



VOICE FOR THE PEOPLE

Knowledge is Power; and Elections have Consequences!

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If there is **ANYONE BUT PITTMAN** who told you this, thank them.

CORRUPTION and SOLUTIONS

In the February 28, 2023, Email Newsletter, I discussed three points that I believe need more clarification and documentation and they are listed below.

1. Transferring \$1 million from the Federal Recovery Rescue Account to a nonexistent Office of Equity, Inclusion and Empowerment that does not exist in any City Department; that just so happens to need \$990,292 for a project.
2. Transferring \$175,000 for an Event (Wednesday Wine Down) that does not exist in any City Department.
3. The \$561,270.35 that the City has paid Interim City Attorney Weems; Solicitor Weems; and the Weems Law Firm.

At the February 27th Council Meeting, a Motion to remove the transferring of \$175,000 for Wednesday Wine Down and \$1 million for the nonexistent Office of Equity, Inclusion and Empowerment was defeated when four Council Members with the Mayor breaking the tie voted to keep the two items; then the same four Council Members with the Mayor breaking the tie voted to include the fund allocations in the vote to pass Proposed Budget Amendment 1.

THE CORRUPTION: The Mayor and each Council Member as well as the Interim City Attorney know that the above two items were **IMPROPERLY PASSED and VIOLATED THE CITY CHARTER** because no CITY DEPARTMENT WAS IDENTIFIED FOR THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FOR EITHER ITEM.

THE SOLUTION: Mayor and Council can **VOTE to REPEAL or to AMEND BUDGET AMENDMENT 1 ORDINANCE;** and **PASS ANOTHER PROPOSED BUDGET AMENDMENT WITH THE FUNDING ALLOCATION of \$1,175,000 TRANSFERRED**

TO the NON-DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET for SPECIAL EVENTS/EMERGENICES. This would allow Mayor and Council to bring before the Council a Motion or Motions on what Events or Emergencies that **the MONEY could legally be spent on in keeping with the CHARTER and the CITY'S PROCUREMENT ORDINANCE.**

SUGGESTION FOR AN EMERGENCY EXPENDITURE: According to a **washingtonpost.com** article **“Millions could see cuts to food stamps as federal pandemic aid ends”**. **“For low income families enrolled in the program, known as SNAP, the cuts could reduce their benefits by an average of \$182 per month, according to the USDA”**.

There are thousands of families in East Point who are already experiencing food insecurities due to low wages; higher rents; higher medical costs; as well as increased clothing, and gas costs. SNAP recipients will be hit the hardest with the loss of these funds. Although many families have been receiving food boxes from the Community Food Bank, with **NO financial assistance** from the City, the recipients still need to supplement their food budgets.

The City of East Point was allocated **\$13,022,206 in the American Rescue Plan Act (also referred to as the Recovery Recue Plan)** to help residents with rent/mortgage payments and utilities among other uses to needed by the City. Last year at their **February 21, 2022, Council Meeting, Mayor, and Council passed Budget Amendment 2 that was half funded by the second installment of \$6,511,103 of the American Rescue Plan Act. This Budget Amendment also included an additional \$75,000 in funding for the Wednesday Wine Down.**

On February 28, 2023, Mayor and Council again passed Budget Amendment 1 that included **an additional \$175,000 for Wednesday Wine Down; and \$1 million from the American Rescue Plan Act.** It is time that all East Point residents receive benefits from the **\$13,022,206 instead of providing FREE entertainment** that does not benefit the City or residents in any tangible way. It is an **illegal use of City monies designated for residents.**

Hence, I suggest that Mayor and Council **vote to transfer \$1,175,000 from the Non-Departmental Fund; and add another \$2 million from the American Rescue Plan Act for a total of \$3,175,000 and credit each residential household with \$195 on their utility bill.** The \$195 is based on the estimated 16,300 residential utility customers. The City is not losing any money; it will amount to a reallocation of funds to be transferred to the Customer Care Department.

RESIDENTS, if you agree with my suggestion or have another use you prefer for the money for, TELL MAYOR and COUNCIL AT THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, MARCH6, 2023.

I will discuss item 3 above: The \$561,270.35 that the City has paid Interim City Attorney Weems; Solicitor Weems; and the Weems Law Firm in my next Email Newsletter this week. However, I promised to provide the newsclip of the Capitol Protest for the Change of the City Charter. See the attachment below.