Georgetown City Council Budget Meeting
Thursday June 2, 2011
5:30 pm

The Georgetown City Council Budget Meeting was called to order by Mayor Everette Varney with all members present except Kelly McEuen.

A motion was made by Councilman Singer and seconded by Councilwoman Tackett to take the Neace Lukens contract approval off the table. The motion was unanimously approved.

Rodney Vinegar Human Resource Director believes that the contract that has been negotiated with Neace Lukens is fair. Mr. Vinegar recommends council approve the contract.

A Resolution to Approve the Neace Lukens Contract
Resolution # 11-006 to approve the contract with Neace Lukens was read and a motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Tackett and seconded by Councilman Prather.
Discussion
Councilman Penn asked Mr. Vinegar why this is the best process. Mr. Vinegar explained that it will only cost the city $30,000.00 as opposed to $40,000.00 or $50,000.00. Councilman Penn asked if the reduction is what the city actually should have paid initially. Mr. Vinegar stated that if he had been negotiating at the time the contract was signed he would not have accepted the offer. Councilman Penn said that he is concerned about the money paid that was outside the parameters of the law and the fact that there was no contract signed. Consultant fees were also paid to a non-consultant. Councilman Penn asked if the city is really saving money or are we just receiving a discount because the company previously collected funds that they should not have. Mr. Vinegar said that there are only twenty-eight days left to get our employees good benefits. He is asking for the councils support so that he can save the city money as well as the employees. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

Public Comments
Judy Apple representing Art Works Partners Inc. shared information about the eleven groups that make up Art Works Partners Inc. All eleven groups are non profit and are operated by volunteers that give back to the community with their talents. The group is asking the council to consider them in the proposed budget. Mrs. Apples says the group has only asked for what it really needs.

Harold Jessie a citizen of Georgetown is against raising taxes. He cited high unemployment rates and the increase of food and gas. 50% of college graduates are having difficulty finding jobs. Mr. Jessie said that it is the people's money not the City of Georgetown. He believes there are other ways the city can save money. Mr. Jessie suggested a hiring freeze in all city departments except for the Police. He also thinks that neighborhoods should get involved by having neighborhood watch.

Consideration of Mayor's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2012
Finance Director Betty Pendergrass distributed revenue numbers for May. Payroll withholding continues to run short compared to last year at this time. Councilman Lusby asked if there were still revenues that could be collected and Ms. Pendergrass said that

adjustments would be made in July to show what was actually earned in June. Councilman Singer asked about franchise fees. Ms Pendergrass said we had received a check from K.U. for a previous shortage. This will be reflected in the month end report.

Parks and Recreation

Lois Holmes director of Parks and Recreation said that she was here to answer any questions that the council has about her budget requests. Ms. Holmes reported that the minimum wage increase has been a hardship for the department because they employee 100 to150 part time and seasonal employees. Employee benefits have also increased. Parks and Recreation has not had capital improvement money in several years but has completed two projects that should have been capital expenditures. Both of the projects had to be completed in order for the pools to be in compliance with federal laws. Councilman Singer asked how the projects were funded. Ms Holmes said that there was a surplus from previous years but that now they have had to cut three full time positions. She stated there will be other hard decisions that will have to be made including reducing hours at facilities and cutting some of our complimentary programs. Councilman Lusby asked how the conservative budget would affect the department and if the amount matched the county's contribution. Ms. Holmes said that yes the city had matched the county but the county does not cover programs like the Ed Davis Learning Center. No Capital funds have been received in four years. $55,000.00 is needed for the city Parks capital improvements. Councilman Singer asked if the pool was making money. Ms. Holmes said yes and that most of the programs offered pay for themselves.

Bob Leonard Chairman of the Parks and Recreation board reiterated to council that there has been no money for capital expenditures in four years. If facilities can not be repaired they will have to be closed. The parks and recreation services that the city provides gives our citizens a better quality of life. Mr. Leonard believes that when these types of services are compromised people will not want to live here. Mr. Leonard asked that council take a hard look at the budget. Councilman Lusby asked Mr. Leonard to explain to the council how a restaurant tax could be used to help fund the city's parks and recreation program. Mr. Leonard said that specific classes of cities could enact a restaurant tax that could be used for tourism and parks. Councilman Prather stated that $700,000.00 to $800,000.00 could be collected. Mr. Leonard said that the revenue could be used at the Pavilion as well as the water park because they are considered regional facilities. Councilman Lusby asked if the revenue could be used for the baseball parks and Mr. Leonard said that if restrooms and concession stands were added that tournaments could be held here bringing tourists into the city.

Mr. Penn asked about other ways the parks and recreation department had cut back. Sheri Nichols said that approximately thirty hours a week had been cut from the Ed Davis Center and the Center of Town. At the Pavilion, part time help has been cut back and the slide is closed two days a week. In the fitness area, staff has been cut and a "romer" is used to patrol the gym, track and fitness area. It will be difficult to cut much more and insure safety. Programs that do not support themselves will be eliminated along with scholarships that are offered to children that could not otherwise participate.

Emergency Management Agency-

Jack Donovan addressed council about the Emergency Management Agency. He stated that Georgetown/Scott County was the number 2 agency in the state. EMA operates with two full time employees and has done so since 1999. Mr. Donovan stated that Scott County is number three in the number of hazardous material accidents in the state. One of the main concerns that Mr. Donovan has is the condition of the command post unit. It

A motion for adjournment was made by Councilman Penn and seconded by Councilwoman Tackett. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

APPROVED BY:

Everette Varney, Mayor

ATTESTED BY:

Tracie Hoffman Chew, City Clerk/Treasurer