

St. Petersburg City Council
BUDGET, FINANCE & TAXATION COMMITTEE

Committee Report for the Meeting of January 29, 2009

Members: Chair James R. "Jim" Kennedy Jr., Vice-Chair James S. Bennett; Jeff Danner; Karl Nurse (alternate), & Wengay M. "Newt" Newton Sr. (alternate).

Call to Order

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes of January 15, 2009

1. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. **Election of Committee Chair and Vice Chair**

Chair James R. "Jim" Kennedy; Vice-Chair James S. Bennett; Jeff Danner; Karl Nurse (alternate); and Wengay M. "Newt" Newton, Sr. (alternate). Later in the meeting Mr. Kennedy stated he would investigate assigning first and second alternate positions.

b. **Non-Departmental Funding Discussion**

Mike Connors, Internal Services Administrator, recapped the BFT Committee request for staff to develop an alternative allocation process for non-departmental funding. Mr. Connors gave a brief history of the non-departmental funding process. Mr. Connors then presented a recommendation to eliminate non-departmental funding and to reassign allocations for the FY10 budget as follows: assign MLK Festival of Bands, Festival of States, and First Night to the Marketing Department operating budget; reconsider/revise the lease agreements with the Pier Aquarium and Museum of History; assign the Florida Orchestra to the Downtown Facilities operating budget and advise them of additional funding requests as part of the Arts/Cultural allocation process; quantify operating savings associated with social service agencies and include the savings in the respective department's operating budget and advise agencies of additional funding requests subject to Social Services allocation process. Mr. Bennett stated that funding amounts had changed over time and would the starting point for funding be the current level of funding and then be adjusted to reflect FY10 budget constraints. Mr. Connors stated that he agreed with that statement. Mr. Newton asked if the funding would be subject to reductions in department budgets. Mr. Connors stated that they would, but that historically reductions have been larger in non-departmental funding, co-sponsorship and social services than in the operating budget. Mr. Danner requested that the line items containing the funding be visible in the FY10 budget. Mr. Kennedy asked if the organizations had given input to the recommendations. Mr. Connors stated that if the recommendations were accepted, the organizations would give input as part of the FY10 budget process. Mr. Bennett asked if the changes could be mailed to the organizations and Mr. Connors agreed. Mr. Danner moved to approve

the recommendations, Mr. Bennett seconded and the recommendations were approved unanimously.

c. St. Petersburg Museum of History HVAC System Discussion

Mike Connors, Internal Services Administrator, recapped City Council's request through the BFT Committee to discuss options regarding the St. Petersburg Museum of History HVAC system. Mr. Connors stated that the Engineering and Capital Improvements Department had inspected and reviewed the status of the HVAC system and recommended replacement of the system with an estimated cost of \$150,000. Mr. Connors stated that the recommended funding source was Fund 3031 City Facilities Capital Improvement Fund (Penny for Pinellas), Infrastructure to be Determined line item currently budgeted at \$260,000. Mr. Danner asked if the current system design of six split systems was the best design for the facility. Mr. Connors stated that the recommendation is to replace the current design with a single unit placed on the roof of the facility. Mr. Nurse asked if there was an estimate of the energy savings with this new design. Mr. Connors stated that the energy savings would be 5 – 10% in addition to significant maintenance savings. Mr. Bennett moved to approve the recommendation, Mr. Danner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

d. Social Action Funding Discussion

Dave Metz, Deputy Mayor, Neighborhood Services, and Rhonda Abbott, Social Services Manager, gave a presentation on Social Action Funding. Ms. Abbott recapped a meeting with Pinellas County staff. Ms. Abbott stated that the County would like to ask the City to fund fewer, larger amounts, to use the mini-grant process for smaller agencies and to participate in a joint process for better coordination for funding agencies. Mr. Metz stated that if funding was identified in the FY10 budget he would like to meet with all Council Members, possibly in a Committee of the Whole, to get input from City Council on their priorities. Ms. Tish Elston, First Deputy Mayor, suggested a discussion of the arts at the same meeting. There was discussion about the current economy and groups needing to consolidate or become more efficient. Mr. Kennedy asked if other cities coordinate with the County like St. Petersburg does. Ms. Abbott said no, that her position was the only one outside Pinellas County government.

2. Continued / Deferred Business

- a. None

3. Next Meeting Agenda Tentative Issues

February 12, 2009

- a. FY10 Budget Calendar – Mike Connors

February 26, 2009 - None

4. Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 9:04 a.m.

**BUDGET, FINANCE & TAXATION COMMITTEE
PENDING / CONTINUING REFERRALS**

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TOPIC	DATE REFERRED	REFERRED BY	SCHEDULED / HEARD ON	RETURN DATE	STAFF RESPONSIBLE	SPECIAL NOTES
Social Services Funding	01.15.09	Metz			Metz	If FY10 funding, would like to discuss separate from BFT with all Council Members present.
RFP Process for Deferred Compensation Plans	01.15.09	Bennett			Cornwell	Bennett requested Cornwell keep committee informed regarding the RFP status.
FY09 Public Utility Revenue Bonds	12.11.08	Bennett	01.15.09	01.15.09	Spies	Bennett requested pros & cons of issuing bonds vs. an internal loan.

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Weeki Wachee Fund	12.11.08	Bennett			Spies	Requested to be discussed separately from BFT with all Council members present.