|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | | |
| **OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL** | | |
| GREG ANDERSON  COUNCIL MEMBER, AT LARGE GROUP 4  OFFICE (904) 630-1678  FAX (904) 630-2906  E-MAIL: GANDERSON@coj.net | June 11, 2013  6:00 p.m. | 117 West Duval Street  SUITE 425  JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA  32202 |

**Topic:** Budget, Fiscal Year 2013-2014

**Location:** City Council Office, Conference Room A

**In Attendance:** Council Member Anderson, Council Member Bishop, Council Member Boyer, Council Member Crescimbeni, Council Member Gulliford, Council Member Love, Council Member Redman, Council Member Schellenberg.

**Also in Attendance:** Chris Hand, Glenn Hansen, Ronnie Belton, Kirk Sherman, Kyle Billy, Kim Taylor, Cindy Laquidara, Maxine Person, Angela Moyer

**Meeting Convened:**  12:00 p.m.

CM Anderson opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and stating the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the Budget Processes of FY 2013-2014.

CM Anderson reviewed the timeline for the immediate portions of the budget process. On July 15, 2013, Mayor Alvin Brown will present only one budget to the City Council. CM Anderson stated that the Finance Committee along with the Council Auditor’s office will examine the budget line-by-line.

CM Anderson confirmed that Pay-Go is not currently factored into the budget as presented. The Mayor’s budget uses out-of-fund balance along with borrowing as the only two methods. In addition to this information, he furthered reiterated that the Banking Fund cannot be used toward the costs of vehicle expenditures.

CM Anderson stated that his goal in this upcoming budget cycle is to create a vibrant community with economic diversity and we must begin thinking of where the pressure points will arise with the continued expansion of a vibrant economic cycle. CM Anderson would like to move from repair mode to growth management.

Ronnie Belton stated that the City of Jacksonville’s current credit rating is AA+.

Ronnie Belton and CM Anderson agreed that we as a city need to work towards Pay-Go.

CM Anderson reaffirmed that the budget meetings will be transparent and as open as possible. The meetings will be well noticed.

Cheryl Brown stated that she has been working with Comcast to ensure that the video streaming of the meetings will be available for all devices. In addition, the budget website will be updated regularly to reflect the handouts and information provided at the meetings. This is all being done in an effort to keep the public in the loop on all budget proceedings.

CM Boyer raised the issue that some people have difficulties viewing documents when they are not posted in a PDF format. Cheryl Brown assured those present that office will make it a goal to have all documents posted in PDF format with a link to download the PDF reader if needed.

CM Anderson addressed the issue of ITD charges as they relate to the upcoming FY 2013-2014. He discussed what will be a phased-in approach as the best course of action. The upcoming department budget will reflect the numbers as they are currently tracked as well as with the recommended changes to demonstrate the various impacts of these proposed changes. CM Crescimbeni challenged that he was attempting to work towards a more granular approach with the new charges and the current order of business is not accurate accounting in his opinion. CM Crescimbeni further elaborated that the current system allots ITD charges to departments that did not incur those total expenses.

CM Anderson acknowledged CM Crescimbeni’s point and agrees that we are working towards controllable expenses versus expenses that these departments appear to have no control over.

Maxine Person from the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office agrees to CM Anderson’s point. She stated that it is very important for her to identify the exact cost driver. They need to have more studies as JSO agrees that they can reduce expenses by examining the issues on the front end.

Council Vice President Gulliford pointed that there are repeated areas in the local government where costs are too high and services too expensive for central services. Through this point, these costs place potential undue financial burden on certain departments in this city. This is an issue of wasted money and the council will be working towards determining meaningful solutions. He elaborated that exact accounting will be used when examining and finalizing the complete budget. The Council will also be basing these numbers on a realistic timeline.

CM Crescimbeni raised the question of whether department budgets were submitted based on current service levels only or with reduced service levels as well as current levels. Angela Moyers stated that they were only submitted based on current level service.

CM Crescimbeni also addressed the issue of pension reform with regards to the Council’s right to hire an outside actuary and the Council’s ability to challenge opinions.

Cindy Laquidara informed CM Crescimbeni that under the ordinance code, the Council has the ability to hire an independent actuary if they deem it necessary. She did state that the City’s actuary does agree that the current proposed pension reform is a reasonable course of action. She also confirmed that she does have full confidence in the actuary’s professional opinion.

CM Anderson thanked Cindy for her statements.

CM Anderson reiterated that the City Council is not bound by the Mayor’s budget. The Finance Committee will begin examining programs and their costs to determine how they affect that department’s budget. The Finance Committee will look a program’s costs with regards to staffing, operations, equipment and all other associated expenses. The final budget will reflect the Council’s goals and viewpoints as a whole.

CM Anderson thanked all those present for attending and adjourned the meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 12:45 p.m.

**Minutes:** Minutes completed by Leeann Krieg ECA, for CM Anderson.

GA/lk

cc: Council Members/Staff

Cheryl Brown, Director/CouncilSecretary

Dana Farris, Chief, Legislative Services Division

CITYC & COJ.NET

Media