

City Council Minutes – July 25, 2006

COUNCIL CHAMBER, Topeka, Kansas, Tuesday, July 25, 2006. The Councilmembers of the City of Topeka met in regular session at 6:00 P.M., with the following Councilmembers present: Councilmembers Kennedy, Alcalá, Ortiz, Nave, Haynes, Duffy, Blackburn, Preisner and Harmon -9. Mayor Bunten presided. -1.

AFTER THE MEETING was called to order, Councilmember Ortiz gave the invocation.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by those present in the chamber.

Councilmember Ortiz asked that Item 4F, a Final Plat for Deer Creek Valley Subdivision be pulled from the consent agenda for separate discussion.

Councilmember Haynes asked that Item 4G, a Final Plat for Stone Crest Subdivision be pulled from the consent agenda for separate discussion.

THE CONSENT AGENDA was presented as follows:

A COMMUNICATION recommending the appointment of Durell Dick, 2837 SW Lincolnshire Court, to the Board of Plumbing Examiners for a term that would expire on July 31, 2008, was presented.

A COMMUNICATION recommending the appointment of Debbie Briman-Latta, 3415 SW Briarwood Lane, to the Downtown Business Improvement District Advisory Board for a term that would expire on July 31, 2008, was presented.

A COMMUNICATION recommending the appointment of Lis Ballou, 3337 SW Alameda Drive, to the Golf Course Advisory Board for a term that would expire on July 31, 2008, was presented.

RESOLUTION NO. 7833 introduced by Councilmember Clark Duffy granting Washburn University an exception to the provisions of City of Topeka Code Section 54-148 concerning noise prohibitions, was presented.

A COMMUNICATION authorizing the Workers' Compensation Settlement for Francisco Caballero, was presented.

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of July 18, 2006 were presented.

A Cereal Malt Beverage License application bearing the approval of the Chief of Police and City Inspectors for Taco Tico, 2102 N. Topeka Boulevard, was presented.

Councilmember Preisner moved to approve the consent agenda, except for Items 4F and 4G. The motion seconded by Councilmember Alcalá carried unanimously. (9-0-0)

A FINAL PLAT for Deer Creek Valley Subdivision located at 3130 SE 21st Street in the City of Topeka, was presented. (P06/13)

Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., City Manager gave the staff report.

Councilmember Ortiz asked JoAnn Peavler to comment on the plat.

JoAnn Peavler appeared and expressed her concern that they need to have fill brought in because the area is in the flood plain. She also asked that language be added to the staff report that all State and Federal regulations must be followed during this project.

Councilmember Ortiz moved that the language stated by JoAnn Peavler be added and the final plat be approved. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nave.

Mike Engler, Bartlett and West responded to a question that they have no problem with the addition of the language because they adhere to all regulations anyway.

Councilmember Duffy expressed his concern that this is urban development proposed on farmland, and it is in the flood plain. He stated that he believes this is bad public policy and it is not consistent with the comprehensive plan prepared by professional staff.

Following further discussion on issues relating to building in the flood plain, and the intent of the comprehensive plan, Councilmember Duffy asked to divide the question.

Mayor Bunten asked for a vote on the amendment to include language that all State and Federal regulations must be followed during the project.

The motion to amend carried unanimously. (9-0-0)

Councilmember Blackburn made a substitute motion to defer action for one week so they could get additional information on developing in the flood plain. The motion seconded by Councilmember Duffy carried. Councilmembers Ortiz and Preisner voted “no”. (7-2-0)

A FINAL PLAT for Stone Crest Subdivision No. 2 located at the northeast corner of SE 45th Street and SE California Avenue within the City of Topeka, was presented. (P06/25)

Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., City Manager gave the staff report.

Councilmember Preisner moved to approve the final plat. The motion seconded by Councilmember Nave carried unanimously. (9-0-0)

A CHARTER ORDINANCE introduced by Councilmember Jeff Preisner concerning the election of City Councilmembers, amending Charter Ordinance A2-21 and A2-22, and repealing said original sections of Charter Ordinance A2-21 and A2-22, placed on first reading July 18, 2006, was again presented.

Councilmember Preisner moved to table the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Alcalá.

Councilmember Preisner called for the question.

Councilmember Alcala challenged the call.

Mayor Bunten asked for a vote on shall the question be called, or shall debate on the motion cease. The motion carried. Councilmembers Kennedy, Alcala, Ortiz and Haynes voted “no”. (5-4-0)

The motion to table carried. Councilmembers Kennedy, Alcala, Ortiz and Haynes voted “no”. (5-4-0)

ORDINANCE NO. 18684 introduced by City Manager Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr. relating to the amendments of the current edition of the Standard Traffic Ordinance for Kansas Cities to incorporate the 2006 legislative changes regarding suspended driver's licenses and driving while an habitual violator, amending City of Topeka Code Section 142-152 and specifically repealing said original section placed on first reading July 11, 2006, was again presented.

Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., City Manager gave the staff report.

Brenden Long, City Attorney explained the amendments that were distributed and the impact approval of the ordinance would have on the city.

Councilmember Blackburn moved to amend the ordinance by replacing the language beginning on line 46 and ending at line 119, with the following:

- (i) Section 194 of the standard traffic ordinance, relating to driving while license canceled, suspended or revoked, is hereby declared to be and is omitted and deleted.
- (i) Section 195.1 of the standard traffic ordinance, relating to operation of a motor vehicle when a habitual violator is hereby declared to be and is omitted and deleted.

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Preisner.

Brenden Long clarified that if the amendment is approved, Municipal Court would no longer have jurisdiction as relates to these matters. He stated that offenses would be handled in District Court.

Councilmember Duffy stated that he would support the amendment because this is a classic unfunded mandate from the State.

The motion to amend carried unanimously. (9-0-0)

Councilmember Blackburn moved to adopt the ordinance as amended. The motion seconded by Councilmember Preisner carried unanimously. (9-0-0)

The ordinance was adopted on roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Kennedy, Alcala, Ortiz, Nave, Haynes, Duffy, Blackburn, Preisner and Harmon –9.

ORDINANCE NO. 18685 introduced by City Manager Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., relating to building and trade permits, amending City of Topeka Code Section 26-52 and specifically repealing said original section placed on first reading May 9, 2006, was again presented.

Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., City Manager gave the staff report.

Councilmember Blackburn gave the committee report and explained the amendments.

Councilmember Blackburn moved to amend and adopt the ordinance. The motion seconded by Councilmember Preisner carried unanimously. (9-0-0)

The ordinance as amended was adopted on roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Kennedy, Alcala, Ortiz, Nave, Haynes, Duffy, Blackburn, Preisner and Harmon –9.

AN ORDINANCE introduced by City Manager, Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., relating to court ordered costs and fees, witness fees, contempt powers, warrants, arrest procedures, sentencing procedures and parole, repealing City of Topeka Code §§50-47, 50-49 and 50-50,

amending City of Topeka Code §§50-26, 50-41, 50-54, 50-60, 50-64, 50-99 and 50-101, and repealing said original sections placed on first reading July 11, 2006, was again presented.

Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., City Manager gave the staff report.

Councilmember Blackburn moved to amend the ordinance on line 84 by adding No. 7, Police Department Equipment with a five dollar fee to help offset equipment used by the Police Department. He stated that the fee would go into a Police Department User Fund. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Preisner.

Councilmember Alcalá asked for a clarification on the equipment, and asked if that corresponding amount would be subtracted from the Police Department's annual budget.

Brenden Long, City Attorney suggested creating an ordinance to establish a fund for these monies outlining restrictions and requirements.

Councilmember Alcalá made a substitute motion to defer action on the ordinance for three weeks so that both documents could be placed on the same agenda. The motion seconded by Councilmember Ortiz carried unanimously. (9-0-0)

A COMMUNICATION authorizing the publication of the Notice of Hearing for the 2007 budget during the Council's regular session on August 8, 2006, was presented.

Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., City Manager asked Jim Langford, Finance Director to explain some technical changes they were recommending to the City Manager's recommended budget for the purpose of establishing a published proposed 2007 budget.

Jim Langford stated that they are recommending an increase in the expenditure limit on the Special Alcohol Program Fund by \$125,000, from \$450,000 to \$575,000. He explained that monies will be distributed by the Alcohol-Drug Abuse Advisory Council to alcohol and drug abuse treatment programs for one-time capital expenditures, and to expand media efforts on

topics related to abuse prevention and treatment. He also stated that the fund had a balance of \$279,385 at the end of 2005.

Jim Langford stated that the second recommendation is to increase the revenue transfer from Planning Fund to General Fund by \$112,406, from \$40,674 to \$153,080. He stated that the increased transfer would reduce property taxes for the General Fund by a like amount. He also stated that the monies come from liabilities in the Planning Fund that will be released when the fund is closed out in 2007. He stated that in addition, the Metropolitan Transit Authority has recently finalized its budget and it needs to be published with the City budget.

Jim Langford stated that they are recommending publishing the City Manager's recommended budget including these amendments as a starting point. He noted that once the budget is published, it cannot be increased by fund, nor could property tax be increased. He stated that it could be cut, but not increased.

Councilmember Alcalá stated that he would oppose the amendment because it increases the budget they were given.

Councilmember Ortiz stated that she would not support the amendment because she asked for a study on the fire stations and has not received it.

Councilmember Haynes stated that they could consider increasing administrative fees to reduce the mill levy, but they could not do that if this budget is published.

Councilmember Duffy moved to amend the communication to incorporate the amendments outlined by Jim Langford. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Preisner.

Councilmember Kennedy suggested that next year the Metropolitan Transit Authority be asked to submit their information more timely.

The motion carried. Councilmembers Alcala, Ortiz and Haynes voted “no”.

Councilmember Blackburn abstained. (5-3-1)

Councilmember Preisner moved to approve the communication as amended. The motion died for lack of a second.

Councilmember Duffy moved to amend the communication by making a proportionate reduction in the mill levy to fund the 2007 budget at the same level as 2006, and increase expenditures on all enterprise funds by five percent. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Blackburn.

Mayor Bunten stressed the importance of leaving the option for flexibility there to meet the needs of the City, otherwise approximately \$3 million would need to be cut out of the budget, and that would be a problem.

Joe Ledbetter appeared and stated that citizens do not want their taxes to increase.

The motion to amend the communication carried. Councilmembers Alcala and Ortiz voted “no”. (7-2-0)

Councilmember Alcala moved to accept the communication as amended. The motion seconded by Councilmember Preisner carried. Councilmember Ortiz voted “no”. (8-1-0)

A COMMUNICATION authorizing the City Manager to execute a three-year extension of City of Topeka Contract No. 31887, a management agreement between the City of Topeka and Topeka Performing Arts Center, Inc., was presented.

Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., City Manager gave the staff report.

Councilmember Preisner moved to approve the communication. The motion seconded by Councilmember Alcala carried. Councilmembers Kennedy and Blackburn voted “no”. (7-2-0)

A PROJECT BUDGET in the amount of \$751,579 and RESOLUTION NO. 7830 introduced by City Manager Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr. authorizing Street Improvement Project No. 84341 which provides for the removal and replacement of damaged or deteriorated sections of concrete curb and gutter that are on the Transportation Operation's Curb Replacement list or that are located within the Department of Housing and Neighborhood Development's NIA Target Areas, was presented.

Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., City Manager gave the staff report.

Councilmember Preisner asked for a list of projects in District No. 8.

Councilmember Blackburn requested a list of projects be provided to all of the Councilmembers.

Councilmember Preisner moved to approve the project budget and resolution. The motion seconded by Councilmember Blackburn carried unanimously. (9-0-0)

A RESOLUTION introduced by City Manager Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr. authorizing the transfer and expenditure of general fund monies for the replacement of a police helicopter for the Topeka Police Department, was presented.

Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., City Manager gave the staff report.

Councilmember Blackburn moved to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ortiz.

Joe Ledbetter appeared and stated that the Management Consultant's Report concerning the City's helicopters is being ignored. He stated that helicopters are expensive to operate and the public is taxed enough. He noted that Johnson County and the City of Wichita has fewer helicopters and spends less than the City of Topeka. He stated that in comparison a \$1.4 million

budget and 14 staff members for the helicopter program for Topeka is excessive. He also stated that the department had a helicopter crash, and it was not in the City of Topeka.

Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr. asked Police Department representatives to explain the staffing and expense of the helicopter program.

Major Herman, Police Department explained that they have budget authority for six positions for the helicopter unit. He stated that currently they have two people in training, one person is on military leave, one person is waiting for a ruling from the FAA, and they have one vacancy. He stated that the helicopter unit has never had more than six positions, and \$560,931 is the annual cost of the unit. He also explained that the crash in Manhattan happened during a cross-country flight that was required by the FAA for certification of the pilot.

Councilmember Ortiz asked for clarification on the hours left on one of the helicopters, and if the insurance money specifically had to be used to purchase another helicopter.

Major Herman clarified that there was only 150 hours left on one helicopter, and it would need \$150,000 of maintenance to make it air worthy according to FAA requirements. He stated that they probably would return that helicopter back to the State once they have used the remaining flight hours. He stated that as far as he knows the insurance money does not have to be used on a helicopter, but that is what they are requesting.

Councilmember Haynes asked for a clarification on the schedule of the helicopters.

Major Herman stated that they generally have two pilots per shift, five days per week for a total of six pilots, with four hours flight time for each shift.

Councilmember Haynes noted that lease of a helicopter would be about equivalent to that at \$265 per hour.

Major Herman stated that amount would just be for the lease of the helicopter, and does not include pilots or search lights, so it would only be available during the day. He also noted that response time for a leased helicopter is 4 to 6 hours, and it would not be effective for a crime in progress. He also stated that the City of Wichita only has one helicopter which is very expensive and burns 30 gallons of fuel per hour, compared to the one they fly which burns 11 gallons of fuel per hour.

Councilmember Blackburn noted it is the same process, but the City of Topeka's is faster and cheaper. He also asked the Police Department representatives to give a little background on the benefit of the helicopter unit.

Sgt. Boucher, Helicopter Unit explained that the helicopter would be faster, have an infrared camera, moving map capability, and more automated features, all of which make their job easier and provides safety for officers on the street.

Councilmember Alcalá asked if the Managing Partner's recommendations regarding the helicopter unit have been considered.

Major Herman stated that the Managing Partner's Group recommended that they explore leasing a helicopter, and also that they charge for services to other governmental agencies. He stated that they do not do that because they reciprocate with other agencies, and if they started charging for their services, they would also have to start paying for services provided to them.

Following further discussion, Councilmember Alcalá called the question.

Mayor Bunten stated that he would like to make a statement.

Councilmember Alcalá withdrew the call for the question.

Mayor Bunten stated that he wanted to clarify that they were discussing whether the City will have three helicopters if the resolution is approved. He stated that he did not believe the

City needed another helicopter at a cost of \$.5 million annually. He stated that in order to reduce the budget, the Council will have to make some tough decisions, and he is opposed to the purchase of a new helicopter.

Discussion continued on exactly how many helicopters the City would have with the purchase of the new one.

Major Herman clarified that if the resolution is approved, they will have two helicopters in the unit. He stated that they hoped to purchase one with the insurance money received from one that was destroyed, and they have the purchase of one proposed in the 2007 Capital Improvement Program with a trade in of one they currently own. He reiterated that the helicopter with 150 hours flight time left on it will be returned to the State.

Councilmember Harmon made a substitute motion to defer action on the resolution for 30 days until after the budget is adopted. The motion seconded by Councilmember Haynes carried. Councilmembers Kennedy, Nave, Duffy and Blackburn voted “no”. (5-4-0)

A PROJECT BUDGET in the amount of \$1,777,600 and RESOLUTION NO. 7831 introduced by City Manager Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., relating to and authorizing Improvement Project No. 28577-01 which provides for the construction of a new 18”/24” water transmission main along 12th Street from Western Avenue to Quincy Street; Quincy Street from 12th Street to 13th Street; 13th Street from Quincy Street to Monroe Street and a 12” water main on Quincy Street from 12th Street to 11th Street, as more specifically described herein, was presented.

Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., City Manager gave the staff report.

Councilmember Preisner moved to approve the Project Budget and Resolution. The motion seconded by Councilmember Alcalá carried unanimously. (9-0-0)

RESOLUTION NO. 7832 introduced by City Manager Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., describing and authorizing Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Improvement Project No. 170336, which provides for the acquisition, installation, and implementation of an enterprise-wide financial, human resources, and payroll system, as more specifically described herein, and specifically authorizing the expenditure of General Improvement Fund monies therefore, was presented.

Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., City Manager gave the staff report.

Jim Langford, Finance Director stated that the project was fully discussed at last week's work session. He stated that the project provides for the acquisition, installation, and implementation of a comprehensive solution for capturing and reporting on financial, human resources, payroll, capital assets, grants, cash, and accounting transactions of the City of Topeka to ensure enhanced efficiency and accuracy in processing, accounting for, and reporting on City operations and projects.

Councilmember Ortiz asked if the system would be maintained by the Information Technology Department.

Jim Langford stated that was the plan.

Councilmember Preisner moved to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Alcalá.

Steve Tallen, IT Director estimated the cost of the system at \$200,000 - \$400,000 with maintenance at approximately ten percent, or \$20,000 - \$45,000 annually.

Councilmember Kennedy asked how many positions would be eliminated with approval of the project.

Linda Wood, City Controller stated that they couldn't guarantee that any positions would be eliminated, but they would benefit from greater efficiencies.

Councilmember Haynes asked if they had considered providing a service to the County at a fixed cost.

Steve Tallen stated that they would have a per user charge. He stated that they could share hardware with the County, and would suggest sharing costs with them also.

It was noted that the County had been contacted, but were not ready to participate in the project at this time.

The motion to approve the resolution carried. Councilmember Blackburn voted "no".
(8-1-0)

ORDINANCE NO. 18686 introduced by City Manager Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., allowing and approving City expenditures for the period of July 3, 2006, through July 9, 2006, and enumerating said expenditures therein, was presented for first and final reading.

Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., City Manager gave the staff report.

Councilmember Preisner moved to adopt the ordinance. The motion seconded by Councilmember Alcalá carried unanimously. (9-0-0)

The ordinance was adopted on roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Kennedy, Alcalá, Ortiz, Nave, Haynes, Duffy, Blackburn, Preisner and Harmon –9.

A COMMUNICATION from Russell and Karen Pruitt of Pruitt Builders through their consulting engineer requesting an exemption from Sec. 146-256.C(2) requiring annexation prior to sewer service from the City as provided for under Sec. 146-256.C(6)(iii) on a 13.71-acre tract located 130 feet east of NW Bent Tree Lane between NW 32nd Street and NW Bitter Nut Street within unincorporated Shawnee County, Kansas, was presented.

Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., City Manager gave the staff report.

Councilmember Nave moved to approve the communication. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Alcala.

Councilmember Duffy noted that the final plats on this item and the next item were previously rejected. He asked why they are back before the Council, and if anything had changed.

David Thurbon, Planning Director stated that they were able to come back because the required six months had passed. He stated that nothing has changed from the first time the plats were considered.

Councilmember Duffy stated that he believes their hardship is that their property is not contiguous to the City and the County would have to approve annexation of the property. He asked if the applicant has gone before the County to request annexation.

Mike Berry, Professional Engineering Consultants, representing the applicants appeared and stated that the applicant's septic system is failing, and this is also an economic hardship because the owner cannot develop the property.

Following further discussion, Councilmember Duffy noted the costs to the city taxpayers with development outside the City. He suggested requesting that the applicant follow the process and seek annexation from the County.

Councilmember Haynes stated that he could not support approval because there is a procedure in place.

Councilmember Ortiz noted the hour and moved to extend the meeting until the end of the agenda. The motion seconded by Councilmember Kennedy carried. Councilmember Duffy voted "no". Councilmember Alcala left the meeting. (7-2-0)

The motion to approve the communication failed. Councilmembers Kennedy, Nave, Haynes, Duffy and Harmon voted 'no'. (3-5-0)

A COMMUNICATION from Nations Development Corporation through their consulting engineer requesting an exemption from Sec. 146-256.C(2) requiring annexation prior to sewer service from the City as provided for under Sec. 146-256.C(6)(iii) on a 4.02-acre tract located at the southwest corner of NW Button Road and NW 35th Street within unincorporated Shawnee County, Kansas, was presented.

Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., City Manager gave the staff report.

Councilmember Preisner moved to approve the communication. The motion seconded by Councilmember Duffy failed. Councilmembers Nave, Haynes, Duffy, Blackburn and Harmon voted "no". (3-5-0)

A FINAL PLAT for Hickory Ridge Estates Subdivision No. 10 located approximately 130-feet east of NW Bent Tree Lane between NW 32nd Street and NW Bitter Nut Street within unincorporated Shawnee County, Kansas, was presented. (P06/27)

Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., City Manager gave the staff report.

Councilmember Preisner moved to table action on the final plat for 60 days. The motion seconded by Councilmember Nave carried. Councilmembers Kennedy and Ortiz voted (6-2-0)

A FINAL PLAT for Hickory Ridge Estates Subdivision No. 11 located at the southwest corner of NW 35th Street and NW Button Road within unincorporated Shawnee County, Kansas, was presented. (P06/26)

Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., City Manager gave the staff report.

Councilmember Preisner moved to table action on the final plat for 60 days. The motion seconded by Councilmember Nave carried. Councilmember Ortiz voted "(7-1-0)

A FINAL PLAT for Urish Center Subdivision located on the northwest corner of SW 21st Street and SW Urish Road, contiguous to the City of Topeka, Kansas within unincorporated Shawnee County, Kansas, was presented. (P06/14)

Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., City Manager gave the staff report.

Councilmember Preisner moved to approve the final plat. The motion seconded by Councilmember Duffy carried unanimously. (8-0-0)

AN ORDINANCE introduced by City Manager Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., for Crestview Park Shelter House ADA Improvement Project No. 30270-00 was presented for first reading.

AN ORDINANCE introduced by City Manager Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., designating real property more specifically described herein as a historic landmark and presently zoned “C-5” Downtown Commercial District and located at 427- 429 S. Kansas Avenue in the City of Topeka, Kansas, pursuant to City of Topeka Code Section 80-4, was presented for first reading. (HL05/03)

AN ORDINANCE introduced by City Manager Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr. amending the “District Map” referred to and made a part of the Zoning Ordinances by Section 48-1.04 of the Code of the City of Topeka, by providing for certain changes in zoning on property located at 3720 SW 45th Street (NW corner of SW 45th Street/SW Stone Avenue and on the south side of SW 45th Street across from said property) from “R-1” Single Family Dwelling District, “O&I” Office and Institutional District, “R-1” Single Family Dwelling District with Resolution of Intent for “D&O” Multiple Family and Office District and Special Use Permits for a golf prop-shop, clubhouse allowing for the consumption of alcohol, and golf driving range ALL TO “PUD” Planned Unit Development (mixed use groups) allowing for use as a golf course, driving range, commercial fitness center, and clubhouse facility licensed to sell and dispense alcoholic

beverages for consumption within the clubhouse facility, was presented for first reading.

(PUD05/6)

PRESENTATIONS BY THE CITY MANAGER, MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL, were presented.

Norton Bonaparte, Jr. asked Jim Langford, Finance and Budget Director to comment on possible ways to adjust the budget per the Council's amendment to reduce the budget.

Jim Langford stated that they plan to reduce the general fund property tax by \$2.9 million unless given other direction from the Council.

Councilmember Duffy stated that he generally concurred that was the right direction, although staff would not be limited to that option.

Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr. asked for additional comments or suggestions from the Council. No additional comments were made.

Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr. stated that he spoke with Dan Florence, the Public Works employee who was electrocuted a couple of weeks ago, and he is back home and improving. He also announced a special occasion celebration for Bill McCarter who has 55 years of service with the City.

Mayor Bunten stated that he needs nominees for two vacancies on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Councilmember Kennedy expressed her concern about the rash of violence in the City recently, and stated that she hoped the Council could put crime as a number one priority to help stop the senseless loss of lives.

Councilmember Nave announced an Economic and Community Development Committee meeting scheduled for 1:00 p.m., July 26, 2006 in the Council office to discuss the Ethics Policy.

Councilmember Blackburn stated that he believed if the Council had requested the City Manager to present a basic services budget, along with his recommended budget, it would have eliminated some of the issues discussed tonight relating to the budget. He also expressed his concern that the United Way survey shows a disconnect between what the community leaders want, and what the citizens of the community have expressed that they want.

NO FURTHER BUSINESS appearing the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Iris Walker
City Clerk