

**Closed Caption Log, Council Meeting, November 16, 2006**

...AND ITEM NO. 81, HAVE -- HAVE BEEN PULLED BY -- BY THE MAYOR.

...

Mayor Will Wynn: WE NOW GO BACK AND TAKE UP ITEM NO. 81, WHICH WAS OUR LONE DISCUSSION ITEM LEFT FROM THIS MORNING'S AGENDA. TECHNICALLY AN ADDENDA, AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL'S SALARIES AND COMPENSATION, REPLACING A PRIOR ORDINANCE. THE ORDINANCE THAT I HAVE HERE IN FRONT OF ME, WHICH I THINK IS THE LATEST I WILL RIGHT TO READ THIS INTO THE RECORD TO SEE IF THERE IS A MOTION AND/OR AMENDMENTS. SO THIS WILL PROVIDE FOR ANNUAL COST OF LIVING INCREASE OF 3.5%. FOR EACH YEAR. [INDISCERNIBLE] INCREASE SINCE 2000, THIS WOULD BE -- WHICH WOULD BE FOUR OF THOSE SIX YEARS, I BELIEVE. AND -- FURTHER INCREASE OF 8% IN BASAL RATHER EQUAL TO THE CONTRIBUTIONS THAT THE CITY MAKES TO THE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEM ON BEHALF OF ITS NON-CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES. THEREFORE THE MAYOR'S SALARY SET AT 67,981 ANNUALLY, AUTOMOBILE ALLOWANCE OF \$5,400 ANNUALLY AND TWO THE COUNCILMEMBER'S SALARIES ARE SET AT \$57,736 ANNUALLY, AN AUTOMOBILE ALLOWANCE OF \$5,400 ANNUALLY. THEN FURTHERMORE THE COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT WILL BE CONSIDERED IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET PROCESS BEGINNING OF EACH FISCAL YEAR AND NOT AUTOMATICALLY RENEWED. THAT THE CITY MANAGER IS DIRECTED TO TAKE THE NECESSARY ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE SALARY ADJUSTMENT EFFECTIVE AS OF THE BEGINNING PAY PERIOD FOR FISCAL

YEAR '06-'07, SO THIS WOULD BE REPLACING ORDINANCE 000511-71. COUNCIL, I BELIEVE THAT'S ... THE ORDINANCE THAT YOU HAVE IN FRONT OF YOU, WHICH I BELIEVE REFLECTS THE LATEST THINKING ON THE -- ON THE DISCUSSIONS. I'LL ENTERTAIN COMMENTS, QUESTIONS OR A MOTION.

Dunkerley: MAYOR, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE THAT MOTION.

Brewster McCracken: SECOND.

Mayor Wynn: MOTION MADE BY THE MAYOR PRO TEM DUNKERLY, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER MCCRACKEN TO APPROVE IN... THIS ORDINANCE AS PRESENTED ITEM NO. 81.

Dunkerley: I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A COMMENT. I THINK PART OF THE ISSUE WITH THIS PARTICULAR SALARY ADJUSTMENT IS THAT IT IS A CATCH UP. RATHER THAN CONSIDERING THE COST OF LIVING RAISES OR COST OF LIVING INCREASES EACH YEAR AS WE HAVE DONE FOR OTHER CITY EMPLOYEES, WE ARE PLAYING CATCH UP FROM 2000. FROM THE YEAR 2000. I HOPE IN THE FUTURE THIS WILL BE CONSIDERED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS AND JUST BE INCLUDED AS PART OF A BUDGET PROCESS. SO -- SO THIS REALLY DOES REPRESENT A THREE AND A HALF PERCENT, ONLY FOR THOSE YEARS THAT THE NON-CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES RECEIVED COST OF LIVING INCREASES. SO -- SO I'M VERY PLEASED TO SEE THIS -- THIS GET DONE HOPEFULLY.

Mayor Wynn: THANK YOU, MAYOR PRO TEM. FURTHER COMMENTS, QUESTIONS? SKID MARK.

Wynn: COUNCILMEMBER MCCRACKEN?

McCracken: I THINK A LITTLE BACKGROUND ON THIS, STARTING THE CITY COUNCIL ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, ON THAT MORNING, APPROVED A BUDGET AND THEN AS WE ALL KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, THE EVENTS OF SEPTEMBER 11TH, THERE WAS A VERY SIGNIFICANT BUDGET ATROPHY IN THE MUNICIPAL BUDGETS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING THE CITY OF AUSTIN. AND THE FACT -- IN FACT WE ENDED UP CUTTING OVER \$125 MILLION FROM THE CITY'S BUDGET DURING THAT PERIOD AND LOST NEARLY A THOUSAND EMPLOYEES IN OUR WORKFORCE. WE IMMEDIATELY FROZE ALL SALARIES, INCLUDING THE COUNCILMEMBERS AT THAT TIME, MANAGEMENT, THEN STARTED A COUPLE OF YEARS AFTER THAT WE WERE ALTO START REESTABLISHING FISCAL STABILITY IN THE SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN.

UNLIKE OTHER LEVELS OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS IN THIS METRO AREA, PROVIDING ONGOING COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS WITH THEIR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT, THE DIRECTION WE CHOSE INSIDE THE CITY OF AUSTIN WAS TO HAVE US ALL GO LAST COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS SO THE CITY AUDITOR LAST YEAR RECEIVED A ... CATCH-UP ON THIS COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS, EARLIER THIS YEAR THE CITY MANAGER DID, AND WE ARE LAST IN LINE. WE THINK THAT'S APPROPRIATE. WE HAD TO LOOK OUT FOR THE ENTIRE WORKFORCE FIRST AND SAVE LINES IN THE CITY'S REVENUE, MAKING SURE THAT EVERYBODY WAS KEEPING THE PACE OF INFLATION.

Mayor Wynn: THANK YOU, COUNCILMEMBER. FURTHER COMMENTS, QUESTIONS? **I WILL JUST SAY THAT I TRUST PEOPLE RECOGNIZE THAT NO ELECTED OFFICIAL RELISHES THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE FOR ONE'S OWN PAY. THAT'S THE SITUATION WE HAVE FOUND OURSELVES IN OVER**

**THESE YEARS, AS HAS PREVIOUS COUNCILS, AND I THINK COUNCIL HAS TAKEN AN APPROPRIATE ACTION THIS AFTERNOON. FURTHER COMMENTS? HEARING NONE, ALL THOSE IN FAVOR PLEASE SAY AYE. (Emphasis added.)**

AYE.

Wynn: OPPOSED? MOTION PASSES ON A VOTE OF 7-0.

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