



VOICE FOR THE PEOPLE

Knowledge is Power; and Elections have Consequences!

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PROPOSED FY 24 BUDGET REVIEW #1

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

Mayor and Council finally approved the posting of the Proposed FY 24 Budget, with 469 pages, at a very talkative Work Session Meeting. The Mayor stated that the First Public Hearing for the Residents would be on Monday, May 15th, and because of the Charter they had to pass the Budget at the first Council meeting in June. **The Charter in Sec. 5-102. Budget action:**

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- (a) **Notice and hearing.** The city council shall publish, in one or more newspapers of general circulation of the city, the general summary of the budget in a notice stating:
 - (1) The times and places where copies of the message and budget are available for inspection by the public; and
 - (2) The time and place, not less than two weeks after such publication, for a public hearing on the budget.
- (b) **Amendment before adoption.** After the public hearing, the city council may adopt the budget with or without amendment. In amending the budget, it may add or increase programs or amounts and may delete or decrease any programs or amounts, except expenditures required by law or for debt service or for estimated cash deficit; provided, however, that no amendment to the budget shall increase the authorized expenditures to an amount greater than the total of estimated income.
- (c) **Adoption.** The city council shall adopt the budget on or before the first meeting of June. If it fails to adopt the budget by this date, the amounts appropriated for current operation for the current fiscal year shall be deemed adopted for the ensuing fiscal year on a month-to-month basis, with all items in it prorated accordingly, until such time as the city council adopts a budget for the ensuing fiscal year. Adoption of the budget shall constitute appropriations of the amounts specified therein as expenditures from the funds indicated and shall constitute a levy of the property tax therein proposed.”

The Budget is too important to be rushed through by the Mayor and Council. Residents need time to go through the Proposed FY 24 Budget and have their concerns; questions and requests addressed by Mayor and Council. There was no mention of the Mayor and Council having a Townhall Meeting with the Residents; however, a Meeting/Open House is planned for the Annex at some unknown date. According to the calendar published in the Budget document, the First Reading of the Budget will be May 15th and the Second Reading and Adoption will be the First Monday in June. As of the writing of this article, the personnel responsible for the posting of the Budget Summary and Hearing in the South Fulton Neighbor had not complied.

The most important thing at the moment is for Residents to begin to see where and how their money is being spent and by whom. That brings me to the reason for this First Budget Review Email Newsletter. There are some very troubling “WHOM” in the Budget that is spending a lot of money without any accountability in any known Department. In fact, these “WHOM” have either declared themselves as a “Department or Office” in different parts of the Budget, without any VOTE by Mayor and Council creating them by Ordinance or even a VOTE! This Charter violation has not kept them from millions of dollars for pet projects, hiring staff, and

setting salaries without any authorization by Mayor and Council because Mayor and Council Members are active PARTICIPANTS, along with the City Manager, and Interim City Attorney. WHO are these self-created Departments and Office?

CITY COUNCIL/ CITY CLERK SELF-CREATED DEPARTMENT

This self-created Department was created to hide the spending for Wednesday Wind Down and all the other pet projects of individual Mayor and individual Council Members without voting on the individual events in a Council Meeting and thus being identified. Neither the Mayor nor any Council Member has the legal right to spend taxpayers' money in personal Budgets