



September 19, 2023

CAMPAIGN EMAIL NEWSLETTER-3

Dear Residents,

The Mayor and Council voted unanimously last night for a 13% millage rate for your Property Taxes. Despite my plea and some of the other residents to lower the 13% millage rate the vote was against us. According to Mr. Jackson, East Point Tax Commissioner, the City has collected more than \$23 million for FY 23. This is \$5 million more than the \$18 million in the Estimated Budget Revenue Amount for FY 23 with a 13% millage rate. What happened to the \$5 million surplus? Residents deserve to know.

In the FY24 Budget voted on by the Mayor and Council, the Estimated Budget Revenue Amount is again \$18 million with the same 13% millage rate. Mr. Jackson stated that the City could expect to collect more than \$25 million.

In both cases above, the Mayor, Council Members, City Manager, and Finance Directors were not on the same page and not even ONE of them has QUESTIONED the discrepancies. How can the City function with no financial oversight? No wonder, "ROMANO THE KNOW" EMBEZZLED MORE THAN \$1.2 MILLION IN FOUR WIRE TRANSFERS!

What will happen to the \$7 million surplus in the FY 24 Budget? Residents deserve to know how this "SURPLUS" is going to be spent and why they are

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not the beneficiaries of some of this money. I am sure that Residents would like to see some of the money being used for them based on income rather than solely on age:

- 1. Roof replacement/repairs.**
- 2. Tree removal/trimming.**
- 3. Home code repairs (windows, floors, doors, bathrooms, wiring, indoor plumbing).**
- 4. Electrical appliances replacement.**
- 5. Parks and Recreation Programs for youths and adults.**
- 6. Utilities assistance by repealing the PCA and ECCR FEES for a period.**
- 7. Other**

Item number “5” is the only one that can be paid for directly from the General Fund. However, the City could easily reduce the amount from the Electric Enterprise Fund that is transferred to the General Fund to cover the cost of all the other items using the \$7 million in “SURPLUS” funds.

Is there any wonder that the City’s financial solvency is in question? We have two people working as the Financial Director until one can be hired. We don’t have a Purchasing Procurement Director so the City is piggybacking off of other Cities for large ticket purchases and bidding.

The City Manager has not provided the Mayor and Council with the City Charter mandated Monthly Financial Reports for more than 22 Months and they are apparently on board with the violation since City Manager Deron King is still working for the City.

The Finance/Budget Committee has not had a meeting this year! Chairman Council Member Myron Cook says they will meet on September 26th. This will be their first Meeting this year! Again, the Mayor and Council is on board with this sorry situation because he is still the Chairman, and all the Members are still the same.

It is time for a CHANGE! The Mayor and Council need to FIRE the City Manager. The Residents need to Fire four Council Members this November! It is not enough to Fire people; they need to be replaced with people who can do the job!

DESTROYING RESIDENTS' RIGHTS

This Mayor and Council have been destroying the Rights of Residents for a long time. If any Member of the City Council feels threatened by what a Resident says that Resident is targeted. Let's begin with me. When it comes to using Public Property, I am treated like an alien from outer space. Here is the City Charter's mandate for using Public Property.

Sec. 2-504. Use of public property.

No elected official, appointed officer, or employee of the city or any agency or entity to which this charter applies shall use property owned by such governmental entity for personal benefit, convenience, or profit except in accordance with policies promulgated by the city council or the governing body of such agency or entity.

The City Council has not “promulgated any polices” that deals with the use of the Council Chambers, therefore “No elected official, appointed officer, or employee of the city or any or entity to which this charter applies shall use property owned by such governmental entity for personal benefit, convenience, or profit” determines how the City's Public Properties are used.

- 1) CM Lance Robertson is having an AI Event on Saturday, September 23, 2023, in the City Council Chambers. The City doesn't rent the Council Chambers, however it is available for use by the Mayor and any Council Member to use as they see fit. The Residents are not afforded this perk. This “perk” is a violation of the City Charter. Once the Council Meeting is over, neither the Mayor nor any Council Member or group of Council Members that do not constitute a Quorum are allowed the use of any Public Property and are subject to the same rules and policies as Residents for their use. They are no longer performing in their official capacity. The exception to this must be voted on by the Mayor and Council at a Council Meeting. The Mayor and Council has not voted for this Event. So, why is he “permitted” to use it?**
- 2) On July 15, 2023, CM Josette Bailey used the City Annex Auditorium for a Meeting with HOAs Presidents and Neighborhood Associations Presidents. She did not pay a cent in rent nor a fee for insurance. The Mayor and Council did not vote on this.**

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- 3) CM Joshua Butler has also used the Council Chambers without a vote of the Mayor and Council.
- 4) The Mayor and Council have allowed non-Residents to use the Council Chambers for Events without a vote or payment to the City.
- 5) The Mayor has used the Council on numerous occasions. She had a Townhall Meeting there a few months ago **without a vote of Council**.

When I asked the City Clerk's Office about renting the City Annex Auditorium for September 30, 2023, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, for a Townhall Meeting, I was informed that the Legal Department said no because I am a Candidate running for office. **I am not having a "Campaign Event", I am having a Townhall Meeting. I emailed four requests to Interim Attorney Weems and the Legal Department asking for a legal document that says that a Candidate running for office cannot rent a space in a public building.** At last night's Council Meeting, Atty Weems was unable to provide any information to me because as he said, he is not answerable to me, and he advises the Council and neither the Mayor or any Council Member requested that information. He knows that there is no such document.

As I stated at the Council Meeting, I will be going to the City Clerk's Office to sign for my Reservation of the City Annex Auditorium in accordance with the Rental Policy for September 30, 2023, for my Ward C Townhall Meeting or there will be a Civil Rights Protest at the site.

See the attachment below for how the uncollected, anticipated \$25 million in Property Taxes is already being squandered. CM Lance Robertson had his "Love Thy Neighbor Cookout" last Saturday and despite saying he had Sponsors, he used more than \$6,000 in City Funds. Not all the Invoices have been provided for the services provided.

REMEMBER TO SHARE! PLEASE EMAIL OR CALL IF YOU WANT A YARD SIGN. SOMEONE KEEPS TAKING THEM OFF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY!