In The Matter Of:

City of Doraville

State of Georgia

Budget Hearing/Budget Adoption

July 21, 2009

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CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF DORAVILLE

STATE OF GEORGIA

SPECIAL-CALL MEETING

BUDGET HEARING/BUDGET ADOPTION

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Transcript of the proceedings held in the City Council Room at Doraville City Hall, 3725 Park Avenue, Doraville, Georgia, Mayor Ray Jenkins presiding, before Theresa Bretch, Certified Court Reporter, commencing at 6:05 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21, 2009.

* * *

APPEARANCES:
Doraville City Council:
Hon. Ray Jenkins, Mayor
Councilmember Maria Alexander
Councilmember Brian Bates
Councilmember Robert Spangler
Councilmember Donna Pittman
Councilmember Bob Roche
Councilmember Pam Fleming
Sandra Bryant, Deputy Clerk

P R O C E E D I N G S

MAYOR JENKINS: Meeting come to order. Call the roll, please.

DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Alexander?

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Here.

DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Bates?

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Here.

DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Fleming?

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Here.

DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Pittman?

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Here.

DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Roche?

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Here.

DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Spangler?

COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Here.

MAYOR JENKINS: This is a special-call meeting budget hearing/budget adoption for 2009-2010, Mr. Stuart Anderson wants to say a few

words and then we'll get into the hearing.

MR. ANDERSON: This is last night's address; however, my main reason for getting on the agenda concerns the Halpern Park and its renovation and the RFP. If I must address the Library restroom study in citizens' comments due to time, I shall. We'll see how it goes.

Anyway, since we're working with an assumption of a 1.6 million dollar deficit, I'll have to say at this point I'm somewhat confused. Is $600,000 of that deficit from last year? Can City Council or Ray or anybody tell me where that -- whether that $600,000 is from 2008? I would have paused and asked for an answer to it last night.

As we would seem to have from our new accountant an assurance that we have $7,000,000, question mark, in savings, I ask that at least one of you make a motion at tomorrow night's budget meeting -- tonight -- to take from the general fund or allocate on a CD rollover date or do whatever is appropriate to put back into the budget $300,000 dedicated to the Halpern Park renovation with a $300,000 commitment for each of the next three years.

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We have $7,000,000. This is a large park that serves a large set of neighborhoods -- a set of neighborhoods where most of our high-end development is occurring. Five new houses have gone up and been sold in the Halpern neighborhood and two more are planned, and then there's another set planned up at the corner of Tilly Mill and Flowers.

Quality parks encourage quality home inflow into our city. Ask Bill Brackbill. I did.

If the City Council had listened to me at variance hearings, this same builder would have provided sidewalks up and down Tilly Mill Road as a stipulation for variance. Instead, we're waiting years on for the same thing.

This blighted park will be less expensive if we start now, and by committing $300,000 a year, forced misspending is less likely and a proper development could proceed.

This type of facility is a major draw to advertise for and promote the city of Doraville that we can do now. No study needed. We're in the RFP process at a cost of 30 to 70 thousand dollars. Are we going to waste that

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money and not proceed? That and abandoning this park by taking away its renovation fund is not being good stewards and even I might consider unethical.

We are about to spend 33 to 63 thousand dollars on an economic development study that very well might mention somewhere down the list that if you fix up the parks making them neighborhood-friendly might be something you'll get something back from. And if we get a grant, our end is still 32/33 thousand dollars. Give the money to the Parks & Recreation Department instead.

Jack Halpern stood at this podium and expressed interest in and pledged support for this renovation. Regardless of his name being on the sign out front, he's a businessman and he knows that improvement of properties adjacent to his holdings raises the values of those holdings.

At this point, I was going to ask you -- put you-all on the spot, quite honestly -- if you would get this on the agenda for tonight. This is the make-or-break night.

The other item I had was at a recent

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City Council meeting -- the other budget item I had. At the recent City Council meeting, there was a discussion of the Library bathroom renovation, and rather than fix it, a study of the door-to-commode distance was proposed and agreed upon as the appropriate action by the City.

First off, all the municipal-owned buildings should be surveyed for Federal/State adherence to guidelines. This was discussed last night somewhat. I have heard that some of our buildings are in poor repair in this regard.

If we RFP as advertised for, qualified renovators with municipal-quality knowledge would in short order let you know the requirements, actions to meet them and the fees for those actions. They would do your detailed study for you for free and advance the resolution of the Library problem and alert the City as to other facilities' needs -- it was rather timely last night but I didn't get to do this -- without the expense of an unneeded study.

And once again, I was going to ask you would you put this on the agenda and consider it and debate in tonight's meeting.

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Are there any questions that I can answer on either of those two issues?

MAYOR JENKINS: On the bathrooms, we decided to go ahead and do a study on them rather than jump into RFPs on them. I see no problem with that. Everybody on the Council as far as I know agreed with that.

MR. ANDERSON: I understand, Ray.

MAYOR JENKINS: Same way about the parks. We do the study on the parks, then we get into the money situation.

MR. ANDERSON: Right.

MAYOR JENKINS: The money's there.

MR. ANDERSON: There's been thousands of pages written on these kinds of buildings with regard to where the railings are supposed to be, the distances, the width of the doors. I mean this has been beat on for 20/30 years. Contractors that would bid on that RFP would literally give you their free study.

You wouldn't have to do a study. By reading the RFPs, you'd know exactly what's required because they're Federal law and State law and on and on and on. So I just point that out: You wouldn't have to pay for the study;

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just do the RFP. You don't have to accept the RFPs if you don't want to, but if you do the RFPs, they do this free study for you in that case.

I appreciate your comments.

MAYOR JENKINS: Thank you, sir.

MR. ANDERSON: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I am still in favor of renovating the bathrooms at the Library. I again make the same comment that I did the last budget meeting: They're in deplorable shape and it's embarrassing to have our Library clientele use these restrooms, and I would think that the Council and the city in its entirety would be embarrassed of having those the way they are. Whether we've just been enlightened to this or not, it's something that we really need to move forward on.

And as far as the parks are concerned, I like Mr. Anderson's idea about putting $300,000. Then at least we could do the park in phases for the next three years.

But to do nothing after we do the construction documents is not appropriate as far as I'm concerned.

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COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Mr. Maxwell, correct me if I'm wrong.

MAYOR JENKINS: Come on up, Darlow.

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: The reason we did not put it in this particular budget was because Ms. Stephens had stated she wanted to get the information back with the RFPs in regard to the park and it would be sometime in the beginning of the year before we got all the information that we needed to correct?

MR. MAXWELL: That's my understanding.

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: And that we feel we could put the money back in to do that at the next --

MR. MAXWELL: That was my --

MAYOR JENKINS: At the mid-year --

MR. MAXWELL: -- understanding.

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: -- mid-year budget.

MAYOR JENKINS: Mid-year budget, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: That was my understanding.

MAYOR JENKINS: Same way with the bathrooms. That was the same situation there, that I remember.

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COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Well, I would agree with Mr. Anderson: Instead of putting out a study to be made on the bathrooms, most of your firms that do that kind of work would probably do the study included in with the RFP. Or it's not really a study. It would be an estimate of what really needed to be done. So it's the same thing.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Let's make sure we're all talking about the same thing.

The study is actually an architectural rendering that utilizes -- does a space-plan utilization to make sure that we're maximizing the space that encompasses the three restrooms and the areas surrounding that.

Simply, I can tell you what the ADA-compliant requirements are. You don't need to do a study for that. But you need to have an architect and an engineer come in and make sure that you're not having to reroute major plumbing lines, that you're not having to reroute electrical systems and get the best usage out of that space.

We may be able to maximize that space much more efficiently by having an architect

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come in and review it and come up with a set of plans than by simply starting to move walls and give us more wall space. So "study" is an incorrect terminology. It's an architectural plan to best utilize that space.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I thought that Mr. Howe was also applying for a grant for your renovation.

MS. WATANABE: The one that he was thinking of applying for, it turns out that we don't qualify for because it was with the rural development, and he thought that because our population fit that, that we might be able to apply. But their definition of "rural" compared to our population, it don't mesh. They don't have the same definitions.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: In regards to the parks, though, Ms. Pittman, you're indicating that at mid-year review, this Council is going to commit to adding the million dollars back into the park budget even if we are down on revenues and there are departments that have over-expenditures?

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: That isn't what I said.

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COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Well, if Carol comes back and we're ready at mid-year review to start on Halpern Park, where are we going to get the money from?

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: I guess we'll make that decision at the time. I mean we don't have the money now to put in the parks.

MR. ANDERSON: $7,000,000.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: That's what I'm trying to get at right now. We should make a commitment today. This park has been --

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: And I agree with that a hundred percent. It's been much needed. But based on what Ms. Stephens said and even her recommendation that we could come back, and I can't promise the money's going to be there. But we're talking about cut-backs, and we've cut back on every department, and I have a real hard time putting money into that at this point.

MR. ANDERSON: But it's okay to do a $33,000 study or a $60,000 study that's going to tell us to fix the park?

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: I believe that expenditure was contingent on us receiving

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the grant.

MR. ANDERSON: Our end is still 31, 32 or 33 thousand.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: If we receive the grant.

MR. ANDERSON: That's if we receive the grant.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Correct.

MR. ANDERSON: Otherwise, we're on the hook for the $60,000.

COUNCILMEMBER BATES: No.

COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: No. Then we wouldn't do the study.

MR. CRAWFORD: I thought that was already settled.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: But if we get the grant, we're still at $33,000 on a study on how to increase our economic development.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, I think if we're going to -- as far as the bathroom goes, I think if we're going to wait for a study on the bathroom, I think that it makes sense to do the same thing with the computer software thing we're talking about. I think to just go ahead and allocate $65,000 based on no -- well, all

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due respect, very little -- doesn't make any sense at all.

So I think if we're going to say we can't allocate money for a bathroom because we need a study first, we should be consistent and not allocate money for software until we've done requirements, definition, looked at our processes. That type of an enterprise-level software implementation is basically a transforming event. It's a big event. You can very easily do it wrong.

When I was with Deloitte and Touche, we did several of these package selections. It's an extensive process, and if you don't do it right, I've seen companies go out of business, I've seen bad things happen. Because it's not just a matter of going out and buying a piece of software; it's a matter of going out and looking at how you do your processes end to end and making sure that you automate as much as possible and, you know, get the true value for your investment.

And here we are, we're saying, "Oh, well, here's $65,000 we're just going to throw on out there and hope it works out," and I'm

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completely against that. I mean if we're going to do -- why are we using one logic for one situation and a different logic for another situation is beyond me.

As far as the parks, I think that we need parks, too, but frankly, I think we've spent the money.

Seems like when I took office, the dollar amount that we supposedly had in savings was around $7,000,000, and now we're still saying we have $7,000,000. Well, the end of the previous fiscal year, I think we had a shortfall of over $600,000, but -- if I round that off; at the mid-year budget review, we decided we were going to spend $900,000 more than we've taken in for the current fiscal year just ended, and now we're looking at another 1.65 million dollars. Well, when you subtract all that, you end up with about 385 million [sic] dollars. The savings doesn't just magically replenish itself. I mean if it does, I'd like to know where to open an account. That's a wonderful bank.

We also talked about $900,000 for a fire station here in Doraville. It would reduce everybody's home insurance. But that money's

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1 gone, too. We spent it all.
2 About a year ago, it was brought up to
3 the Council that we could probably save about 10
4 percent of what we spend here in Doraville by
5 just doing things -- doing a better job at
6 things. There was no interest in that, so here
7 we are over a year later. And like I said, the
8 money's going to be gone pretty soon.
9 I spoke to a city councilman from our
10 neighbors down in Chamblee, and for the first
11 time, they're going to have to go out and borrow
12 money now to run their operations until they
13 get, you know, their next chunk of money from
14 the taxes. And it looks like we're going to be
15 in that situation very quickly because with our
16 budget and with our expenditures, we probably
17 need to keep at least three months' worth of
18 reserve just for operating expenses, and we're
19 going to be there very, very soon.
20 MAYOR JENKINS: I think we'll have a
21 more accurate account when Darlow gets, say, the
22 software that he can get into and find out
23 really.
24 I think you'll have to agree that we
25 don't know exactly what we have here and what we

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1 have there because of some of the discrepancies
2 that we've had in the last accountant. I think
3 you'll have to agree --
4 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I'm sorry.
5 MAYOR JENKINS: -- with that.
6 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: What discrepan-
7 cies were --
8 MAYOR JENKINS: Okay. Wait just --
9 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- with the last
10 accountant?
11 MAYOR JENKINS: Wait just a minute.
12 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: You are now
13 challenging a person's integrity and ability to
14 do their job --
15 MAYOR JENKINS: No, I'm not.
16 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- and that's on
17 the record.
18 MAYOR JENKINS: No, I'm not. I'm
19 saying that --
20 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well --
21 MAYOR JENKINS: -- we got Internal
22 Revenue problems and we may have more money
23 there than we know, which we cannot even bring
24 up now.
25 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: You want to go

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1 there now?
2 MAYOR JENKINS: No.
3 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: You don't want to
4 go there now, please.
5 MAYOR JENKINS: I'm not going there.
6 You may.
7 Now, we came here tonight for a budget
8 hearing. We've been through this, we've been
9 through this. Everybody seems to want to change
10 everything.
11 What do you want to do?
12 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: No, sir. We're
13 talking about the budget. Okay.
14 MAYOR JENKINS: That's right.
15 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I'd like to
16 know from Mr. Maxwell if you have reconciled the
17 bank statements.
18 MR. MAXWELL: No, ma'am.
19 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: So we don't
20 know how much we have --
21 MAYOR JENKINS: That's right.
22 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- in the bank.
23 When are you going to reconcile the
24 bank statements?
25 MR. MAXWELL: That's a good question.

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1 I don't have a clue at this point.
2 There is -- there is so much. I mean
3 you have no idea. You have no idea how much
4 work is in that office to be done at this point,
5 and most of it is requiring --
6 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Mr. Maxwell,
7 would you please come up and start over, please?
8 MR. MAXWELL: -- us to get the new
9 software.
10 I mean it's not just recon- -- If I did
11 that, everybody I have --
12 To give you an example, I've scanned in
13 in the last three or four days, because things
14 are not in order -- I'm finding bank statements
15 here, I'm finding things here, I'm finding
16 things here, I'm finding things here. When you
17 scan them in, they become in order. I've
18 scanned about 25,000 pages in. Now, that's now
19 findable. You can go to things. Maybe about
20 23,000, but anyway, you can go to things and
21 find them. But as far as reconciling
22 statements, there's a lot of unposted entries
23 that we're still posting, still finding out
24 there. I mean --
25 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: And how far

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1 back do these date, Mr. Maxwell?
2 MR. MAXWELL: The last reconciliation
3 that I am aware of, sir -- let me put it like
4 that -- I believe they are to December, I think.
5 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: You think or
6 you --
7 MR. MAXWELL: No. As far as what's
8 reconciled, that's my recollection. I believe
9 it's to December.
10 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: But you're not
11 sure.
12 MAYOR JENKINS: This year.
13 MR. MAXWELL: For December, you know,
14 last year.
15 Off the top of my head, no, sir.
16 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: But you're
17 telling us that you can't reconcile the
18 statements, the paper statements that come to
19 you on our CD accounts or our savings accounts?
20 MR. MAXWELL: Yes, ma'am; those, I can.
21 When you say "reconciliation," if I go
22 through the reconciliation of the voucher
23 account, which is where, you know, the checks
24 and the revenue and all is posted, right at this
25 point, there's so many unposted transactions in

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1 there, that we are -- they are getting posted
2 and getting in there but we're having to find
3 them as we go.
4 If I were to just stop -- Now, I can do
5 it. Now, honestly, the accounts other than the
6 voucher account have extremely minimal activity
7 in them. But in going through, I'm trying to
8 think of those accounts that we've actually
9 found all the statements for, and it's not -- We
10 don't have them all. I cannot -- off the top of
11 my head, I cannot tell you how many we have, but
12 at this point we don't have all the statements
13 for all the periods, and it's just grabbing and
14 doing as we go.
15 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay. My next
16 question would be, because you were asked
17 previous budget meetings, when can we expect
18 monthly financial reports from you?
19 MR. MAXWELL: Basically when we get new
20 software.
21 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: See? So we're
22 predicating on --
23 MR. MAXWELL: I can give --
24 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- you not --
25 MR. MAXWELL: No, no. I can --

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1 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- being able
2 to do your job --
3 MR. MAXWELL: -- give you --
4 No, ma'am.
5 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- until we
6 make an expenditure of --
7 MR. MAXWELL: I can give you Excel. I
8 can give you Excel statements as we go, based on
9 what's in the ledger as we're running through.
10 I don't like taking something from here
11 and then reconstructing it and building
12 something over here, because there's always
13 chances of mistakes doing that.
14 But yes, I'll get you financial
15 statements. In fact, I ran some today trying to
16 test what was in the system, and the reports for
17 whatever reason wouldn't generate. They said
18 there was errors in the system. And so I'm
19 trying to go back into this old software and
20 figure out how to straighten out these problems,
21 because the previous accountant didn't use this
22 software, either. They may have counted the
23 beans in it, but when it came to doing financial
24 statements, they were all done on Excel.
25 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: That's kind of

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1 typical.
2 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: And you're not
3 comfortable with Excel?
4 MR. MAXWELL: No, I'm very comfortable
5 with Excel, but what I prefer is not doing a job
6 twice, because I have to take it from here and
7 then turn around and key in, you know, X-many
8 transactions, entries, to basically get it. And
9 it's not where I can download it into a file or
10 any kind of format and upload it into the Excel.
11 I can't do that. So basically it's --
12 And I have this on my desk. We can
13 walk over right now and look at it. I have
14 printed out one thing. I've got the Excel
15 printed out here. And I actually started to key
16 in something as a test to see if it would work,
17 you know. So I mean yes, there's movement in
18 that area, but you're asking for a specific
19 time, and I'm trying right now to come up with
20 some numbers for year end, because we've got the
21 audit, trying to get ready for the audit
22 situation, and it was an immense task in itself.
23 It would be if we had good records and good
24 close books. But we don't have that.
25 COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: And why don't

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we have that, Mr. Maxwell?
MR. MAXWELL: I'm not going to go into that, sir. That was prior to me. I don't have any knowledge of what took place and why they took place. All I know is the records that I inherited were not very good.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: One of the first things when I took office was to look at purchasing or installing new software and the Council wanted no part of it. So now that we have a new accountant, suddenly it's okay. It has nothing to do with you.
MR. MAXWELL: I understand that. But it will be for the benefit for a long time.
And you raised a good point, and I'm going to totally agree with you. The RFP that will go out for the software will be extremely detailed. It's not just going to be let's just go buy this, let's go buy this. No. It will cover everything, I mean. So it's not going to be let's just look around and pick some software off the shelf. I can promise you that much.
I've already gotten, just to give you an example, Dunwoody is going through a purchase of software right now. I've got their RFP.

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I've pulled a couple of others off trying to make sure that all things are considered in the process of going through -- of creating the RFP.
I figure that -- I haven't started on it because the budget hasn't passed. I said once the budget passed, it'll probably take me, in the course of everything else, a week to get a pretty good draft for an RFP ready.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: That's pretty quick.
MR. MAXWELL: Well, I said a draft. I didn't say . . .
Let's be honest. A lot of this is boilerplate and you can sort of cut and past, I mean to some degree. It's not reinventing the wheel in everything.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, I understand that.
MR. MAXWELL: Yeah.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: But typically what happens in a case like this is if you do it right, you're basically transforming the entire operation.
MR. MAXWELL: You're doing it. That's exactly right.

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COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: And so we want something that's strong enough, that's robust enough so that, you know, we can have a terminal down in the Police --
MR. MAXWELL: Absolutely.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- Department and when they order something --
MR. MAXWELL: Absolutely.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- we will see the accounting. It's just automatic.
MR. MAXWELL: You want one at Public Works, you want one at Maintenance, you want one at -- You want everybody that has major purchase activity to be able to do it from their place, to have access to their records, to be able to look, you know, query. I agree with you 100 percent on that. I mean it has to be done right or not done at all.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, I'll be pleased if we can find a way to do it for less than $65,000 --
MR. MAXWELL: Well --
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- but I'll also be very surprised.
MR. MAXWELL: It's one of those things

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that, you know, I'm not sure till we get out there and see what kind of responses we get back. I do know that, and you know this yourself, governmental software is always X-times any other software just because you're governmental, right? And that's just the nature of the beast.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, most of the packages I've seen can be applied or modified or whatever.
MR. MAXWELL: Right.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: But the point is to try to keep the modifications down as much as possible.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Well, I'm not sure how the new software can dump all of the various and sundry programs that we presently have into a file for you to be able to extract our financial reports.
MR. MAXWELL: Now, first, the process wouldn't be quite like that. The process would be that the information in the system would be cross-walked over to the new system by the vendor that's bringing it in. So if you've got something in a particular account in the old

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1 system, that information would get into the
2 correct new account in the new system, because
3 as I mentioned, we will be totally changing the
4 chart of accounts to meet the UCC chart of
5 account once we get software. But I'm not
6 changing any numbering systems or anything like
7 that, and it wouldn't be any dollar amounts
8 changed in total but it would be as far as
9 terminology. And there would be a very clear
10 road map of where things go from across. It has
11 to be.
12 I've been through one conversion where
13 nothing was automatically transferred, I've been
14 through one conversion where it was transferred
15 through the systems, and the latter is much more
16 accurate and much easier.
17 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: If you do it
18 right.
19 MR. MAXWELL: If you do it right.
20 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: And I think I've
21 converted from MAS 90 about three times in my
22 career.
23 MR. MAXWELL: I think it's -- I think
24 it's not uncommon software for people to
25 transfer from.

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1 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: No. I tried to
2 make that point last year and got nowhere with
3 that.
4 We use Excel here. A lot of people use
5 Crystal Reports. I mean it's not uncommon to
6 have something to do the bean counting and then
7 a reporting --
8 MR. MAXWELL: And quite frankly, if
9 you're soft- -- and usually that's because your
10 software doesn't either have a good report
11 writer or you don't know how to operate the
12 report writer it's got, you know. There's
13 always reasons. And yes, I've used Excel many
14 times for external reporting, something beyond
15 what you would get out of the system. It
16 happens frequently.
17 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Although I think
18 that if we're going to take this approach with
19 the software, we should take the same approach
20 with the bathroom over at the library.
21 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I have one
22 other comment regarding the cost centers.
23 Discussion at the last budget meeting was that
24 let's dump all of our utilities into one account
25 to make it easier on you and possibly also the

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1 City Clerk.
2 I've received copies of our water
3 bills, our electric bills, our phone bills.
4 They are all itemized out as to even the water
5 bill and the electric bill, are address and
6 meter number. There should be no reason why we
7 can't actually put those to the proper
8 department. To me, it needs to be attached to
9 each and every department for what utilities
10 that they are utilizing.
11 MR. MAXWELL: Well, there's been no
12 change to that.
13 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay. Well,
14 I'm just making that comment.
15 MR. MAXWELL: We talked about it but
16 there's been no change to that.
17 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay.
18 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: I think that's
19 under GAAP, right? Generally accepted
20 accounting principles.
21 MR. MAXWELL: You can do it different
22 ways. But number one, if you prefer like it's
23 doing, I mean that's the way it'll be.
24 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Well, no. I
25 believe Mr. Bates had suggested maybe, because

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1 Ms. Blackmon said it would be a lot easier for
2 her. But when I saw the bills, they're already
3 enumerated as to what address they're going to.
4 As a matter of fact, it even had a meter for the
5 jail, for crying out loud. So there should be
6 no reason why we can't cost to --
7 MR. MAXWELL: Well, that's true.
8 COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: -- the proper
9 department.
10 MR. MAXWELL: But like I say, you can
11 do it that way. And then I was looking at a
12 couple of financials the other day in which they
13 had, you know, the nondepartmental departmen-
14 tals, and in those would go things like utili-
15 ties and insurance costs and stuff like that.
16 So that's really a matter of choice.
17 "Preference," I guess is a better word. And you
18 go with how you want it.
19 COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Well, I would
20 prefer not to do that. I think it's exactly the
21 wrong way to go about it. I think if you're
22 going to manage a department, you need to know
23 all your expenses in that department.
24 MR. MAXWELL: I have no problem with
25 that.

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COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: And you know, a lot of these things like the electric bills or whatever, they could be automated if we needed to. I mean I'm sure the distributions can be automated from payroll, so.

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Mr. Maxwell, I did have a question. The amount that we took out for schools, that we removed --

MR. MAXWELL: Yes, ma'am.

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: -- we never -- Somewhere along the line, I recall us having to pay a certain amount. I don't know if it was part of the beverage tax or what that went to the schools. Did we ever check into that?

MR. MAXWELL: No, ma'am. Well, there was no amounts put back in for that.

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Well, did we find out what it was for?

MR. MAXWELL: No, ma'am.

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: So you don't think some part of it is from tax or beverage tax that has to be paid to the schools?

MR. MAXWELL: I honestly don't know.

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Okay. Because somehow over the years, I remember us having to

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pay something out of something to the schools.

MR. MAXWELL: I do know that -- I do know that some places I'm aware that the percentages of beverage tax can -- are distributed to schools based upon some preset formulas. But now, as far as what actually takes place here, I'm not aware.

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: I was thinking part of that money might have been part of the beverage tax that has to be paid to the schools. I don't know if there's any way to check into that. I mean we've already taken it out, but --

MR. MAXWELL: The answer is we'll have to -- I mean obviously it's a situation that it's mandated, then obviously we're going to end up having to do it. It's -- I don't think there's been any payments this past year in that regards, which is somewhat curious that there hasn't and that someone hasn't screamed for their money, because usually they do.

COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: And in regards to the $600,000 that we showed last year on the audit, that we were supposed to be taking out of

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our savings didn't come out of savings? Was that what you said at the last revenue -- last budget meeting?

$614,000 I believe was what we showed.

MR. MAXWELL: Is that what they showed coming out of fund balance, a negative number?

I mean if that's . . . I'll go get it to look at it, but if that was in fact the reduction in fund balance --

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: It was around 600-and-something thousand.

MR. MAXWELL: It's not -- it doesn't necessarily -- It's hard to explain. It doesn't necessarily come directly out of cash. It is a reduction in your fund balance. Part of it's cash, part of it can be other things; receivables, payable adjustments, you know, things like that that affect it.

All things being equal, you know, the simplest example, you could say yes, that it does equate to cash.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Mr. Anderson, does that answer your question about whether the 1.6 is part of the $600,000 from last year?

MR. ANDERSON: I'm struggling with it.

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MR. MAXWELL: No, it's not, in that they're two separate, totally separate.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay. So we're at two.

MR. MAXWELL: Yeah. They're totally separate. That's the prior year --

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay.

MR. MAXWELL: -- then and one is the current year.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: I wasn't sure myself, so --

MR. ANDERSON: It's not prior year.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Okay.

MR. ANDERSON: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yeah. Plus the $900,000 --

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: -- from the fiscal year that's just ended.

And I want to make one last note for the record. We were talking about a shortfall of 1.65 million, and that's based on the revenue side.

I think you said you used actual revenues from 2008.

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MR. MAXWELL: Yes, sir.
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: So we have to -- obviously, anyone who's picked up a newspaper knows that the economy's kind of contracted since then. So our revenues of $9,977,000 probably is very -- I don't know. I hope so, but I don't think that's going to happen. So the 1.65 million is probably going to be quite a bit more. We may be looking at a shortfall of 2 million dollars just this fiscal year if we don't do something.
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: That's all I had, Mayor. Thank you.
MAYOR JENKINS: Thank you.
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Move to adopt the budget.
MAYOR JENKINS: Second?
COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Second.
MAYOR JENKINS: More discussion?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: For reasons that I've already brought up, and I think we're spending Doraville's future, there has been no budget discipline, there has been no real efforts to cut back on spending where we need to cut back on spending. I just cannot support

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this. Frankly, I'm embarrassed with this budget.
MAYOR JENKINS: I'm just glad that we have the money for the backup, and I think things are going to change, and I really cannot believe that we'll go that much in the hole, but we'll see.
Any more discussion?
- - -
(No response)
- - -
MAYOR JENKINS: Call the roll, please.
DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Alexander?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.
DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Bates?
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.
DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Fleming?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: No.
DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Pittman?
COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Yes.
DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember

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Roche?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: No.
DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Spangler?
COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: No. And I agree with Mr. Roche. I want to go on record I agree totally. I have no confidence at all in this budget.
MAYOR JENKINS: Yes.
We got to have a budget. We could run on the old one, but anyway --
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Move to adjourn.
MAYOR JENKINS: Second?
COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Second.
MAYOR JENKINS: Call the roll.
DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Alexander?
COUNCILMEMBER ALEXANDER: Yes.
DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Bates?
COUNCILMEMBER BATES: Yes.
DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Fleming?
COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING: Yes.
DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember

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Pittman?
COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Yes.
DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Roche?
COUNCILMEMBER ROCHE: Yes.
DEPUTY CLERK BRYANT: Councilmember Spangler?
COUNCILMEMBER SPANGLER: Yes.
MAYOR JENKINS: Okay.
- - -
(Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:40 p.m.)
-o0o-

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