'm interrupted a meeting. Actually Mayor a closer answer that in my opinion like you sell *[Indiscernible]* *[01:27:55]* she's been here for how many years?

Mayor: Since two-thousand

Chairman Kates: Two-thousand-nine.

Councilwoman Smith: So, how do we council, every council do you have to vote on giving her a raise or do you just want to do what's fare for her?

Chairman Kates: Exactly, Exactly

Councilwoan Smith: Do you do what's fare for her and bring her up to speed with the others

Fin Dir Smith : Well, let's say we *[Indiscernible]* *[01:28:21]*

Chairman Kates: Right, right because we do have to do it, a check of what the other areas is.

[Cross Talk] *[01:28:26]*

Mayor: That's why we had the Police Chief, the Fire Chief, and all of them. I think when there a department you have to be more then them.

Speaker: But why

Mayor: That's why they did that, that I was on council when we gave her a raise before and it is a council decision and I'll committee that. *[Indiscernible]* [01:28:47]

Councilwoman Smih: So, if you want to do what's fare we just bring it back to the table

Chairman Kates: Do it through resolution and vote on it. *[Cross Talk]* [01:28:54]

Fin Dir Smith : *[Indiscernible]* [01:28:55] Raises during a deficit and we cut so close to being in deficits that you.

[Cross Talk] [01:29:02]

Chairman Kates: Where are we, I mean that's point. *[Indiscernible]* [01:29:05] Yeah that's my point, I mean we are making all these I'm sorry, go ahead Tamara.

Councilwoman Smith: Discussions that Miss Stacie she wanted to do right for someone in here department and bring her up because she wanted to be fare. So, we as, I submit to council, so I could be fair to Miss Brenda, and what do I need to do bring her up before *[Indiscernible]* [01:29:24]

Councilwoman Kates: You send the councils league

Fin Dir Smith

[Cross Talk] [01:29:32]

Chairman Kates: And then it would be back on a vote with the entire council. Once we do the resolution. It's a matter of resolution. Well I prefer to have everything, I prefer to have everything bylaw well ordnance is a law.

Speaker: That's not something you would need an ordnance

Chairman Kates: Well, I would talk to attorney to presume that. Decision.

Fin Dir Smith Speaker: Generally, what they do is they'll just say it's a water table.

Chairman Kates: I understand but I will run it by a city attorney. Okay moving on, moving along. Okay, we talked about.

Councilwoman Kates: I'm sorry does that need to go to the city attorney?

Chairman Kates: I said I will run the idea by the city attorney. I will do

Speaker: Okay

Chairman Kates: Okay um, I am getting Neuropathy in my hands. Neuropathy, neuropathy is when you have diabetes and your fingers start sticking together. Let me hurry up and move on. We talked about carpenter, talked about

Fin Dir Smith : Yeah, those positions are not stat

Chairman Kates: So, you're going to check on the electrician

Fin Dir Smith: Yes, I'm work on that long there

Chairman Kates: Okay, um, the airport manager, the airport manager uh, no actually the airport manager was not in the two-thousand-seventeen budget at all. Did you notice it? So, I went back, I went back and saw his base and base is um, forty thousand six-fifty for two-thousand and

Mayor: Some of these positions were brought in

Chairman Kates: Okay, no his were, his was forty-thousand and six-hundred fifty-eight and two percent was eight-hundred and thirteen dollars and one cent. So, it actually should be for him, forty-one-thousand for-hundred and sixty-three dollars. But in the report, it's forty-one-thousand a hundred and thirty-two. We should owe him two-hundred dollars, the airport manager. i

[Cross Talk] [01:31:56]

Chairman Kates: And um, who we down to

Fin Dir Smith: Yeah, I don't know why he was left off of the report, but I got to thinking about it I'm like he's going to general fund he's an authority *[Indiscernible] [01:32:17]*

Chairman Kates: Well, he's in here but he back in the back. He's in the detail on page look on page fifty-four in the revised

Fin Dir Smith: All the previous personnel page he's never been listed

Chairman Kates: Oh, okay

Fin Dir Smith: On this schedule

Chairman Kates1: Okay,

Fin Dir Smith: I had look some I just had to find it

Chairman Kates: Guess what Stacie, if that's the case if he was not listed was that, was that his salary not in the total of the of the funds. I mean in this

Fin Dir Smith: He was included in the general fund. He just wasn't on this schedule.

Chairman Kates: Right, but it fixed the numbers here because he's not listed in here.

Fin Dir Smith: Yeah, but he would have been included in these numbers back here which pays to the general fund.

Chairman Kates: Okay.

Fin Dir Smith: Anyway, I added him because I was like in the other thing I took out if you look over here, the city attorney was listed but he's not actually listed as an employee. He's a 1099 so I took him off of this thing.

Chairman Kates: I noticed he was not in the schedule.

Fin Dir Smith: Because he's not payroll, because of the payroll department. So, I'm like why should he be on there?

Chairman Kates: Because I thought when I saw that, when I saw that I thought, I thought it meant that he was going to be retiring. I examine the budget.

Fin Dir Smith: I still have his thing back here, his fund budget. But I took him off the purposed personnel allotment because he doesn't really go through payroll he's not a w-2 employee. I just thought he shouldn't be included in this and why the airport wasn't when he is an employee that goes through payroll. So, took him out and put him on is more appropriate.

Chairman Kates: Yeah, cause, cause, I just didn't know if it affected our totals.

Female Speaker: *[Indiscernible] [01:34:10] at one*

Chairman Kates: Oh, Good, good, yes, he can observe. I talked to Attorney Dale this morning said another council can come in, but they can't say anything, they can just come in and observe. But they can't vote they can't vote but they can come in and observe. Yeah, I ran it by Dale this morning.

Female Speaker: But anyways, I'm hoping that this schedule is more.

Chairman Kates: Did you tell he couldn't come in

Female Speaker: No

Chairman Kates: Okay alright yeah.

[Cross Talk] [01:34:41]

Fin Dir Smith : I learn something new every time I do this thing.

Chairman Kates: I know me too.

Fin Dir Smith: It makes my brain hurt.

Chairman Kates: Okay, now utility systems water works, okay

Fin Dir Smith: That's what we normally call the Hwork, that's the plumbers and all of that.

Chairman Kates: I told Bill I'm not moving without you. The utilities systems water works on page twenty-six. Now, see all, okay, now that's a clump of five employees and what I did was.

Fin Dir Smith: What page are you looking at

Chairman Kates: On page, Well, I'm, I'm looking in the two-thousand-seven base

Speaker: Okay

Chairman Kates: Okay, and what I did was multiply to get the two percent which was twenty-five-nineteen and with the hours we added two additional positions in the plumbers. We added two positions five instead of seven.

Fin Dir Smith: But you see also the plumber's helper,

Chairman Kates: Okay, yeah, I see it.

Fin Dir Smith: So that made it, and then it looks like we actually filled a position that was unfilled as of last year. You see how we had ten last year this year we have eleven. So, it looks like something was filled that wasn't filled previously. But yeah, they no longer have the plumber's helper he moved to plumber.

Chairman Kates: He was, that's what I asked you, was that a promotion, considered a promotion.

Female Speaker: I don't know

Speaker: Plumber?

Chairman Kates: From the plumber's helper to the plumber

Mayor: Yes, you have so much time it's kind of like an apprentice.

Chairman Kates: Okay, okay okay. So, that's like an automatic union thing.

Mayor: That's all union.

Chairman Kates: Okay. Alright thank you, okay and

Fin Dir Smith: How you know those numbers aren't wrong. So, if you all want to leave me you your budget, this stuff, *[Indiscernible]* [01:36:45] that two-thousand and eight.

Chairman Kates: Oh yeah, I believe you, eighteen you mean.

Fin Dir Smith: Yesterday, I look at it until I can't see it anymore.

Chairman Kates: Okay, in the uh, you can check the electricity thing.

[Cross Talk] [01:36:02]

Chairman Kates: Okay, now also with the sewer treatment swing shift operator. There were two positions added today, as well.

Fin Dir Smith: I see the operators moved down. See last year we had four operators now we have

Chairman Kates: Now tell me we have three right here. Sewer swing shift operator three.

Fin Dir Smith: Here we had four. The one above it.

Chairman Kates: What's the difference between the two.

Fin Dir Smith: Um, I think one's more. Ones a little more technical, I don't really know the details of all they do and everything. But you see this went from four to three

Chairman Kates: This stayed the same. The sewer treatment operator stayed the same, two, four and six. But the sewer treatment shift operator that went from three to five.

Fin Dir Smith: Yeah, it looks like it fills the position some

Mayor: Yeah, he did fill five positions this year.

Fin Dir Smith: Yeah

Chairman Kates: Okay, so.

Mayor: I can answer that.

Chairman Kates: Okay, and who was he? This falls on him.

Mayor: James Hall filled Five positions in public works that were never filled, and nobody would bid on those jobs. Like street sweeper, we had a bunch of people, uh, pissed dirty and the second time they again pissed dirty the first time they pissed dirty
[Indiscernible] [01:38:27]

Fin Dir Smith: I don't know what she's talking about.

Mayor: We get a lot of that. But it makes sense to you that how it gets *[Indiscernible]* [01:38:41] They just got fired, they didn't just get fired, because you can test positive or *[Indiscernible]* [01:38:51]

Chairman Kates: I'm Just, I'm Just going by what we're telling our citizens that we in the black when we still hiring people behind the scene. That's all I'm saying. You know.

Mayor: I know but that was for services we wanted to get the ditches cleaned out, I hadn't had nobody to own that, I didn't have nobody bid on those jobs.

Chairman Kates: I mean, you know we need the people but I just you know we're sending out the right messages to the citizens.

Mayor: Well, we had not cut any services and continued services that we needed to survive. If we don't get *[Indiscernible]* [01:39:24]

Chairman Kates: Turn to page thirty-six so we can move on. Page thirty-six okay. Um, this is, are Auditing fees this is what I was going to ask Bob. Our Auditing fees

Fin Dir Smith: I Brought it down.

Chairman Kates: Yeah, you did bring it down, *[Indiscernible]* [01:40:13] but my thing, this is pertaining to Bob's salary correct, Auditing fees?

Speaker: That's Bob

Chairman Kates: Okay, now in the *[Indiscernible]* [01:40:22]

Mayor: Yeah, that was five-hundred dollars probably

[Cross Talk] [01:40:25]

Chairman Kates: No, he said it would not be no change coming in no charge.

Fin Dir Smith: Really, really

Chairman Kates: That's what he told me, I can call him back so you all can hear it. Believe me I asked before inviting him over here. But my part being is that in the contract that we signed to renew his contract it's sixty-thousand dollars.

Fin Dir Smith: Sometimes, and I can probably answer this. Sometimes he has work that goes just beyond the voucher. *[Indiscernible]* [01:40:56] auditors when the legislative vouchers when they come.

Chairman Kates: I understand that, but this is below his contract fee. This is fifty-five-thousand. *[Indiscernible]* [01:41:04] oh I want it to go back too, but we, we agreed upon a contract that's what I'm say. We voted upon it. Yeah. *[Indiscernible]* [01:41:14]

Fin Dir Smith: I'm going to go under budget overbudget on that already.

Chairman Kates: We voted on this already, I wondered about it. Also, his fees for his uh, those extra reports he does. Those are, I mean those, I mean those are way above his Auditing fees.

Fin Dir Smith: I guess that's all *[Indiscernible.]* [01:41:54] in minus twenty seven thousand dollars intwenty-sixteen.

Chairman Kates: Oh yeah, he probably there now. And I have spoken to you in our last meeting, you'll see in our finance note about possibly giving us a little, a little more detail, overview for his services and he replied that he could get back with us and give us something.

[Cross Talk] [01:42:25]

Fin Dir Smith: Already know I'm over budget with that. This budget's going to change.

Chairman Kates: My thing is we go on this budget to move it forward to the council today we don't know what he's put in place. You know what he's putting in place.

Fin Dir Smith: Who Bob...That's why the budget is not a set number for me. *[Indiscernible]* [01:43:08] it moves throughout the year. We might end up having less in employee insurance and build up somewhere else you know.

Chairman Kates: And then we have, and then we have, um we have not only his uh his uh what do you call it those billing what do you call those billing fees. We got to have those AUP's that's the agreed upon procedures Auditing. He's going to charge us for that. That's one of the things we could have clarified today if it would be included in his internal audits or are we going to be charged extra for the AUP's.

Fin Dir Smith: I think that's one of the main audit

Chairman Kates: No, we, this is something brand new we just voted upon them.

Councilwoman Fortenberry: Sixty-thousand dollars we sure did. *[Indiscernible]* [01:44:23] we voted him in at sixty-thousand plus what he makes already. Which I thought was a lot more.

Fin Dir Smith: So, we paying him sixty-thousand dollars on top of sixty?

Chairman Kates: We're going to be paying more than that because let me find his AUP.

Fin Dir Smith: I'm not too concerned about it.

Chairman Kates: You're not concerned about it?

Fin Dir Smith: It's already done what can I do?

Chairman Kates: Okay, here go the thing on the AUP's listen to this.

Fin Dir Smith: Nothing's going to come up to exactly to the budget.

Chairman Kates: That's our agreed upon procedures. Are you aware of them? Okay. *[Indiscernible]* [01:45:14] I cannot find I'm almost finished. I guess my main concern. Oh, I'll wait till she came in. *[Indiscernible]* [01:45:33] You know, my thing he's good, he's been with the city forever. He's wise *[Indiscernible]* [01:46:05] Mr.Seal, Mr.Seal. *[Indiscernible]* [01:46:20] Let me see the two-thousand six budget for him. Let me see what's in the two-thousand six budget for, um for Mr. Seal*[Indiscernible]* [01:46:36]

Fin Dir Smith: Let's move on. I don't care what happened in two-thousand-six.

Chairman Kates: I do. Okay, city council oh where is it article fee two-thousand-six was forty-five hundred dollars. That's two-thousand-six budget. This one from two-thousand-six. So, I just wanted to know if he was really, really, high you know we reflected that in the prior budget. And then I've got the other budgets too, but we're not going to go through that. And then Miss Brenda, when we finish would you please, this is power point from the APU could make everybody a copy or I could make a copy. Okay. Yes mam.

[Cross Talk] [01:48:01]

Chairman Kates: Moving right along now. I did find this letter from David Wolfe too.

Councilwoman Smith: Yes, I knew you had it because you gave us copies.

Chairman Kates: Yeah, I found it and what he recommended, and then he wrote me again last week about it and I'll make sure everybody gets a new copy of it. Miss Brenda, did you, this is this one

Councilman Fortenberry: The two percent that everybody gets, that's just kind of like a *[Indiscernible]* [01:48:35]

Chairman Kates: Right, right, that's the cost of living for everybody. And this is the proposition. I appreciate your all support I'm almost done, I'm almost done. Um, my last concern probably from thirty-six to the end of our budget. And the end of our budget if you look at all of the salaries, upcoming for two-thousand I mean, if you look at well it really doesn't matter. If you look at all of the salaries, there is a significant increase in all of the salaries. But this is my thing, there's like for example, the council salary no I lose count. Let's look on page thirty-seven for example. Well I don't even want to use that. My point being that the salaries projected for two-thousand and eighteen, and we looked at the salary totals at the beginning they don't match up they way over. Why do we have all this overtime projected.

Councilwoman Smith: Why do we have the overtime?

Councilwoman Kates: And why do we have all that overtime projected?

Fin Dir Smith: Can I explain real fast about the salaries why there off, number one those salaries on that sheet is for *[Indiscernible]* [01:50:31] field it includes everybody that has not been billed yet, because I know like fire short two I have the purposed those are included. When calculate let's say for fire, say I calculate their budget for next year. I'm already including those two filled positions because I'm hoping it comes in lower because they might not get what they want. But I put in worst case scenario. Now also say for fire it's not going to tie because, number one the two percent, well this one actually kind a will make a little more. But the proposed salary right here is their current salary it doesn't take into account the two percent raise that's going to come in. The upcoming yea takes into account the raise and all.

Chairman Kates: I'm looking at fire department, fire department one-million-eight-hundred-eighty-seven-thousand-three-hundred and seventeen. That's on page twenty-three. On page twenty-three. pages Sherry and Tamira, and Ms. Brenda.

Fin Dir Smith: First of all, let's make it easier, so I can explain the salaries issue. Okay so like say enterprise

Chairman Kates: What page are you on

Fin Dir Smith: Let's go to purchasing.

Chairman Kates: Purchasing in on the money. The two percent is on the money. It's correct. Then if we look at purchasing in here what page is it? Prosecutor, administrator finance.

Fin Dir Smith: Purchasing is on page forty-six okay her base salary as of right now is twenty-one-twenty-nine-one-thirty-one. Okay, on page twenty-five.

Chairman Kates: oh, wait a minute, I've got the wrong page twenty-nine-one-thirty-one

Fin Dir Smith: Okay when I calculated twenty-nine-three-sixty *[Indiscernible]* *[01:52:36]* salary being twenty-nine-one-thirty-one and always she's going to get the two percent raise. So, as of the end of August she's going to get the raise which will show up as her salary as of the end of next year. This is her first salary right now.

Chairman Kates: OK I understand that. On page twenty-five is the current salary on page forty-seven is were you include her two percent. Okay

Female Speaker: Her two percent starts in August. So it's not going to tie exactly to the penny, because of rounding and stuff like that. But that's how

Chairman Kates: So, are all of these salaries is going to be in August.

Fin Dir Smith: The first payroll *[Indiscernible]* *[01:53:19]*

Chairman Kates: Okay, that is it possible you could put a note on that or something. That it begins in August or something like that. Upcoming year. And all of this okay there you go I got you.

Fin Dir Smith: So, this isn't going to tie necessarily so that one way That's alright I'm glad you're asking. So, that's why when you look at these there not necessarily going to tie. Now that's one reason these payroll does not agree to what's in the back. Because that two percent starting in August. Now there are some other little things like employees. That is going to be off even higher than that because I know, no employee is going to be retiring. And generally, you have to pay, they have approved payroll. So, in my calculations for next year I just kind of say we're going to have a fifty-thousand pay year. So that included in my salary for next year.

Chairman Kates: Got you, got you.

Fin Dir Smith: and that's also fire police and I think there was one summer, and I pray that is would be less than fifty-thousand, but I try to look at worst case scenario. So, these schedules in the back will never actually tie to the current salary. Because of budget consideration. Fire and police also have differential pay if they work different shifts. They get set-up pay sometimes if somebody has to come in if they work in another position. They'll get set-up pay and I try to figure that up in my salaries for next year but it's not part of their current base salary. So, those allocations is never going to tie to it.

Councilwoman Fortenberry: *[Indiscernible]* *[01:55:07]* industrial park is current on their rent.

Fin Dir Smith: I know we had that woman that was supposed to be paying on it. *[Indiscernible]* *[01:55:14]*

Fin Dir Smith: Last time I checked I don't think [*Cross Talk*] [01:55:28]

Chairman Kates: If he's behind so many months, I agree.

Fin Dir Smith : But I'm glad you asked that Gloria, because it is something that bothers me that you can't compare last year to this schedule. [*Indiscernible*] [01:55:39] There is so much of a calculation.

Chairman Kates: It's already, it's already uh [*Indiscernible*] [01:55:45] it's already based on September of two-thousand-seventeen some of these numbers. It is already based on projections and not the actual numbers, right, right.

Fin Dir Smith: And that schedule over here is just what their current salary is.

Chairman Kates: Got you, got you. And my last question is, what is the deal with our page eighty-two. Page eighty-two we almost done you all.

Fin Dir Smith: Are those pages upside down? I'm talking about capital improvement page eighty-four, eighty-five and eighty-six. Mines upside down.

[*Cross Talk*] [01:56:40]

Fin Dir Smith: Page eighty-two okay I saw your capital improvement program. Um.

Fin Dir Smith: This is kind of just estimating. You know.

Chairman Kates: Right Okay now you see where it says, the project the water improvement, that did begin last year right?

Fin Dir Smith: yes, and the first one in Richardson town, [*Indiscernible*] [01:57:15] According to James they should be through by the end of this year.

Councilwoman Smith: So, they feel when they took some water [*Indiscernible*] [01:57:20]

Chairman Kates: Okay, Matthew where are we with the Landfield [*Indiscernible*] [01:57:34]

Female Speaker: All we did, all I can account for is the advolem [*Indiscernible*] [01:57:42] we take in and what goes out.

Chairman Kates: Is there a total amount we owe them?

Fin Dir Smith: That doesn't bill in the budget because I know we're not going to pay it.

Chairman Kates: what do we owe three-million or what?

Female Speaker: No, one something

Chairman Kates: One point five.

Fin Dir Smith: Something like that. I know it was close to a million or something like that. But all we do is pay what we own.

Chairman Kates: If we paying this that be really close.

Fin Dir Smith: That be in addition to what collected.

Chairman Kates: In addition?

Female Speaker: Yeah, because that's an addition to what we turn over from our taxes every year. That's we haven't paid it because we only them the taxes we collect.

Chairman Kates: The Landfield

Chairman Kates: Now on page okay we've discussed this before on page eighty-three about the municipal renovation plan. And I gave Miss Brenda a copy of what the text is about, and we are going to get an opinion from the Attorney General on what that language should be.

Fin Dir Smith: You all can argue about that.

Chairman Kates: It's not really an argument it's just a clarification.

Fin Dir Smith: You all can deal with that, I'm just, that's out of my, I'm clueless.

Chairman Kates: Okay on page eighty-four the demolition of condemned housing, is it unfortunately in two-thousand-nine a program was halted due to lack of funding and in two-thousand-eleven the program was restated a short time thereafter, shut down by the *[Indiscernible]* [01:59:30] DEQ because of new rule demolition. Due to the continuing inability of the city and the state to resolve the issues the administration recommends that this project remain in hold until resolution is reached. However, two weeks ago we are advertising and we have start implementing were back. *[Indiscernible]* [01:59:49] I think this needs to be updated to reflect that.

Mayor: They gave us the go ahead.

Fin Dir Smith: Well, I mean, I don't really think we're going to be doing very much. I think James said next year he might want to

Chairman Kates: But I don't, I don't think this should be in here because we are doing something.

Councilwoman Fortenberry: James Said what? (James Hall, Public Works Director)

Fin Dir Smith: I asked James, James reviewed this and didn't tell me to make any changes, I think he said he wanted me to budget about five-thousand for next year maybe do a *[Indiscernible]* *[02:00:16]* I don't know he didn't really tell me. But he said he might need about five-thousand for, um.

Chairman Kates: Well that goes to say the program is in place and this is saying the program is not in place.

Fin Dir Smith: I don't know, talk to James about that because I got him to review this and he didn't tell me to make a change to it.

Chairman Kates: Well, I can go pull, I can copy him I can pull the news paper article. About the demolition program back in place.

Fin Dir Smith Female Speaker: Okay whatever. I mean I don't think it's going to be that much done.

Chairman Kates: But it's not what's going to be

Fin Dir Smith: Gloria, it's also a cause benefit, is it really worth me printing all this out and redoing all this

Chairman Kates: Well, that's the purpose of the meeting Stacie.

Fin Dir Smith: I know, but to ask okay

Councilwoman Smith: It's just one page.

Chairman Kates: Yeah, like you're going to do that with change.

[Cross Talk] *[02:01:15]*

Chairman Kates: I'm talking about just the changes.

Fin Dir Smith: Then I end up paying for you all because it won't be accurate.

Chairman Kates: No, it's not. Not for me anyway, what do you all think? As long as it's accurate as long as it's accurate.

Fin Dir Smith: What you give me *[Indiscernible]* *[02:01:29]*

Chairman Kates: She has some other corrections to make too that she's going to put to page again. Like the electrician, the ordinance date, the ordinance date has to be changed. You know.

Female Speaker: But they off the hook, But I'll update that

Councilwoman Smith: Just make sure you do the right thing.

Fin Dir Smith: I'll get with James and ask him *[Indiscernible]* [02:01:51] for the correct wording.

Chairman Kates: Right, just put a copy of the pages of the changes your going to make.

Councilwoman Smith: Miss Sherry, do you agree?

Chairman Kates: as long as it is accurate. It's accurate, *[Indiscernible]* [02:02:14] Okay we can vote on it. But we do need accuracy you know.

Fin Dir Smith: I understand. I mean I can ask James to update it for me. That kind of upsets me because I should of.

Chairman Kates: But that's the purpose of the meeting Stacie, you shouldn't that's the purpose of this meeting. That's why I told you the other day when I met with you and the mayor I said I cannot make a valid decision by myself, I need the committee members there. And, and addition to that the council has to vote on this.

[Cross Talk] [02:02:52]

Chairman Kates: Okay, now uh, our city beautification program. What's the status of our program for against the rest of the city?

Fin Dir Smith: I guess I'm just upset with myself because I try to be so careful.

Chairman Kates: Well that's the purpose of the meeting, you have to go over with us so we all. But that's okay.

Fin Dir Smith: It just upsets me that I didn't find it. And I'm more upset at myself not the fact that you all found it and I have to change them. I'm upset with myself that I didn't see it.

Chairman Kates: But that's the purpose of the meeting. You have until Tuesday. Okay city beautification program.

Fin Dir Smith: Yeah, I gave a thousand dollars I think.

Chairman Kates: Okay, and that I mean that's for the entire city correct?

Fin Dir Smith: Yeah, but you know that's collectable I just put a thousand dollars to put something in there.

Chairman Kates: Okay, and then the other day when we talked about if it's a possibility for in the senior citizen program fund thirty-two-hundred about the five-hundred dollars did you come up with anything?

Fin Dir Smith: Where would I transfer it from?

Chairman Kates: General funds like you do everything else.

Fin Dir Smith: Then how do you account for it in the general fund. Then it can just be accounted for in the general fund. You don't just want to move to

Chairman Kates: Well make sure that, make sure there's a line item general funds that addresses that.

Fin Dir Smith: I don't think that, I mean, like, say part has there thing for recreation, I don't dictate how that is done.

Chairman Kates: What I'm saying is, a uh, and I need to ask the committee, as a committee you say you don't want to move it *[Indiscernible]* [02:04:50]

Female Speaker: The mayor can tell us,

[Cross Talk] [02:04:56]

Chairman Kates: Okay, we'll, we'll vote on it, Well I'm actually on page eighty-five and we were talking about culture and recreation. And I met with Stacie and the Mayor, the other day about matching what the senior citizen pays which is like five-hundred some dollars in their account for programs and matching that with five-hundred dollars. That's what I was asking.

Fin Dir Smith: That's what I'm saying, we don't have to necessarily put a line in the budget for that to be able to do. It can come out of our, another account, another *[Indiscernible]* [02:05:41]

Chairman Kates: But why not, but why not document in the budget? That's the whole thing right there.

Fin Dir Smith: But, Gloria, I'm not going to put swing set two-hundred dollars um, um, paper five-hundred dollars, I don't, it's more than that.

Chairman Kates: But according to the language back to the secretary of states, according to the language that's the whole point of insuring the tax they still paying for the tax and have justification for the tax.

Fin Dir Smith: That tax, is in there for the municipal building.

Chairman Kates: I understand that. But that language is still in there about the senior citizen, they going to do, they going to do an interpretation on it.

Fin Dir Smith: And That's fine, but once you all agreed to do it, you and Wendy and Glen can just discuss it, it can come from, if you say it can come from the municipal buildings it can come from there, it can come from general fund, it can come from where ever we have the money [*Indiscernible*] [02:06:33] That's just an executive decision that you all have to make.

Chairman Kates: Okay, for example the first response I got back from Dave Lewis said, the tax in question is currently authorized to be collected for two-thousand-ten, to two-thousand-nineteen a roughly four-point point O mills adjusted to four point o two meals fifty-percent of the tax about one-hundred-thirty-two-thousand is already, excuse me, is already dedicated to acquiring, constructing and improving operated and maintained public buildings owned by the city, including the senior citizens center and operating programs in such. So, the council could budget funds from the millage up to fifty percent of cone of senior citizens and programs in the senior citizens building. So, I'm not even talking about fifty percent, no where near one-hundred and thirty-four- thousand or sixty-four thousand. I was talking about five hundred dollars that could be recognized within the budget. And I know your word was given that the other day you was going to try to attempt to find five hundred dollars. And, and the Mayor, Mayor [*Indiscernible*] [02:07:48]

Fin Dir Smith: I don't care how anybody spends the money Gloria.

Chairman Kates: And you heard her say as well about the five-hundred dollars. She said five hundred dollars was more less than two-hundred dollars per district for the play ground equipment. You don't recall saying it.

Fin Dir Smith: Oh Yeah, I did. But my thing is but I don't right okay for instance, I just use the accounts that we have in our system

Chairman Kates: That's fine, put it, put it where ever you want to put it although we still have a fund account available for the senior citizens. We have that account . The taxes is still open

Fin Dir Smith: I don't understand why you have to make it such a big deal to put it in a specific line item. [*Indiscernible*] [02:08:33]

Chairman Kates: Well he didn't tell me that, that's okay, that's okay we'll let the legislative auditors and the uh. *[Indiscernible]* [02:08:44]

Fin Dir Smith: No, she won't because I have a specific line. But she don't understand that when I did that out of a create an account in our financial system.

Chairman Kates: It's alright, account created for they It's on page uh,

Fin Dir Smith: No, I'm talking about like a salary and wages *[Indiscernible]* [02:09:02]

Chairman Kates: There's already an account created for them.

Fin Dir Smith: Where? *[Indiscernible]* [02:09:05]

Chairman Smith: That's because it was changed and not voted upon by the committee. That's why. Okay on page sixty-three, now it used to come out used to before that, it used to come out culture and recreations that's were it came out of.

Fin Dir Smith: We had several budgets for that we have it in um, parks and recreation we have a capital outreach *[Indiscernible]* [02:09:56]

Chairman Kates: I was letting her know, excuse me Mayor Perrette the other day when we met.

Mayor: *[Indiscernible]* [02:10:17] two-thousand eighteen. Okay *[Indiscernible]* [02:10:24]

Chairman Kates: But that's a good question you brought up to he since she in here because one of our, I'm talking about Mayor was in our budget about the demolition program it still reflects. It talks about how we had the program then it was cut out and we are going to leave it as is. But, recently as that was explained to Stacie, we its been lifted by DEQ to go back until...

Mayor: No No

Chairman Kates: that's what the newspaper said.

Mayor: Alright lets go back. What happened was for example your community outreach director okay called in okay this is an example alright they say we can't tear down any houses. But to find out Darrell, I want to find out what to do. If the people from *[Indiscernible]* [02:11:18] Public works and all that came in here. We met on Monday all of them got what they did and how they get passed doing DEG rules. At first the ban were lifted, It's the manner of the way it's formed now you could screw us up quickly by paying the wrong words, I'm just saying to you aloud on record you could screw the city out of

Chairman Kates: That's not even my question Mayor. If you look on page eighty-four I'm saying what we have black and white here that the program has been discontinued and from what, well so, what stated in the paper about the ban has been lifted is incorrect? I mean I just want to know.

[*Indiscernible*] [02:12:01]

Male Speaker: Is that how, is that [*Indiscernible*] [02:12:01]

Chairman Kates: Oh is that what happened

Male Speaker: Yes

Mayor: Yes, I mean you [*Indiscernible*] [02:12:12]

Fin Dir Smith: Uh I know that, but I did not know that. [*Cross Talk*] [02:12:17]
And then it was stated in our.

Mayor: The paper wrong, I didn't write the article, I'm trying to tell you.

Chairman Kates: But it was stated in the council meeting too that the ban had been lifted.

Councilwoman Fortenberry: Where does it say in here

Chairman Kates: It's on page, on page eighty-four second paragraph.

Mayor: You could screw it by saying it could

Chairman Kates: Now I'm just asking you a general question for clarification.

Mayor: I'm trying to tell you [*Cross Talk*] [02:12:43] I know what your are talking about

Chairman Kates: What am I talking about?

Mayor: That is correct.

Female Speaker: [*Indiscernible*] [02:12:49]

Mayor: That is correct because somehow a list that the past administration passed down. We have to tear down so many a year based on those spots, bring those spots up it costs at least thirty to forty-thousand dollars a lot [*Indiscernible*] [02:13:03]. Okay, so, we hadn't had any money to do that. I had someone to tear them down it's costing us a fee worker

Chairman Kates: Okay, so, it really didn't have anything to do with DEQ lifting the ban, nothing, is that what your saying?

Mayor: That's right. DEQ did not lift the ban, the ban was you can't burn things, you have to [Indiscernible] [02:13:27]. There's a loophole in things is what they did so that was what I was trying to explain to you. On Tuesday, on that day [Indiscernible] [02:13:38] to Baton Rouge came he on Tuesday. On Wednesday, we met on Tuesday, On Wednesday, the DEQ guy ha.. been here somebody to hold my hand to get through it. I have to live so far away from each place in order to do it, to be out of the DEQ rules and regulations [Indiscernible] [02:14:07] go back in and it costs me thirty to forty-thousand dollars a house. It's costing me these men that are tearing it down as a regular day. [Indiscernible] [02:14:16]. They're not doing any of those things.

Chairman Kates: Well, my point being I just needed clarification because I'm reading one thing and now I'm learning something else. Oh, no

Mayor: Don't say it lifted. The city of [Indiscernible] [02:14:38] are in trouble with DEQ for their past mistakes and we can't afford to, we have to show good faith by spending five-ten-thousand dollars sometimes so. [Indiscernible] [02:14:52]. To show that we're cleaning up those [Indiscernible] [02:14:54].

Councilwoman Fortenberry: Question about cleaning the creeps out and ok

ay this is not even my district what's happening to you all to stop me in Traveses [Indiscernible] [02:15:01] one-day last week about that little creep that runs around wants to know it this will be cleaned out. I said Pat I'll tell the district officer [Indiscernible] [02:15:16].

Mayor: Well, her office is going to be cleaned out.

Councilwoman Fortenberry: That's what I told her [Indiscernible] [02:15:22] I said Pat it's coming I said just this time we've already talked about that and a big part should be cleaned out. Cassidy Park [Indiscernible] [02:15:29] that's how I understand it and so where it was going to cost us ex amount of money wasn't going to cost us any money because the city [Indiscernible] [02:15:44] as far as I'm concerned, your going to do the work in lieu of paying back [Indiscernible] [02:15:50]

Mayor: What they do is they pick up the list [Indiscernible] [02:15:55] no they put it on the line and then the city comes by and [Indiscernible] [02:15:29] and that's the fact.

Councilwoman Fortenberry: That's what I'm talking about, the city is going to move all that.

Mayor: So, in order to save money, it's the salary of the men that are working [Indiscernible] [02:16:12] does that make since.

[Cross Talk] [02:16:18]

Female Speaker1: Okay, after all of this, I'm sorry everybody, of detail, we've gone through the budget are there any other comments or questions if not I make a motion that um the finance committee based upon the corrections that Stacie is going to make except the budget as it. I need a.

Male Speaker: Second, I second.

Chairman Kates: Roll call.

Male Speaker: [*Indiscernible*] [02:16:49] forum here today.

Chairman Kates: Yeah.

Male Speaker: Let's adjourn.

Chairman Kates: Um, Vice President, Vice President Fortenberry.

Councilwoman Fortenberry: Yes

Chairman Kates: And President Case, yes, meeting adjourned.

Meeting Adjourned [02:17:13]

Note: The Finance Committee meeting was held on December 14th, 2018
The Corrective Action and Monitoring Document was presented for signature
December 20th
Request for information to Finance Director Stacy Smith on Corrective Action
and Monitoring Document on December 20th
Corrective Action and Monitoring Document was Signed December 21st.
Request for information and guidance from LLA around this time.