



ELECT

EARNESTINE D. PITTMAN

WARD C at- Large

VOICE FOR THE PEOPLE

(404) 344-3710 edpittman26@bellsouth.net www.earnestinedpittman.com

Vol. 4

September 14, 2021

If there is **ANYONE BUT PITTMAN**, who will explain why Mayor and Council have NOT voted on the items listed in the City Council & Committees Budget at any Council Meeting, please STOP reading now and ask them. Otherwise, continue reading.

The City's Budget is adopted in an Appropriation Ordinance for the estimated amount of Revenues to be collected and the same amount to be spent in Expenditures. Any new salaries and benefits that changed since the last Budget was adopted and were voted on by Mayor and Council are automatically included in the New Budget along with the pervious salaries and benefits.

Other Expenditures, previously voted on by Mayor and Council like Agreements, Contracts, Bond Debt, MOUs, Utility Fees, Permit Fees, etc., and City Memberships, are automatically placed in the Budget. However, ALL other items have to be VOTED on by Mayor and Council before any money is used to pay for them.

According to a Formal Opinion by a former Georgia Attorney, no item that requires a VOTE by the governing body can be passed in a Budget. According to Open Records Requests, Mayor and Council has VOTED for exactly ONE, Wednesday Wind Down Event and that was the first ONE for \$30,000. Who authorized the Finance Director to pay any INVOICES and CREDIT CARD CHARGES for the other Wednesday Wind Down Events not VOTED on by Mayor and Council? Not any of the items listed (Flyer 3A) in the City Council & Committees Budget have been VOTED on in the last three years, yet they have become staples in the Budget.

Any item that is listed anywhere in the Budget that has not been previously VOTED on by Mayor and Council HAS to be VOTED on before any payments are

made. That is the law according to the City Charter, Sec.1-103.-Powers (a,2): “Appropriations and expenditures. To make appropriations for the support of the government of the city; to authorize the expenditure of money for any purpose authorized by this charter and for any purpose for which a municipality is authorized by the laws of the State of Georgia; and to provide for the payment of expenses of the city”. Now, if the Mayor or any Council Member can produce any Ordinance or Resolution showing where any of the items listed in this section, that I have copied in Flyer 3A, meet the criteria for an “appropriation for the support of the government” and hence, an “authorized payment of expenses” then it is legal.

Every one of the copied items violates the State of Georgia Gratuity Clause because not a single one of them “provides a tangible benefit to the city”. “Tangible benefit” does not mean an emotion; physical enjoyment; food; entertainment; artistic delight or any other sensory benefit. “Tangible benefit” means an economic or financial benefit in the form of renovated or new development or money added to the city’s economy. These copied items should be taken out of the Budget and transferred to the Non-Departmental Budget for residents who qualify for Minimum Housing Grants as defined in Flyer 3A.

Residents, if you want the changes that I am proposing, then VOTE for Candidates who will get it done. Support for the Minimum Housing Grants has come from only ONE INCUMBENT CANDIDATE. Ask ALL of them where they stand on the issue? Then ask ALL the Candidates running against INCUMBENT Candidates, how they stand on the issue. I SUPPORT THE ISSUE!

NOTE: APPROPRIATIONS OF GRANT FUNDS MUST BE USED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STIPULATIONS AND GUIDELINES OF THE GRANT.