



ELECT

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WARD C at- Large

VOICE FOR THE PEOPLE

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IN IT TO WIN IT!

East Point residents are still living in the Age of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Existing problems and stresses have increased, and the **Federal Government** has done an awesome job in **providing** direct financial assistance, food, and health assistance.

The Federal Government **paid** for every box of food from Atlanta Community Food Bank that was **distributed** in East Point at Jefferson Park Recreation Center and the Churches in East Point. The City of East Point did **not** spend **one cent** for the food that was distributed to the residents! There is and never was any **Partnership between the City of East Point and the Atlanta Community Food Bank** or any **other** food distributor. Ask CM Sharon Shropshire why would she **use** Stimulus money to pay for her misleading robo calls that gave her **free** access to **VOTERS**. She has been **campaigning** on money **meant** for the needy, first responders and vaccinations for almost two years.

CM Shropshire was not **alone** in preying on the needy on the taxpayer's dime to fool the residents. Too many other Council Members **used** every available opportunity at food distribution sites for **photo** postings on social media **without** adding a single item of food for distribution. I presume that **CM Shropshire** and **CM Joshua Butler** are low on campaign funds, as well as the **Mayor**, and need to gain access to the residents because **all** three are now **making** robo calls and **CODERED** on the taxpayer's dime. East Point has a Public Information Officer to **inform** the residents of any food distribution sites and dates; as well as the progress of SPLOT funded project without the City paying thousands of dollars for robo calls. What can our Mayor and Council **do** to **help** the Residents? Currently, there are **three** very important things that **can** and

Could be done **immediately!** The three things that Mayor and Council can immediately do are:

- 1. AMEND THE FY 22 BUDGET,**
- 2. CREATE A MINIMUM HOUSING CODE IMPROVEMENT BOARD, AND**
- 3. RESTORE OUR COUNCIL-MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT.**

Our Mayor and Council **cannot** change what has been done to residents who are **unemployed and underemployed**. Residents who **need affordable housing and childcare**. Residents who **need help with transportation, increasing food costs and life necessities**. However, at this time our Mayor and Council **can** do **three** things to immediately help the residents if they **WANT** to without **increase** costs to the residents. Let's begin with the **FY 22 Budget**.

ANSWER #1: AMEND THE FY 22 CITY BUDGET

The old saying that **you can tell what a person value by how he/she spends his/her money** is equally **true** for our Mayor and Council. Our Mayor and Council makes it crystal clear how **much** they **value** the residents by how they are treated in the City's **BUDGET**. This year's City Budget has an **increase** in the expenditures and number of perks that Mayor and Council **WANTS** in violation of the Charter; with no tangible **benefits** to the residents or the City; without any public **input** from the residents; and without **VOTING** on any of them.

What can Mayor and Council do **NOW** that would **help** the residents without **increasing** the Utilities or Property Taxes? They can **amend** the Budget by **transferring** money from different funding accounts to another account for things that can be done **legally** to benefit the residents.

Listed below are **gratuitous** items from the **City Council and Committees, and the Council Members' Ward Accounts** Budgets. The funding of these items **violates** Georgia State Gratuity Clause, the City Charter and Ordinances. The funding should be **transferred** to the **Non-Departmental Account**:

- 1. CREDIT CARD FEES 20,000
- 2. FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS 1,300
- 3. SPECIAL EVENTS 10,000
- 4. YOUTH COUNCIL INIT. 10,000
- 5. WED. WIND DOWN 150,000
- 6. HOLIDAY BUSINESS EXPO 5,400
- 7. SILVER FOX BALL 5,500
- 8. COMMUNITY POLICING 2,000
- 9. HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL 3,200
- 10. ANN DOUGLAS TURKEY GIVE-AWAY 5,000
- 11. CITY COUNCIL TURKEY GIVE-AWAY 2,000
- 12. BACK TO SCHOOL PACKS 1,300
- 13. HAM GIVE-AWAY (2 EVENTS) 37,000
- 14. M L KING DAY SERVICES 4,000
- 15. CHRISTMAS JINGLE 2,000
- 16. TELECOMMUNICATIONS 4,000
- 17. GOLDEN AGE RESOURCE FAIR 4,000
- 18. BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM 5,000
- 19. JAZZ FESTIVAL \$25,000
- 20. COUNCIL MEMBERS WARD ACCOUNTS OTHER PROFESSIONAL FEES TOTAL \$109,950

NOTE: Not any of the above activities include the Staff's participation costs; overtime pay; outside human support; additional supplies; and equipment.

THE MAYOR'S BUDGET

The Mayor's Office Budget is **\$273,039**. The Mayor's salary and her Executive Assistant's salary together is **\$128,649** not including benefits. The Mayor's salary is **\$20,000** and is **set** by vote of Mayor and Council. According to an Open Records Request, as of December 31, 2020, the Mayor was paid a total of **\$25,888.56** and her Executive Assistant was paid **\$37,886.31** in regular salary with an additional **\$7,825.85** for overtime, personal, holiday, and funeral expenses for a total of **\$45,712.16**. Using the Executive Assistant's total salary of **\$45,712.16** and the Mayor's **\$20,000** salary that equals **\$65,712.16**. So, why is there **\$62,936.84** more in her salary Budget than the sum of both salaries? I was a Mayor and there are no legal reasons why the Mayor's

office salaries, benefits, operating expenses, travel and training costs, and professional fees should exceed **\$160,000**. Her Budget is **\$113,000** more than can be legally accounted for according to the City Charter and Resolution. This is just a small amount of unaccounted illegal funding of that I have posted. However, it highlights a City in **Crisis** with **no** checks and balances being enforced.

NOTE: Open Records Request show that salary payments were made to others in the Mayor's Office. Some Council Members, by their own admission, have paid money for internships/assistants because the money and positions were in the Budget. Again, according to Open Records Request, no Mayor and Council have created any of those positions by Ordinance.

ANSWER # 2: CREATE A MINIMUM HOUSING CODE IMPROVEMENT BOARD

East Point homeowners desperately **need** financial assistance with keeping their homes and property up to code. The City used to **provide** grants for housing code improvements through the Minimum Housing Board before **transferring** those services to Fulton County Government. The grants were provided by the **Federal Government** and called the Community Development Building Grants (**CDBG**). Mayor and Council decided in **2012** to use the CDBG funding for Parks & Recreation instead of home code improvements. I was Mayor, and although the building of Pocket Parks and the installation of restrooms in the parks throughout the City were needed and beneficial, I have never ceased **advocating** for the City to **reinstate** funding for home code improvements. Mayor and Council can approve grant funding for **MINIMUM HOUSING CODE Improvements** to residents for:

- 1. New Roofs
- 2. Plumbing
- 3. Gutters
- 4. Windows
- 5. Doors
- 6. Flooring
- 7. Hallway and Bathroom entries for Wheelchairs
- 8. Electrical Wiring
- 9. Heating/Cooling Systems
- 10. Hot Water Heaters and Installation
- 11. Tree Cutting and Removal

A proven and credited **nonprofit** would **submit** a **PLAN** for Mayor and Council's **approval** to implement the Program. There is **money** in the current Budget to fund this Program with an initial amount of **\$2 million NOW!**

The Federal Government has provided East Point Government with another funding source to help the residents through this Pandemic in the form of the **AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN for UTILITY & RENTAL ASSISTANCE for EAST POINT RESIDENTS FACING EVICTION**. East Point is supposed to **receive** between **\$11 million and \$13 million** from the **RESCUE Plan**. As of September 17, 2021, an Open Records Request states **“Per the Finance Department, the City of East Point has not expended any funds associated with the American Rescue Plan.”**

It has been **five** months since the City was notified about the money. Yet, the City has **NOT** proposed a Plan to be **voted** on by Mayor and Council as to how the money would be distributed to landlords and the payments for East Point’s Utilities. Yet, the Mayor **Deana Holiday Ingraham** in a post on EASTPOINTVOTES.COM stated: **“ Additionally, are using American Rescue Plan Act funds for loss revenue and water and sewer infrastructure needs as well as exploring pay for city employees, addressing broadband gaps, expanding workforce development training and support for small businesses”**.

HELL TO THE HELL NO!! The Federal Government did **not** intend for this **money** to be **use** for any City to **supplement** its local Budget; it is supposed to be **used** to help residents recover from past due **RENTS**; delinquent and unpaid **UTILITIES!** Residents need to **demand** that this money be **used** for its **intended** purpose. This is why it is so **important** for residents to see the **PLAN** **before** Mayor and Council **VOTES**.

I am proposing that Mayor and Council **VOTE** to include in the **PLAN** money to pay up to **\$1,000** on any **UTILITY BALANCES** that any resident owes. There are approximately **16,000** residential Utility customers in East Point. If every residential household had a balance, and most do not, the maximum amount of cost to the **PLAN** would be **\$1,600,000**. The money would be **paid** to the City of East Point.

In the same post, Mayor Holiday Ingraham stated that she **“fought for CARES ACT Funding and secured grant funds totaling over \$1 million to provide for utilities, rent and mortgage assistance to help East Pointers”**. Of course, she did **not** have to fight Fulton County Government to get **\$1million** anymore than the City fought to get the American Rescue Plan funding.

Since the City received **\$1 million** from the CARES Act, and **if** the money was **correctly** used, then that **reduces** the total amount of money **needed** from the American Rescue Plan for the **same** group of residents by **\$1 million**, hence **reducing** the number of residents who would need the **\$1,000 utility** balance pay off.

We also need to make sure that the City **accounts** for every cent of the American Rescue money as well as the **money** from the first **CARES ACT Stimulus Check** considering what **Mayor Holiday Ingraham** had to say about **using** money from the American Rescue Plan funding. We might need to make an Open Records Request to Fulton County Government to be safe.

I received an Open Records Request on Friday stating that my request was ready for a **“ Copy of the most composite up-to-date final Stimulus Covid-19 Report to the County or other appropriate Federal Agency for how the East Point's funds were spent; including the names of the entities who were contracted by East Point to implement the expenditures.”** Also included was this additional information. **“ The total number of pages is 1,617 pages. Please let us know if you would like to proceed as the estimated cost for copying will be \$161.70. We will need to go through this document to make redactions prior to release which may take at least 8 hours.”** I strongly suggest that Mayor and Council **direct** the City Clerk’s Office to make a PDF copy of the Request and **post** it on the City’s website for **all** residents to see.

ANSWER # 3: RESTORE OUR COUNCIL-MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT

Mayor and Council needs to do their jobs, and to do right by the residents and the City. There is a great deal of unrest and distrust by both the Residents and Staff members. The City lost eight Department Heads to retirement and resignations during a two-month time frame this summer. **WHY?** I believe it is because the **Council Members** have **allowed** the **Mayor to assume Powers and Authority that she does not legally have, and she uses this Power and Authority, supported by FIVE PLUS COUNCIL MEMBERS, to dictate to the City Manager, City Attorney, and other Staff members.**

The Mayor and her **VOTING BLOC** is a **threat** to our City’s form of government , which is **COUNCIL-MANAGER** and not dictatorial **MAYOR and FIVE PLUS ENABLERS!**

The **THIRD** and most **important** reason that I am running to **win** this Election is to **STOP** the **reign** of terror and the **reinstate** our form of **Council-Manager Government** that includes checks and balances. Unfortunately, there are **no** strong **VOICES** on this Council that can **influence** the **majority** of Council Members to **enforce** their Oaths of Office and **follow** our Charter, Ordinances and Resolutions. This **Mayor** and **three** other Incumbent Council Members (**CM Shropshire, Butler and Rene**) have demonstrated **ungovernable** greed and **total** disregard for the Residents, Management, and businesses.

I will provide limited **highlights** of the wrongdoing by the Mayor and her strongest three Incumbent enablers. I have posted numerous City documents detailing their greed and lack of respect for any laws of the City. Please visit my **WEBSITE** and view the **DOCUMENTS!**

I have been a **Council Member** and **Mayor** of East Point. I **know** the Charter, and **related** Ordinances and Resolutions that our elected officials are most often faced with. **The Charter clearly states that the Mayor is Chairperson of the Council Meetings** and is Responsible for **enforcing** All laws in the City Charter, Ordinances and Resolutions at **All** meetings where Council **Votes** are taken. The Mayor has the **right** to serve or designate the City Attorney as Parliamentarian. The Mayor is **Responsible** for **Approving** all Proper Motions that moved and seconded; as well as **Not Approving** all Improper Motions made whether seconded or not.

It is the **Responsibility** of the **Budget Committee** to check the City Manager's Monthly Revenue and Expenditures Report. It is the **Responsibility** of the **Finance Committee** to Review and Monitor Purchase Orders, and Contract/MOUs/Construction Agreements Payments.

The Mayor and Every Council Member is Responsible for making sure that Every Motion is a Proper Motion; that Every Item on the Council Agenda for Payment has been Previously voted and that Every Item in the Adopted Budget requires a Vote by Council UNLESS the Item has been Previously Voted.

ASK, the Mayor and the Incumbent Council Members, how:

1. Over **\$600,000** was spent on **Wed. Wind Down Events without a single vote** of Council managed by CM Shropshire?
2. **\$14,000** was paid to CM Butler's private attorney for actions that took place before he was elected? The Mayor allowed the Improper motion for payment and allowed CM Butler to discuss the matter and **VOTE** on it!
3. Did Mayor Holiday Ingraham managed a **\$202,700** Agreement with Southern Equity out of her Office, that included payments for an Academy without any Agendas of Sign-in Sheets?
4. Did CM Butler used the City's credit card to go to Africa during this Pandemic to discuss what City business; and the many other credit card charges for local Lyft's rides, car washing, eating at local eateries, etc? He can rightly be called the **Welfare Prince!**
5. Did CM Shropshire's credit card statements include paying a hotel bill for an entertainer's Manager and the use of a limousine? In fact, her credit card charges take up over thirty sheets of regular sized paper. She is the **Welfare Princess!**
6. Did Madam Mayor Holiday Ingraham managed to use her Office to conduct Management duties that solely belong to the City Manager? Her credit card spending is second only by a few sheets to CM Shropshire. Madam Mayor is definitely **The Welfare Queen!**
7. Was CM Rene allowed to use her position the Council to get sweetheart Partnerships with the NAACP, where she is a Board Member? She is the **Welfare Stepchild!**

If you can find, ANYONE BUT PITTMAN, to be your VOICE on the Council and Fight for what is Right for you and the City as the Candidate for the Ward C at-Large seat, then Vote for that person. Otherwise, I am asking YOU to VOTE for ME as your Ward C at-Large Council Member.

I am not accepting donations. If you want to help, talk to your neighbors and friends about what is going on in the City. If you want to see the documents referenced in this Newsletter, and my almost daily Flyers visit my Website. My Signs disappear as fast as soon as they are put up! GO VOTE!!!! GO VOTE!!!!!!!!!!!!