

THE HIGH COST FOR POOR LEADERSHIP

East Point Mayor Deana Holiday Ingraham and Council Members Alexander Gothard, Sharon Shropshire, Thomas Callaway, Karen Rene, Myron Cook, Nanette Saucier, Stephanie Gordon and Jousha Butler are showing monstrous greed for themselves and uncaring disrespect for the residents of our City. This year, residents (homeowners and renters) are facing increased mortgages and rent due to increased property taxes, the stormwater fee; unauthorized and undocumented power cost adjustment (pca) and environmental compliance cost recovery (eccr) fees; and undocumented and unauthorized electric rate increases.

Mayor and Council's greed for higher salaries while providing poor leadership for the City is insulting. Their greed in voting to spend thousands of taxpayers' and overcharged electric customers' money to finance their taste for entertainment; privately thanking campaign donors; and attempting to bribe voters by giving away turkeys, hams, school supplies, Halloween treats; balls and banquets that only a few select residents know about has to **END NOW!**

Mayor and Council approved the 2020 Budget with not a single thing and not even an honorable mention of assistance to homeowners who need help with home code improvements (new roofs, heating/cooling systems, new windows/doors, gutters, insulation, electrical wiring, wall/ceiling repair, wheelchair or disable ramp assistance and bathroom upgrades for disability entrance and exit) that would not only benefit the homeowners, but the communities and City as well. Helping homeowners based on income rather than age would benefit more residents and qualifies as a legal and legitimate expense under both Federal and State law. Instead of voting to include SOMETHING needed for the residents and the City, they voted for the following.

COUNCIL PERKS

These items come under the Council as a whole Budget rather than the Mayor's and each Council Member's personal Budget. This allows access to more money with no direct individual accountability from the Mayor and Council Members.

- 1) Other Professional Fees _____ \$51,100
 - a) Council Assistants & Benefits----- \$45,000 (When did Council Members get assistants, the City Clerk's Office provides the Council and Council Committees with secretarial support. The Mayor has \$96,949 for salaries for herself and office staff.)
 - b) Misc. expenses-----\$6,100
- 2) Printing & Binding----- \$15,750
 - a) Quarterly Newsletter-----\$8,600 (The Mayor receives \$2,000 and each Council Member receives \$1,800 for Council Expenses & Allowance that by written policy is supposed to be used for consumable communications with constituents- that is newsletters, flyers, etc.) Did anyone receive one quarterly

Newsletter let alone three Newsletters from Mayor and Council? The **Verge** is the Utilities Newsletter.)

- b) Special Events, etc-----\$7,150
- 3) Dues & Fees-----\$15,500
 - a) GMA Dues-----\$10,300, required by Charter
 - b) National League of Cities-----\$4,000, required by Charter
 - c) N.O.I.S.E.-----\$1,200
- 4) Purchased Services----- \$165,100
 - a) Flowers-----\$1,400
 - b) Council Water-----\$550
 - c) General Special Event-----\$2,500
 - d) Youth Council Initiative-----\$10,000
 - e) Wed. Winddown (4 events, \$20,000 each) ---\$80,000
 - f) Healthy Point Initiative-----\$5,000
 - g) Holiday Business Expo-----\$8,000
 - h) Legislative Round Table (food) -----\$1,500, legitimate expense
 - i) Silver Fox Ball (Décor,parking, invitations)---\$5,000
 - j) Community Policing-----\$1,000 needs to be explained/documentated
 - k) Halloween Festival-----\$3,200
 - l) South Fulton Municipal Meeting-----\$3,000, legitimate/required
 - m) Turkey Give Away-----\$6,100
 - n) Back to School (Backpacks, etc.) -----\$1,300
 - o) Council Retreat-----\$8,000, legitimate
 - p) Ham Give Away-----\$4,000
 - q) MLK Day of Service-----\$7,000
 - r) Christmas Jingle-----\$3,500
 - s) Golden Age Resource Fair-----\$2,000
 - t) MISC Events-----\$2,000 needs to be identified
 - u) Jazz Festival-----\$10,000

The City Council Department has a Budget of **\$247,450** in Expenditures. These expenditures are under the General Fund. This means that the General Fund is financing most if not all of these activities that violate the State Gratuity Clause from money transferred from the Electric Utility under the guise of misc. Revenue.

This is what all the residential households received in the 2020 Budget:

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- 1) Twelve more months of electric Winter rates that this Mayor and Council cannot provide any legal Ordinance passed by Mayor and Council in 2013 that went into effect June 1, 2013 amending/repealing the legally documented Electric Utility Ordinance passed by Mayor and Council on November 5, 2012.
- 2) Twelve more months of unauthorized and undocumented power cost adjustment (pca) and environmental compliance cost recovery (eccr) fees that this Mayor and Council will not stop although they cannot provide the required documented riders.

Mayor and Council's greed and lack of concern will increase the financial burden on East Point residents and their families, who according to the Greater Atlanta United Way 2019 quarterly census tract report are facing health, and financial hardships and that:

- 1) 15.7 percent of the City's 8,497 children do not have health insurance.
- 2) 42.2 percent of these children are living in poverty.
- 3) 49.1 percent of the City's 6,793 families are not financially stable.
- 4) 46 percent of the families have housing cost burdens.
- 5) 30.2 percent of the adults do not have health insurance.
- 6) The unemployment rate is 17.6 percent.

Instead of enforcing the City Charter, City Ordinances and adhering to their oath of office, this Mayor and Council chose to violate the City Charter, City Ordinances and their oath of office by voting to adopt the 2020 Budget with illegally implemented rates and fees. The Electric Utility is budgeted to collect:

- 1) \$3,841,464 in Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) Fees
- 2) \$2,228,351 in Environmental Compliance Cost Recovery (ECCR) Fees
- 3) The total amount for PCA + ECCR = \$6,069,815 for the fiscal budgeted year.

If the residential electric customers were not charged these illegal fees, they would have more money for food, clothing, and healthcare.

MAYOR & COUNCIL PAY RAISES

The Mayor and Council Members have actual access to almost the full **\$247,450** in the City Council Department slush fund account. Not any of this money will appear on either the Mayor's or Council Member's' individual expense accounts, yet they gain enormous personal benefits from spending the money. The Mayor's and Council Members' personal expense accounts include their salaries and City benefits for group insurance; Medicare; and social security or City pension. The City benefits also include a cellphone with paid monthly charges, and a computer/tablet that is not listed in their Budgets.

Since the Mayor and Council are paid whether they are sick or do not attend Council Meetings, they have two-line item expenditures; **(1) Unemployment insurance** and **(2)**

Worker’s compensation; in their personal budgets that can be used as additional funding for any use they desire using another line-item totaling between **\$700** and **\$1,000**. When I was Mayor, we had these two expenditures removed.

Other than their salaries and City benefits, Mayor and Council Members can manipulate any assigned line- item expenditure as they like when they want to. The total of these non-salaried line-item expenditures for the Mayor and each Council member is:

- 1) Mayor----- **\$44,250**
- 2) CM Gothard-----**\$16,800**
- 3) CM Shropshire-----**\$13,800**
- 4) CM Callaway-----**\$13,800**
- 5) CM Rene-----**\$13,800**
- 6) CM Cook-----**\$13,800**
- 7) CM Saucier-----**\$13,800**
- 8) CM Gordon-----**\$13,800**
- 9) CM Butler-----**\$13,800**

A City credit card is normally used for these expenditures. The money above is not taxable income for Mayor and Council Members.

MAYOR & COUNCIL SALARIES

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u>
1) Mayor	\$14,200	\$20,000
2) Council Members	\$11,000	\$16,000

I do not support any salary increases for the Mayor and Council Members because they have more than enough money available to them in their personal allowance Budget accounts and an even more outrageous amount in the Council Department Budget account. The Council Department account needs a legal review and most certainly that Budget’s appropriations need to be amended to remove all the activities that violate the State Gratuity Statute.

PLEASE visit my **WEBSITE** and click on **“Mayor & CM’s 2020 Budgets & PCa & ECCR Charges”** for copies downloaded from the **2020 City BUDGET** posted on the City’s website on July 12, 2019 under the post **“The High Cost of Poor Leadership”**.