

City Council Chamber, City Hall, Wednesday, January 4, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Houston City Council was held at 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, January 4, 2006, with Mayor Bill White presiding and with Council Members Toni Lawrence, Jarvis Johnson, Anne Clutterbuck, Ada Edwards, Addie Wiseman, M. J. Khan, P. E., Pam Holm, Adrian Garcia, Carol Alvarado, Peter Brown, Sue Lovell, Shelley Sekula-Gibbs, M.D., Ronald C. Green and Michael Berry; Mr. Arturo Michel, City Attorney; Mr. Anthony Hall, Chief Administrative Officer, Mayor's Office; Mr. Richard Cantu, Director Citizens Assistance Office; Ms. Martha Stein, Agenda Director present.

At 9:19 a.m. Mayor White called the meeting to order and Council Member Wiseman led all in the prayer and pledge of allegiance. Council Members Lovell, Edwards, Holm and Berry absent.

Mayor White requested the City Secretary to call the roll. Council Member Lovell absent.

Council Members Khan and Garcia moved that the minutes of the preceding meeting be adopted. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Lovell absent. MOTION ADOPTED.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor White stated that there would be a brief Mayor's Report, that it was an opportunity for the new Council Members to get briefed on various items, that he welcomed the input of Council Members concerning topics that they wanted to hear about in an open forum such as the Council meeting with senior leadership of the City on the Mayor's Reports, that they did not have them every week but if there was something that they thought ought to be covered in full open Council as more of a report then they appreciated their suggestion; that first he would give them a few points of information, that he wanted to thank all Council Members who visited with him concerning various issues that they had on the agenda and his goal was that by the beginning of next week they would have the committee assignments, that needless to say that there was nothing precluding Council Members from attending any committee meeting and being meaningful participants in the way those committees were conducted, that if they had problems communicating with him for whatever reason then the Mayor Pro Tem was also aware of many of the issues involving committee assignments, that they should feel free to consult with the Mayor Pro Tem as well; that in addition to Mr. Issa Dadoush's responsibilities in the Building Services Department beginning the fiscal year Mr. Dadoush would be the go to person for the Mayor in charge of putting together the CIP, that he would put a memo to the senior management of the City, that to the valuable City employees who had worked on it in the past he wanted them to give Mr. Dadoush their complete support and debriefing and that would include Ms. Sara Culbreath who did such a remarkable job and Mr. John Silva and Mr. Anthony Hall and many others, that Ms. Judy Johnson needed to give him support and Mr. Dadoush would be working directly with the Mayor concerning the CIP.

Mayor White further stated that he wanted to visit with them about the power contract and about big picture budget, that the drivers of the budget and the things that they worked on for the last two years, that when they got to Council the budget was out of balance for the next year by about \$145 million and there were several drivers on that, one, the public wanted to have the vast majority of Council some discipline in the increase of property taxes that would be predictable, that did not exactly help but was one of the things they needed to accomplish with the budget along with reducing the shortfall, second they needed to manage and make more predictable and more affordable the increase in the annual pension funding and that was a big battle, as they recalled, and make those pensions more secure, they needed to reduce the interest rate spike which was about to occur on the debt and they did that through a prudent and responsible refinancing of the debt, which actually resulted in a bond upgrading by some of the services based on the fiscal policies of the administration, that they needed to bring the escalations in healthcare costs under control and had implemented several things to do that, that perhaps the two things most on the minds of citizens, they needed to have some sorts of

funding of drainage, which had been funded at pitifully low levels, \$10 million to \$20 million per year in neighborhood drainage projects, which they had now gotten it up to \$60 million per year dedicated, that they needed to make sure that their public safety professionals were paid in accordance with the market so there were significant pay increases for the classified police and fire, that he thought once they did all those things they would be on cruise control but then came Katrina and the utility bills, which if unmanaged would have created an enormous budget shortfall in the current fiscal year because of the extraordinary circumstances, that this is what they did about it, Mr. Dadoush had been working on it since last spring with some of the finest consultants there were in the Nation who were experts in the area, and beginning several hours a week at the beginning of October 2005, they had explored all ways where they could accomplish the following objectives, number one, to decrease the cost they paid for energy, number two, to have some stability and predictability in their electrical power costs over time so that their budget would not be buffeted by weather conditions and other things that affected volatile, that number three, they wanted to meet their 2006 budget and be able to stick with that budget without having to compromise public safety, which constituted two thirds of the operating budget of the City of Houston, they did that through a combination of actions, including some real increases in energy efficiency which were remarkable within the Public Works Department, that alone saved \$6 million to \$7 million per year but part of it had been reworking the contract that they had with the General Land Office for the procurement of electrical power, that it was the single biggest issue, besides FEMA, that he worked on the last three months of last year, that the contract that was proposed today had certain remarkable features, the most important of was that the contract gave the City the option or power, which it currently did not have, of seeking a diversification of their energy supply, that they were the hostage right now to natural gas prices, which could fluctuate greatly and it would allow them to get some power through co gen, from the facilities they had from wind energy, which was now competitive and had lower emissions and go into the market and be able to have some opportunity to purchase those on a competitive basis, that right now the projections were that it would result in tens of millions of savings in that type of option from them, there were many other features of the contract which he could go into in enormous detail but in general they were designed to give the City the flexibility to have the options to do some things in order to have more stable and less volatile energy pricing at a minimum margin, that many of them did not like extensions as opposed to competition, that they dealt with the matters on a case by case basis and in this case he would note that there was significant new options for alternative supply that were created by the agreement of GLO, General Land Office, who did not have to agree to the new contract, the second was that right now electrical power prices, in the futures market, were high today and then they would go down over time, over a period of four or five years, that if they wanted to make it more level they needed to work with a longer period of time, that meant that they needed to be able to plan over a longer time horizon than the 18 months they had remaining on the contract, which was the reason they were trying to pin down all those things so they could make predictable budgets for a period of four years, that every element of the contract had been toughly negotiated and would be on the agenda today, if they did not do it then they would have to provide less services than were currently in their budget, so if anybody did not like it he would like for them to tell him what they ought to cut, that it would not solve the problem for the next fiscal year, it would give them some tools, but they would still have a problem next fiscal year, that the third point was that the overall approach that Mr. Dadoush and the City was taking would put them in a position within a few years of being in a situation where they could remove some intermediaries and being a fairly large purchaser of power, remove a bunch of people's profit margins by doing some things themselves and that was what some of the major industrial users were trying to do so they had in house expertise and did not pay a lot of outsiders a margin in order to do their business, that he would like to be in a position where it was a core competence, they rely on the private sector very largely but it put them in a position that they would be moving towards that and have that option in the future Council and several years.

Mayor White further stated that last January they had the top 400 to 500 City managers and a number of members of boards and commissions at a briefing on ethics, the law and practices, what to do if there were violations, what looked and felt like a violation, who to seek

counsel with, at the George R. Brown, there was also a memo from the Mayor to all the City employees, that Mr. Cheatham did an excellent presentation and he would like to do the following things and would like every Council Member to be aware, that number one, they needed to schedule that again within a period of several weeks, presumably they did it on a weekend, so it did not interfere with normal work, that second, he would encourage all Council Members to have their staffs and anybody who wanted to attend as possible, that he wanted to make sure that Mr. Michel would work with Ms. Christina Cabral and the Office on Boards and Commissions to make sure that various people on Boards and Commissions master lists, including the TIRZs boards and other boards of the City were invited, and come up with a procedure where the chairmen of those boards or some people who were responsible for the boards had to check of that the members of the board had either attended or watched some video presentation or signed something indicating that they had the training in ethics.

Mayor White requested the City Secretary to call the public speakers.

Council Member Lawrence moved to suspend the rules to add Mr. Steve Franklin to the speakers list, seconded by Council Member Berry. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2006-0004 ADOPTED.

Mr. Stephen Hester, 7000 Regency Square, Houston, Texas 77036 (713-974-4621) appeared and stated that he was a housing advocate and employed by the Houston Center for Independent Living and present to speak on the Hike and Bike Trail, Item 7, he would ask that people with disabilities be considered in deliberations any time property acquisition or construction design was considered. Council Member Holm absent.

Upon questions by Council Member Garcia, Mr. Hester stated that they had no problem with this project, but he would like people from his office to go look at it as sometimes people with disabilities had a different perspective; and Council Member Garcia thanked Mr. Hester for advocating for the disabled community. Council Member Holm absent.

Upon questions by Council Member Edwards, Mr. Hester stated that he had not spoken with Ms. King on the issue but they had corresponded and her assistant was scheduling a meeting for them; and Council Member Edwards stated that Ms. King was the Mayor's representative for which they were speaking of and was pretty active in making sure the perspective of people with disabilities was included and encouraged they meet. Council Member Holm absent.

Mr. Steve Franklin, who was previously added to the speakers list, appeared and stated that he was assigned with the Houston Police Department's Auto Dealers Detail and present to speak on the curbstoning ordinances before Council; that they received complaints for years regarding cars on the side of the road illegally and for sale; that they found stolen vehicles for sale, salvaged vehicles for sale and unsuspecting buyers were caught up in buying and not tracking them later; that the ordinance would help rid the city of such vehicles. Council Member Holm absent.

Council Member Green thanked Mr. Franklin for coming and stated that his committee had worked on this for the last year along with Council Member Lawrence and it was a major issue in her district as well; that they hoped this was just the start of enforcement to this, if they found it needed to be more strongly enforced they would do so. Council Members Holm and Garcia absent.

Upon questions by Council Member Khan, Mr. Franklin stated that he did support the ordinance, he did not want cars for sale placed on city property; that the problem was dealers and individuals, but the major problem was individuals selling on the side of the road, however, some licensed dealers did go a step further and place cars in vacant lots, etc. Council Members Holm and Garcia absent.

Council Member Lawrence thanked Mr. Franklin for coming and stated that this had been an issue for Council Members who started around nine months ago; that there was nothing to do about people committing fraud as for selling flood damaged vehicles, etc., and the state legislators took it out of district court and placed it in municipal courts and all judges were briefed and Judge Mejia was setting fines; that it was the dealers who came to her with the problem and this cleaned the law up and helped to protect citizens. Council Members Holm and Garcia absent.

Mr. Isaiah Montgomery, 362 Red Ripple, Houston, Texas 77091 (713-694-6481) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Holm and Garcia absent.

Mr. Sammie Jones, 8700 Gustine, Houston, Texas 77031 (713-988-1273) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Holm and Garcia absent.

Mr. Steven Williams, no address (no phone) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Member Garcia absent.

Mr. Johnnie Brown, 3401 Fannin, Houston, Texas 77004 (713-652-5772) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Member Garcia absent.

Mr. Adam Fatherly, 12147 Burgoyne, Houston, Texas 77077 (281-496-0272) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Member Garcia absent.

Mr. John Ryan, 8342 Westview, Houston, Texas 77055 (no phone) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Member Garcia absent.

Mr./Coach R. J. Bobby Taylor, 3107 Sumpter, Houston, Texas 77020 (202-FA3-4511) appeared and stated that behavior toward conspiracy problem Rolan Anthony Scott who's Opal Woods; and continued expressing his personal opinions until his time expired. Council Members Clutterbuck and Garcia absent.

Mr. Joseph Omo Omari, 2820 Palm #2B, Houston, Texas 77004 (832-767-0870) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Clutterbuck and Garcia absent.

Ms. Claire Bresnhan, 331 W. 33rd, Houston, Texas 77018 (713-880-5910) appeared and stated that she worked as a volunteer at the George R. Brown for two weeks and was very proud at the way Houston embraced those people of New Orleans, but after being there 12 to 14 hours a day she had comments she would like to share with the Mayor and Council and possibly improve on things if it were to happen again, but this morning she wanted to say she was deeply concerned with the March 1st deadline as many would be effected and many would be children; that she was also very disillusioned with the Red Cross and believed they not only failed those at the George R. Brown but did them a disservice; that they waited hours and hours and many resources never came up. Council Members Clutterbuck and Garcia absent.

Mayor White stated that Ms. Bresnhan mentioned she had comments to make and if she would like she could turn those in writing or E-mail him and they would be appreciated. Council Members Clutterbuck, Edwards and Garcia absent.

Council Member Sekula-Gibbs thanked Ms. Bresnhan for volunteering and coming today and stated that the George R. Brown was not an original site, but opened as an overflow and that was not where the Red Cross opened their original headquarters and maybe that was why they were not as visible as she would have liked; and Ms. Bresnhan stated that she understood,

but in the newspaper it stated at the George R. Brown on Wednesday people would be able to go and get the Red Cross debit card and there were thousands waiting that day and by 11:00 a.m. it was closed down and people waited hours and hours and were not told it was closed and they had a clothing store, but it all disappeared; and Council Member Sekula-Gibbs stated services were stretched and all knew it could be better and there was room for improvement in the future; and Ms. Bresnhan stated that she was profoundly proud of the city and their citizens, but for the amount of money the Red Cross received a poor job was done by them. Council Members Johnson, Clutterbuck, Edwards and Garcia absent.

Mr. Ruddy Tejera, 1220 Sapling Way #1717, Houston, Texas 77031 (832-969-9924) appeared and stated that his main concern was the parking meters; that last Thursday he came with his family downtown and put money in the meter and he realized it did not reflect any money was put in and a sticker was there saying if a problem arose he should call 3-1-1 so he did and in a few seconds a man came and told him put more money in so he did and he saw it was broke so the man said for him to go on and he would report it broke so they did, but when they came back the same man was giving him a ticket, but he apologized and said he remembered it was not working so he called his supervisor right there and reported it and the supervisor advised him to write a report and on January 3rd at 9:00 a.m. he should go to court; that he went to court yesterday and he even had the report stating a mistake was made writing the citation, but he was sarcastic and that was why he came today on a METRO bus asking for his money and ticket dismissal. Council Members Johnson and Clutterbuck absent.

Council Member Alvarado stated that she was sorry for his experience, and upon questions, Mr. Tejera stated that the meter was located at 1100 Smith; and Council Member Alvarado stated that she would suggest he visit with Ms. Rambo who was present at this time, she was with Parking and would take care of his problem. Council Members Johnson and Clutterbuck absent.

Mr. Tejera stated that what bothered him was the police officer wrote a report and it went to the computer with the citation why did the judge give him so much static and say he did not have to follow what he wrote, the report said please dismiss the ticket and he gave his badge number so why would the judge give so many problems; and Mayor White stated that to Ms. Rambo he was not prejudging whether this occurred or not, but obviously citizens did have citations and laws were enforced, but no one should be disrespected and he would like her input with commonsense and courtesy. Council Member Johnson absent.

Council Member Green stated that the Mayor said it best and he also apologized himself for his experience with the parking officer; that he too was not making judgments, but did know they had taken great care to place people in positions who were responsive to the public and would treat them with dignity and respect and someone in his office would follow-up with him; and Ms. Rambo would take care of him. Council Member Johnson absent.

Council Member Berry stated that as he understood Mr. Tejera was upset with the treatment he received; and upon questions, Mr. Tejera stated that the gentleman who wrote the ticket was a gentleman and stayed with him and his wife and children and called his supervisor and explained he made a mistake and his supervisor was also a kind person and he was the one who said go to court on the third with the badge number, but the judge in the basement was the one sarcastic and rude; and Council Member Berry stated that was a different department and he was not sure Ms. Rambo could help and he was not directing comments to him but wanted to share an alternative perspective with his colleagues and while they wanted to be helpful to all citizens who came down he was basically saying an employee had behaved badly and to assume the employee was automatically wrong was not being fair to the employee. Council Member Johnson absent.

Council Member Edwards thanked Mr. Tejera for coming and stated that basically what Council Member Berry just said was what Mayor White had said, they did not want to accuse

anyone hastily, but if someone did something they wanted it dealt with fairly. Council Member Johnson absent.

President Joseph Charles, P. O. Box 524373, Houston, Texas 77052-4373 (832-453-6376) appeared and stated that he was the official U. S. President and continued expressing his personal opinions until his time expired. Council Members Johnson, Brown and Berry absent.

Senator Robert Horton, 3714 Bain, Houston, Texas 77026 (713-260-6144) appeared and stated that he was God and continued expressing his personal opinions until his time expired. Council Members Johnson and Berry absent.

Mr. John Mezick, 1811 Ruiz, Houston, Texas 77002 (713-283-9518) appeared and stated that he had been trying six months to get an appointment with Mayor White and he was ducking him; that in January 1973 Roe vs. Wade was passed by the Supreme Court and Ms. Wade had recanted and it looked like it would be overturned so why was this city still slaughtering babies. Council Members Johnson and Berry absent.

At 10:16 a.m. the Council moved to the consent agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA NUMBERS 1 through 24

MISCELLANEOUS - NUMBERS 1 and 2

1. REQUEST from Mayor for confirmation of the appointment of **MS. ANN KAUFMAN** to Position One of the **JOINT CITY/COUNTY COMMISSION ON CHILDREN**, for a term to expire December 31, 2006 – was presented, moved by Council Member Khan, seconded by Council Member Alvarado. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Johnson and Berry absent. MOTION 2006-0005 ADOPTED.
2. REQUEST from Mayor for confirmation of the appointment of **MS. NINA ZILKHA**, to Position Eight of the **HOUSTON PARKS BOARD**, for a term to expire January 1, 2008 – was presented, moved by Council Member Khan, seconded by Council Member Alvarado. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Johnson and Berry absent. MOTION 2006-0006 ADOPTED.

ACCEPT WORK – NUMBER 4

4. RECOMMENDATION from Director Houston Airport System for approval of final contract amount of \$3,889,128.00 and acceptance of work on contract with **SWINERTON BUILDERS (formerly known as Swinerton & Walberg Co.)** for Terminal B Tenant Space Alterations at George Bush Intercontinental Airport/Houston; Project No. 533C; CIP A-0425 and A-0131 - 03.69% over the original contract amount - **DISTRICT B - JOHNSON** – was presented, moved by Council Member Khan, seconded by Council Member Alvarado. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Johnson and Berry absent. MOTION 2006-0007 ADOPTED.

ORDINANCES - NUMBERS 14 through 23

14. ORDINANCE consenting to the creation of **HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 468** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Johnson and Berry absent. ORDINANCE 2006-0001 ADOPTED.
21. ORDINANCE appropriating \$100,548.00 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund and approving and authorizing developer participation contract between the City of Houston and **MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT SERVICES OF TEXAS, INC** for Construction of Sanitary Sewer Lines to serve its development on Fannin Street;

CIP S-0802-37-3 and R-0802-37-3 - **DISTRICT D - EDWARDS** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Johnson and Berry absent. ORDINANCE 2006-0002 ADOPTED.

22. ORDINANCE appropriating \$115,720.00 out of Street & Bridge Consolidated Construction Fund as an additional appropriation for professional engineering services contract between the City of Houston and **JNS CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC** for Design of reconstruction of Mesa Road from Green River to Little York Road (approved by Ordinance No. 98-1126); GFS N-0680-01-2 (SB9100); providing funding for contingencies relating to construction of facilities financed by the Street & Bridge Consolidated Construction Fund - **DISTRICT B - JOHNSON** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Johnson and Berry absent. ORDINANCE 2006-0003 ADOPTED.
23. ORDINANCE appropriating \$4,804,964.00 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidate Construction Fund, awarding contract to **UNDERGROUND TECHNOLOGIES, INC** for Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation by Sliplining and Pipe Bursting Method, GFS R-0266-E9-3 (WW4257-68), setting a deadline for the bidder's execution of the contract and deliver of all bonds, insurance, and other required contract documents to the City; holding the bidder in default if it fails to meet the deadlines; providing funding for engineering and testing, project management, and contingencies relating to construction of facilities financed by the Water & Sewer System Consolidate Construction Fund – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Johnson and Berry absent. ORDINANCE 2006-0004 ADOPTED.

MATTERS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA WERE CONSIDERED AS FOLLOWS:

ACCEPT WORK

3. RECOMMENDATION from Director Building Services Department for approval of final contract amount of \$446,018.00 and acceptance of work on contract with **AAR INCORPORATED** for Post Closure Soil Removal and Site Improvements at 1300 Dart Street, GFS G-0071-06-5 - 04.79% over the original contract amount - **DISTRICT H - GARCIA** – was presented, moved by Council Member Khan, seconded by Council Member Alvarado. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Berry absent. MOTION 2006-0008 ADOPTED.
5. RECOMMENDATION from Director Department of Public Works & Engineering for approval of final contract amount of \$2,241,210.58 awarded to **ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERS AND CONSTRUCTORS II, LTD.** and acceptance of work by final payment to the surety, **ST. PAUL TRAVELERS BOND, SURETY COMPANY** for Chocolate Bayou Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements, GFS R-0512-10-3 (4768-3) - 00.66% over the original contract amount **DISTRICT D - EDWARDS** – was presented, moved by Council Member Khan, seconded by Council Member Alvarado, and tagged by Council Members Edwards and Green.
6. RECOMMENDATION from Director Department of Public Works & Engineering for approval of final contract amount of \$5,337,632.89 and acceptance of work on contract completed by the surety, **FIDELITY GUARANTY INSURANCE UNDERWRITERS, INC** on contract awarded to **PATE & PATE ENTERPRISES, INC** for Willow Meadows Relief Sewer, GFS R-2011-05-3 (4715) 02.68% under the original contract amount - **DISTRICT C - CLUTTERBUCK** – was presented, moved by Council Member Khan, seconded by Council Member Alvarado. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Berry absent. MOTION 2006-0009 ADOPTED.

PROPERTY

7. RECOMMENDATION from Director Department of Public Works & Engineering to purchase Parcel AY5-042, located in the 1200 block of Allen Street, owned by Southern Pacific Transportation Company, Paul G. Farrell, Senior Manager Contracts, for the **HOUSTON HERITAGE CORRIDOR BAYOU TRAILS EAST HIKE AND BIKE PROJECT**, CIP N-0420-17A-1 \$356,675.00 - Street and Bridge Consolidated Construction Fund - **DISTRICT H – GARCIA** – was presented, and tagged by Council Member Garcia. Council Member Berry absent.

PURCHASING AND TABULATION OF BIDS

8. **MOTOROLA, INC** for Upgrades for Spectra Mobile Radios for Police Department - \$508,750.00 General Fund – was presented. Council Member Berry absent.

Council Member Clutterbuck stated that she had a few questions about the item and asked if the item would be eligible for reimbursement from the U. S. Department of Homeland Security and wondered if they had a disaster like Katrina if the transmission towers went down if there had been other plans on how the police would communicate and if the particular radios would allow communication with the police and if there was a plan for weather interruptions or other types of interruptions for communications. Council Member Berry absent.

Mayor White stated that they would make sure that Mr. Storemski consult with Council Member Clutterbuck concerning those two issues, number one, those things that could not be covered and the activities they had seeking the reimbursement from the Department of Homeland Security and second the issue that was going to be important in the next twelve months of what they would do and how they would do it with their radio system, that he gave seven critical items on the budget at the beginning to which they added a utility and the ninth looming on the horizon was overall radio, that he thought Mr. Storemski could also brief the Council Member on that. Council Member Berry absent.

Council Member Garcia stated that this was just a drop in the bucket in terms of what they really needed for the public safety radio system and knew they were expecting an RCC Report to help point them in the right direction on how to fund and get a good strategy on how to replace and fully upgrade their system instead of just doing band aid work, that he knew the item was important to have right now but they really needed to try to get from behind the eight ball on this one. Council Member Berry absent.

Mayor White stated that they working on it and there would be some more details, that he believed that for the City of Houston and other local government entities within Harris County there should be a new role that 9-1-1 played concerning radio communication. Council Member Berry absent.

Council Member Sekula-Gibbs asked who were they using in the City as their grant writers and facilitators in terms of applying for it and was it going to be a regional approach they were going to be taking in terms of applying for the Homeland Security dollars and could they anticipate those dollars going up, increasing, and did Mayor White expect that it would cover the amount of money that was necessary to grant them inner operability between agencies in order for them to communicate with Harris County and other counties in the event of a crisis.

Mayor White stated that certainly they would hope that was true, that the reallocation by priority of needs, that second they had two types of radio needs, one had to do with inner operability and some of that depended on decisions that had not yet been finalized by the FCC concerning dedicated spectrum, that they may not be able to wait for the FCC because their radio systems were getting old, that finally they needed somebody to audit, that they had appropriations in Washington that were written into bills and then the money for the first

responders, for example Baytown where they had refineries, and then it went through Austin, where they took a cut, and then it went to the University of A&M, where they took a cut, and then it went to the County, where they took a cut and then it went to the local government entity, who hired the first responders and then finally got to the responder, and he wondered how much of the taxpayer money had been siphoned of by the Soviet style bureaucracy, that he would like to see an audit to see how much of their money was wasted because they had all those people wanting to be in the loop on Homeland Security.

Mr. Hall stated that they did do that but was not certain they did it by experts, so they were going to get an expert to look at the work they did, and Mayor White stated that they were all for Homeland Security but were not for waste.

Council Member Berry stated that obviously it had been an issue that they had talked about for quite some time, but the real issue was that they simply could not afford to replace the entire system overnight, they had to remain up and running and try to incorporate new technology, that he thought they were headed in the right direction and would ask that maybe three months from now, at the end of the first quarter, that they get a report on where they were with the issue. Council Member Sekula-Gibbs absent.

Council Member Lawrence stated that it was a partial part of an agenda amendment that she proposed and thought they were moving in that direction once they got Public Works, Fire and Police all on one page, that Mr. Fontaine had done a wonderful job of continuing to work on that agenda item, that she would bring it forward next time of combining the services, they continued to have old equipment, that she hoped that Mr. Fontaine would continue to work on it. Council Member Sekula-Gibbs absent.

Council Member Khan stated that they were purchasing 925 radios and it was a patchwork and evidentially they would like to have more of them and asked if they were giving a larger contract to the company because if tomorrow they were going to buy 3,000 more radios then they had to buy the same brand in order for them to work together and Mayor White stated that it was probably pretty close to right, that it was not perfect, they got old radios from Motorola, discontinued and old parts, they reworked them in the shop, these were upgrades for those radios, they were going to go to new radios, they had been nursing the radios they had because they had been waiting for the issue concerning the dedicated spectrum, second because they had a lot of bills coming due, but the time had come when they had to take a serious look at doing it. Council Member Sekula-Gibbs absent.

Council Member Lovell asked when the RCC Report would be completed, and Mr. Hall stated they thought they would get it in March 2006.

A vote was called on Item No. 8. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2006-0010 ADOPTED.

9. **AMEND MOTION #2000-1552, 12/20/00, as amended by MOTION #2003-1450 and #2004-1056 TO EXTEND** expiration date from June 22, 2006 to June 30, 2009, and **TO INCREASE** spending authority \$1,429,193.40 to \$2,626,842.20 for a Vehicle Locator System for Various Departments, awarded to **TELETRAC, INC** - General, Enterprise and Other Funds - was presented, moved by Council Member Khan, seconded by Council Member Alvarado, and tagged by Council Member Wiseman.

ORDINANCES

10. **ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 40 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, HOUSTON, TEXAS**, relating to the Sale of Used Motor Vehicles at certain locations; containing findings and other provisions relating to the foregoing subject; providing for severability – was presented, and tagged by Council Member Wiseman.

Council Member Khan stated that he understood it would be enforced on everybody who wanted to sell a used motor vehicles, not just individuals, the dealers would also be included, he just wanted that clarification on the item and would add his tag on the item. Council Member Holm absent.

11. ORDINANCE relating to safety codes adopted for the protection and preservation of lives and property from fire and other perils; amending the Construction Code of the City of Houston, and containing other provisions relating to the foregoing subject; containing a repealer; containing a savings clause; providing for severability – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Holm absent. ORDINANCE 2006-0005 ADOPTED.
12. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing Amendment No. 3 to a lease agreement between the City of Houston and **WILSON AIR CENTER - HOUSTON, INC** at William P. Hobby Airport Revenue - **DISTRICT I - ALVARADO** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Holm and Berry absent. ORDINANCE 2006-0006 ADOPTED.
13. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing the Mayor to accept Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Grant offers up to \$60,000,000.00 for Projects at George Bush Intercontinental Airport/Houston; CIP A-0304, A-0444 and A-0476, William P. Hobby Airport; CIP A-0312 and A-0379, and Ellington Field; CIP A-0470, A-0544 and A-0428; declaring the City's eligibility for such grants - **DISTRICTS B - JOHNSON; E - WISEMAN and I - ALVARADO** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Holm and Berry absent. ORDINANCE 2006-0007 ADOPTED.
15. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing interlocal agreement between the City and **HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT** for Channel Improvements along Vogel Creek from Confluence of White Oak Bayou to Arncliffe Drive, GFS N-0793-01-2 (SB9220) - **DISTRICTS A - LAWRENCE and B – JOHNSON** – was presented, and tagged by Council Member Lawrence. Council Members Holm and Berry absent.
16. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing contract between the City of Houston and **INDUSTRIAL/ORGANIZATIONAL SOLUTIONS, INC** for Professional services in connection with the development and delivery of written test and assessment center process for promotion to the rank of Police Captain in the Houston Police Department - \$98,655.00 - General Fund – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Holm and Berry absent. ORDINANCE 2006-0008 ADOPTED.
17. ORDINANCE establishing south side of the 1700 block of Albans Street within the City of Houston as a special minimum lot size requirement area pursuant to Chapter 42 of the Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas; making finding and containing other provisions related thereto **DISTRICT C – CLUTTERBUCK**

Council Member Clutterbuck stated that she had several questions about the item, that was in her district and neighborhood, that she was a big supporter of the minimum lot size designation ordinance and the ability for neighbors to decide about preserving the character and integrity of specific lot blocks, that she noticed that the north side of Albans in the 1700 Block was not included and wondered if anybody knew what the status of the north side application was, and Mayor White stated that they would find out and get back with her, and Council Member Clutterbuck stated that she knew that both the north and south side applied at about the same time, that Ms. Stauss, who submitted the application was not notified that it would be on the agenda today and she wondered what the department's notification procedures were for people who had applied, that she would encourage the department to be a little bit more expeditious in processing them and keeping up communication with the applicants, and if the

item was passed she wanted to know what the notification procedure was for the applicants on the south side, that she wanted to thank Ms. Strauss and Ms. Hullmeyer who lived on the block and had been working diligently in collecting signatures for their petitions.

Mayor White stated that there would be a new committee that would have a lot of responsibility in dealing with many of those issues, that he anticipated that Council Member Lawrence would be chairing and they needed to really look at the process improvement in every particular way.

Council Member Brown stated that he was supportive of what Council Member Clutterbuck stated about preserving the character of their neighborhoods and neighborhood streets, and asked if in this case the neighbors on the other side of the street were notified that it was going on and encouraged to pursue the same course so they would have a balanced situation on either side of the street.

Mayor White stated that he would like for Mr. Michel to report back to him, that on the north side of the street he thought that the status was that it had been in somebody's inbox in the Legal Department to draft the ordinance and Mr. Michel stated that he just received a phone call and it would be in the City Secretary's office this week, and Mayor White asked if Mr. Michel had any idea how long it had taken to get the ordinance drafted, and Mr. Michel stated that he would look into it and report back to the Mayor.

A vote was called on Item No. 17. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2006-0009 ADOPTED.

18. ORDINANCE finding and determining that public convenience and necessity no longer require the continued use of a portion of Kendall Street right-of-way (Parcel No. IT6-005), from Lovejoy Street northward 135 feet, more or less, to its dead-end, being out of the replat of Shannon Addition, S.M. Williams Survey, A-87, Harris County, Texas and being located within a 10-acre tract currently owned by the City of Houston; vacating and abandoning said parcel to the City of Houston, fee owner, for the purposes of creating an unencumbered fee ownership to the abutting 10-acre tract necessary to complete the sale of the 10-acre tract, previously authorized by Ordinance No. 05-1223; containing various findings and other provisions related to the subject **DISTRICT H – GARCIA** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2006-0010 ADOPTED.

19. ORDINANCE appropriating \$271,406.50 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidate Construction Fund and \$243,000.00 out of TIRZ Affordable Housing Fund, and approving and authorizing developer participation contract between the City of Houston and **S.S.M., L.P.** for Construction of Water, Sanitary Sewer and Storm Sewer Lines to serve section Four of the West Orem place Subdivision (CIP R-0800-H2-3 and S-0800-H2-3) - **DISTRICT D – EDWARDS** – was presented.

After discussion by Council Members a vote was called on Item No. 19. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2006-0011 ADOPTED.

20. ORDINANCE appropriating \$62,990.55 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund and approving and authorizing developer participation contract between the City of Houston and **SAWYER HEIGHTS VILLAGE, LTD** for Construction of Sanitary Sewer Lines to serve its development on Shearn Street; CIP R-0802-38-03 - **DISTRICT H – GARCIA** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2006-0012 ADOPTED.

24. ORDINANCE appropriating \$5,315,402.00 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidate Construction Fund, awarding contract to **PM CONSTRUCTION & REHAB., L.P.** for Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation by Sliplining and Pipe Bursting Method, GFS R-0294-10-3

(WW4257-71), setting a deadline for the bidder's execution of the contract and deliver of all bonds, insurance, and other required contract documents to the City; holding the bidder in default if it fails to meet the deadlines; providing funding for engineering and testing, project management, and contingencies relating to construction of facilities financed by the Water & Sewer System Consolidate Construction Fund - **DISTRICTS D - EDWARDS; E - WISEMAN; H - GARCIA and I - ALVARADO** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2006-0013 ADOPTED.

MATTERS HELD - NUMBERS 25 through 29

25. MOTION by Council Member Quan /Seconded by Council Member Sekula-Gibbs to adopt recommendation from Director Finance & Administration to **AMEND MOTION #2005-901, 9/14/05**, which authorized condemnation of Parcels AY2-173 and AY2-173A, located in the 2300 block of Dixie Drive, for the **COLUMBIA TAP HIKE AND BIKE TRAIL PROJECT, TO REFLECT** that Parcel AY2-173A is a Temporary Construction Easement, CIP N-0420-22-2 - **DISTRICT D - EDWARDS** – (**This was Item 9 on Agenda of December 20, 2005, TAGGED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS GREEN and SEKULA-GIBBS**) – was presented.

Council Member Edwards stated that she appreciated everybody's work on the issue but she still thought they were developing a policy that was not going to work properly and would be continually voting no on the issue.

A vote was called on Item No. 25. Council Member Edwards voting no, balance voting aye. MOTION 2006-0011 ADOPTED.

26. MOTION by Council Member Khan/Seconded by Council Member Quan to adopt recommendation from Director Finance & Administration to award to **PHILPOTT MOTORS, LTD.** for Automobiles and Utility Vehicles from the State of Texas Building and Procurement Commission's Contract through the State of Texas Cooperative Purchasing Program for Public Works & Engineering and Police Departments - \$1,798,256.00 - Grant and Other Funds – (**This was Item 16 on Agenda of December 20, 2005, TAGGED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HOLM**) – was presented.

Council Member Holm stated that she had asked for an analysis of cost effectiveness on the environmental impact on the purchase of it, that Mr. Fontaine and Mr. Ayers had equipped her with every piece of information in order to confirm and help them make good decisions, that she wanted to say thank you for the information, that as a result of the information it did cost more to have hybrid cars but it balances out especially with the fuel economy going up, the difference between in town driving and out of town driving.

Council Member Berry stated that he would vote for the item, that he had not seen the information, that there were cases of cities that had spent \$200,000 or more for a bus that was a hybrid that ended up not working, that he did not think that was the case but did not want them to catch themselves in a bad investigative report where they made a mistake, that if they had a cost benefit analysis on these sorts of things they could disagree on what that cost and benefit needed to be, but wanted to say that he thought it was good for department directors to say if there was going to be an expensive for new technology that they get that cost benefit analysis up front because they were going to ask.

After further discussion a vote was called on Item No. 26. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2006-0012 ADOPTED.

27. MOTION by Council Member Khan/Seconded by Council Member Quan to adopt recommendation from Director Finance & Administration to **AMEND MOTION #2005-176, 2/23/05, TO PURCHASE** additional Hybrid-Electric Sedans for Various Departments,

awarded to **PHILPOTT MOTORS, LTD.** - \$719,141.00 - Enterprise and Other Funds – **(This was Item 18 on Agenda of December 20, 2005, TAGGED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HOLM)** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2006-0013 ADOPTED.

28. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing first amendment to an Electric Supply Agreement between the City of Houston and **TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE** (approved by Ordinance No. 04-0273); providing a maximum contract amount – **(This was Item 27 on Agenda of December 20, 2005, TAGGED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS QUAN and KHAN)** – was presented. Council Members Johnson and Sekula-Gibbs absent.

Council Member Khan stated that he appreciated Mr. Dadoush taking time to visit with him and answering a lot of questions that he had, that with the extension of the contract how did they expect to do in the MWBE part of the contract, and Mayor White stated that with the contract they did have MWBE goals, that they met the MWBE threshold that was established in the initial contract and they were not at all compromising that, the vendor had certain information concerning meeting the MWBE goals, that he encouraged Council Member Khan to get a briefing on that issue. Council Members Johnson and Sekula-Gibbs absent.

Council Member Alvarado stated that she wanted to commend the administration, that for the new members who were not familiar with the contract she would suggest they sit down with Mr. Dadoush, that it had to be probably one of the smartest contracts that she had seen come before Council and knew Mayor White spent a lot of time on it. Council Members Johnson and Sekula-Gibbs absent.

A vote was called on Item No. 28. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Johnson and Sekula-Gibbs absent. ORDINANCE 2006-0014 ADOPTED.

29. ORDINANCE appropriating \$181,486.36 out of Street & Bridge Consolidated Construction Fund for Landscaping and Beautification of City Streets and Thoroughfares, GFS N-0675-06-3 (SB9126-02); providing funding for contingencies relating to construction of facilities financed by the Street & Bridge Consolidated Construction Fund - **DISTRICTS A - LAWRENCE; B - GALLOWAY; D - EDWARDS; E - WISEMAN; G - HOLM and H - GARCIA** – **(This was Item 40 on Agenda of December 20, 2005, TAGGED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GOLDBERG)** – was presented.

Council Member Clutterbuck stated that Council Member Goldberg had tagged the item and at the time she thought he was asking which other items were in the queue for District C esplanades and would like for the department officials to give her an update on that, that she wanted to thank Council Member Goldberg and his staff for the tremendous briefing that they gave her. Council Member Johnson absent.

A vote was called on Item No. 29. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2006-0015 ADOPTED.

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Member Holm stated that she wanted to welcome colleagues, returning and new and also a piece of advice that the first sixty days of a position that they view it as no one else could, that they would all welcome hearing from them. Council Members Khan and Green absent.

Council Member Holm stated that one of things they discussed and talked about over and over again was the way they conducted their meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday, that she would welcome it as an opportunity for Council Member Wiseman to meet with them one more time to go over their policies and rules, that she hoped they would talk about the process and

how they do it. Council Members Khan and Green absent.

Council Member Holm stated that there was an issue with take home cars that a lot of them had periodically questioned over and over and before they went into the budgeting process she would like to have some analysis and evaluation from two different perspectives, one was the effectiveness of spending the tax payer dollars, who took home the cars, why, what kind of cars, what was the accountability, how many miles spent going to and from home as opposed to miles on the job and a comparative study of take home versus the cost having pool cars or whatever was needed at the City; that so often they continued to hear that City employees were not compensated adequately, but she thought a take home car was a benefit that needed to be part of an evaluation of a benefit. Council Members Khan and Green absent.

Council Member Holm stated that she wanted to applaud the appointment of Mr. Dadoush and welcomed the opportunity of working with him with the CIP. Council Members Khan and Green absent.

Council Member Holm stated that she wanted to thank Mr. Patrick Trahan and Ms. Debra Veal, that last week the EV1.NET Bowl had a request for some proclamations and those two scrambled and did the job for them, that she wanted to thank the City and the two teams, TCU and Iowa State, that it was a great event. Council Members Khan and Green absent.

Council Member Holm stated that she wanted to extend sympathy to the family of Ms. Casey Davis, who was the TCU player who was killed tragically Monday afternoon. Council Member Khan absent.

Council Member Holm stated that inaugural yesterday was such a great celebration and the activities and ceremony were very powerful; that a couple of people emailed her about the fireworks last night and the fact that when the State was in such a critical state of drought that the City should be setting an example. Council Member Khan absent.

Council Member Alvarado stated that she wanted to commend everyone for the wonderful ceremony and wanted to give special thanks to Ms. Susan Christian and her staff, they did an awesome job, that she received a lot of complements about the location. Council Members Lawrence and Khan absent.

Council Member Alvarado stated that she wanted to congratulate the Mayor because he was featured in the Chronicle as one of the most fit Houstonians and was also being recognized as one of the most fittest Mayors in the Country. Council Members Lawrence and Khan absent.

Council Member Alvarado stated that she wanted to remind the new Council Members that they had some briefings for them this afternoon; that she wanted to give a lot of credit to some folks in the Mayor Pro Tem office, Ms. Rosie Hernandez, Chris Mayes, Teresa Orta and Florence, they had done a great job and some of them came in and worked over the holidays on New Year's Day to make sure they had a smooth transition. Council Member Lawrence absent.

Council Member Sekula-Gibbs stated that she wanted to acknowledge the good work of one of the members of her staff, Jose Pulido, who had worked very closely with Gary Norman and Roberto Medina in the Public Works Department, that what they had been able to accomplish in a short period of time was correcting and fixing some potholes in the Rice University area on Kent Street, and also some other Public Works employees, Tracy Samuel, Jim Tarr, Tracy Wingate, Eric Mitchel, Dean Vaughn, Erlinda Trigo and Michael Newman, all of them worked very hard to get the project finished.

Council Member Sekula-Gibbs stated that she wanted to join in the congratulations and recognition that the Mayor did a wonderful job in putting together a superb inaugural.

Council Member Sekula-Gibbs stated that she wanted to get a report on what happened at Municipal Courts yesterday, that they saw it in the news that there was a glitch in the way they were handling their case management.

Council Member Sekula-Gibbs stated that when they were leaving the inaugural evening events they were going from Allen Parkway to the Pierce Elevated at I45 South in the downtown area and there were three cars stalled on the freeway in that very short space, that she called and said they needed to get some help for those people, that she wanted to get a report on how they were implementing SafeClear currently and what their response times were.

Council Member Sekula-Gibbs stated that since they had about 150,000 new residents in the City, Katrina evacuees, they had an increase in violent crime and murder rate, that she had a letter of support asking to support the task force that Council Member Garcia was very involved with through the Police Department so they could target violent crime areas, particularly some of the apartment complexes, that she wanted to know what they were doing on a more ongoing basis to make that happen and what their contingency plan was if FEMA did not come forward with the \$6.5 million; that she had also seen that some of the citizens were embracing their own solutions which was inviting the Guardian Angels to town, that she wanted to know if there was a way to support that to make it work for them so they did not have conflicts in the neighborhoods. Council Member Wiseman absent.

Mayor White stated that he would encourage citizens to be involved in Citizens on Patrol, where they had residents in the neighborhoods who were stakeholders, use their eyes, ears and vehicles and work closely with the police, that law enforcement officials had found that it was far more effective than a non profit organization coming in and bringing people in, that they welcomed anybody's advice and help and suggestions.

Council Member Khan stated that as to the issue of Sharpstown and the crime rate increase, he thought the Guardian Angel situation was a symptom of what the residents were going through on a regular basis, that he agreed with the Mayor that they needed to encourage the Citizen on Patrol Program, that he agreed with the NET program, it was a step in the right direction but thought a lot more needed to be done to get a handle on it.

Council Member Khan stated that for the last year they had been looking into the itinerant vendors, people who found an empty lot over the weekend and put up their goods to sell, that not only did they not pay sales tax to the City but did not have any permits to sell the items, that he hoped they could find a committee to look into enhancing the ordinance so that neighbors did not have to face the eyesore on a regular basis. Council Member Sekula-Gibbs absent.

Council Member Khan stated that on Tuesday Muslims all over the world would be celebrating a pilgrimage to MECCA, that in Houston they would celebrate at the George R. Brown Convention Center on January 10, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. and would encourage all his colleagues to join them. Council Members Brown, Sekula-Gibbs and Berry absent.

Council Member Garcia invited Mr. Jason Cisneros and his parents to join them at the podium, that today was his last day at the City, he was leaving for Germany to serve his Country, that he had been a great public servant and Mayor White presented Mr. Cisneros a certificate in recognition of his service to the City. Council Members Brown and Sekula-Gibbs absent.

Council Member Green stated that he wanted to wish Mr. Cisneros luck, that his brother would be deployed along with Jason tomorrow. Council Members Brown and Sekula-Gibbs absent.

Council Member Green stated that as to the ICMS issues that they had yesterday it was a

\$10 million system to revolutionize the way they did business at the courts, he wanted to applaud the work of Judge Mejia and Mr. Richard Lewis and Mr. Jim Moriarity for all they had been doing to get the system off the ground, that they were not going to be the guinea pigs for a vendor's new program, they had paid very good money for a system and expected it to do all that they said it could do and more and would be very clear about it in the Municipal Courts committee meetings, the vendor had promised that it was a system that would deliver superior customer service and would deliver service to the employees who would use the system and in fact they were expecting and making sure they got everything they paid for, that to the vendor's credit they did have about 15 people at the court system yesterday attempting to help them get the system on line but he did not think they really realized the magnitude of the expectations that the City had and the magnitude of usage that would go on with that court system, that they had annex courts and the main courts and they needed that system to be up and running and do a lot of things simultaneously so he had been in constant contact with the individuals over at the court system, so he wanted to make it perfectly clear, they were not just letting it slide and he thought Maximus knew the City's position on it, so he would ask people to bear with them, they had been working on a system that was 50 years over due and now that they were putting in a new system it was going to take some tweaking, they were going to hold the vendor accountable and expected the vendor to step up to the plate and continue to do it's part, that they had some issues with the vendor before and he had been in contact with people who were very high up in that company and they were putting a lot of resources behind it. Council Members Clutterbuck, Holm and Garcia absent.

Council Member Green stated that he wanted to applaud the briefing he received on the HPD Crime Lab and knew they had some things in place to handle some of the things that had gone on in the past and wanted to encourage them to continue to be forthcoming with the public about the issues so that they could get those things cleared up. Council Members Clutterbuck, Holm and Garcia absent.

Council Member Garcia stated that there was an issue on the news last night that had to do with the Pierce Elevated, that he had gotten a lot of calls on it, that there were some homeless individuals there and were offered a free meal and when they got back all of their belongings were taken from under the bridge and gotten rid of, there was some speculation that the City was involved, he had not been able to find where there had been a directive and knew that was not that the case because he knew the City was a lot more compassionate than that, that it just highlighted further what the issue was, throwing people's things away did not help anything and whoever authorized that it did not help anything and it just further highlighted what they needed to do to address that issue. Council Members Lawrence, Clutterbuck and Garcia absent.

Mayor White stated that he wanted to thank Council Member Green, Mr. Lewis, Judge Mejia and Mr. Moriarity for all their work on the Municipal Courts. Council Members Lawrence and Garcia absent.

Council Member Berry stated that he wanted to join the chorus because he thought under Council Member Green's leadership they had seen some progress at the Municipal Courts. Council Member Garcia absent.

Council Member Berry stated that Council Member Holm had a good point and since it was early in the term they could set a tone without picking on anyone who had done it so they could talk about the process without the personalities, that he did not want to lose their privilege to take people out of order but thought they should all commit to exercise that reluctantly. Council Members Garcia absent.

Council Member Berry stated that it was unfair to the Council Members schedules and the people they were meeting with to ask them to meet a day before a Council meeting on a major issue the department heads knew was coming up for a month, that they should call them in

plenty of time and explain what the issue was. Council Member Garcia absent.

Mayor White asked Mr. Hall what could they do to encourage departments to do better, if they had an RCA, that it did not need to be the director it could be a senior person to call around to the Council Members a couple of weeks out and ask if they wanted to have a meeting, what direction should they give to the directors and who should give it, and Mr. Hall stated that he would get with Ms. Stein and suspected they would see some marked improvement in the capacity to do that. Council Member Garcia absent.

Council Member Berry stated that as to the Guardian Angels, he had spent some time researching and had spoken with the gentleman who ran that organization, Mr. Curtis Silwa, and would go to their meeting and see what they were about, that they were not going to solve their homicide rate by a group coming in from New York and doing press conference and a couple of people wearing red berets trying to make citizens arrests were not going to stop the homicides, that what was going to make a difference they were already doing, more officers on the streets in the target hot spots, whether FEMA paid for it or the City paid for it, that they had his support there, but also he thought they had to attack the issue because the public wanted them to see the homicide issue and Katrina or no Katrina it was problem. Council Member Garcia absent.

Council Member Berry stated that they were six months into the fiscal year and thought an executive summary from the departments as to where they were in the budget cycle would be helpful for them, and Mayor White stated that they would pursue that with the Director of F&A. Council Member Garcia absent.

Mayor White stated that as to the issue of safety, he did not know exactly what they ought to do, that he did not know if they had authority as a Home Rule City but in the area of the Westside division, where they had violent crime increases, where the heavy concentration of apartments was, was there something they could do where they saw apartment complexes go up right next to an area where they were already having a problem with calls for service. Council Members Garcia and Green absent.

Council Member Edwards stated that she and former Council Member Quan had been working with ACORN and other groups regarding that very issue, especially apartments that were being looked at to deal with affordable housing, not only calls for service but having social services available, medical services and the whole bit, that she would be more than happy to bring them up to speed as to where they were in that conversation. Council Members Garcia and Green absent.

Council Member Brown stated that this was his second Council meeting and he was really excited to be present at Council. Council Members Garcia and Green absent.

Council Member Brown stated that he thought since they were not a City that had zoning regulations they could be much more creative with their nuisance ordinances to regulate eyesores and he would like to throw out some suggestions for that. Council Member Garcia absent.

Council Member Brown stated in terms of the crime issue, he thought they needed to correct the physical environment that breeds crime, that obviously the apartments were a good example, there was a mechanism that cities used called crime prevention through environmental design, CPTED, and under Mayor Lanier they had a CPTED office that set some standards for trying to create a more easily policed environment that discouraged crime so he would say that CPTED could be something that they ought to reinstate. Council Member Garcia absent.

Council Member Brown stated that he was very interested in their City being competitive in

expanding their tax base through quality development and sorting of catching up with the County, particularly in terms of transit oriented development, higher density and mixed use along their rail line and implementation of the Buffalo Bayou Master Plan. Council Members Holm and Garcia absent.

Council Member Brown stated as to neighborhood revitalization, he thought improving home ownership in the City, whether affordable housing or not, was a really important agenda item, they were one of the cities that had a very low home ownership rate in terms of households, that was an area where they could make massive improvements in the quality of life, particularly in their neighborhoods and they should be concerned about poverty, there were some 450,000 Houstonians who lived at or below the poverty line and that ought to be a target for the exciting agenda they had for themselves in the next two years. Council Members Holm and Garcia absent.

Council Member Green moved to extend the Council meeting beyond the noon recess to continue the business agenda, seconded by Council Member Khan. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Holm and Garcia absent. MOTION 2006-0014 ADOPTED.

Council Member Clutterbuck stated that she wanted to thank Mayor White for his leadership and express her deep appreciation to all of her fellow Council Members, that she really looked forward to working with all of them, that she wanted to acknowledge her office staff. Council Members Holm and Garcia absent.

Council Member Clutterbuck stated that she wanted to thank Council Member Edwards and Mayor White and others for the good suggestions on changing certain ordinances relating to the apartment development and would like to request a moratorium on Section 8 Housing in District C in particular, that the Mayor hit the nail on the head, they had a glut of apartments in the southwest part of Houston and the desperate crime situation that they were suffering from was multi faceted and one of the aspects was added apartment complexes and over saturating the area, that she was looking forward to working with Council Member Brown on the matter. Council Members Holm and Garcia absent.

Council Member Johnson stated that he wanted to thank the Mayor for all of the things that he had been able to give him in terms of knowledge over the past couple of years, that he recognized the Mayor's small victories and that was certainly what they were going to be looking forward to in District B, that as he looked forward to District B he wanted to thank all of the Council Members, that he had an opportunity of speaking to all of them, especially with Council Member Holm for having the reception at her home, that was certainly a big benefit for him because he had an opportunity to meet them on a personal note, that he looked forward on the work they were going to be doing, in helping District B, in particular, to become self sufficient, as he continued to talk about their areas of need in District B, that they looked forward to bringing stronger businesses in their community and help bring in stronger housing in their district. Council Members Holm and Garcia absent.

Council Member Johnson stated that he wanted to acknowledge his office staff. Council Members Holm and Garcia absent.

Council Member Lovell stated that she wanted to thank Mayor White for an incredible day yesterday, that she also wanted to thank all of her colleagues for being so kind to her children. Council Members Holm and Garcia absent.

Council Member Lovell stated that she wanted to thank her staff and wanted to thank Mr. Jose Soto for preparing her to come to Council and not be nervous, that she wanted to thank all of the City employees who had made her feel very welcome and special. Council Members Wiseman, Holm and Garcia absent.

Council Member Lovell stated that they had talked some about crime, and it was a big issue, but she had to raise another issue that she thought was epidemic in the City and that was graffiti, that Post School was tagged over the holidays, up and down North and South Boulevard, all up and down Alabama Avenue, every single sign was tagged, that on Highway 59, Southwest Freeway, the sound wall, had huge tags, that she would like to see the Council make it known that it was unacceptable in the City, that she would lead the charge, that they were going to take a stand, whatever they needed to do, she did not care if they offered rewards for the taggers to be turned in but it was now epidemic and appalling and ruining the City, that the truth was if they looked at some of the work they were pretty good at what they did, they worked fast and well, if they could find them she was sure there were painters in the City that would love to have them go to work for them, but it could no longer be acceptable. Council Members Wiseman, Holm and Garcia absent.

Council Member Edwards stated that it was refreshing, the new Council Members, the energy, expertise and passion that they brought, that she hoped they could hold on to it and keep it going. Council Members Wiseman, Holm and Garcia absent.

Council Member Edwards stated that as to Council Member Berry's request about the budget, one of her concerns was that with the committee structure they usually got a monthly budget update with the MOFAR and was curious if they were going to have that presentation this month, if not, for someone to let her know. Council Members Wiseman, Holm and Garcia absent.

Council Member Edwards stated that they had been talking about crime for a long time, and sometimes she thought that if they had not had Katrina nothing would have been done in the City, but she could not let people give the impression that the crime that was being done in the City was because of people in Houston because of Katrina, that was a part of it but they had at least four civic club meetings in the Montrose and Hiram Clarke area, the gang activity that was rampant in the Hillcroft and South Post Oak area, that she appreciated what was going on now and knew there had been added to it, but to imply that because of Katrina people in Houston there was a whole crime explosion, she thought, was a little bit unfair, that as many townhall meetings and as many meetings that they had with HPD regarding crime in District D, they were still having task force meetings regarding the drive by shootings that were happening in the Montrose area, that three weeks ago she asked that they be briefed on what was going on, that all of her information was episodic and she would like to have someone give them a briefing as to where they were, what were they going to do and how they were going to pay for it. Council Members Wiseman, Holm and Garcia absent.

Council Member Edwards stated that as to the whole discussion of redistricting of City Council seats, she wanted to know where they were on that, if there was going to be a redistricting dialog going on how would they get involved in that. Council Members Wiseman, Holm and Garcia absent.

Council Member Edwards stated that as to Homeland Security, they spend a lot of dollars on Homeland Security, that she would like to know what they were doing with it, what could they expect from their Homeland Security, that NASA was saying that they were going to have another violent hurricane season this year. Council Members Wiseman, Holm and Garcia absent.

Council Member Edwards stated that as to the MLK Parade she would like to know what was going on, that the only park in the City of Houston that had a remembrance of Martin Luther King was in Brecker Park off of Cullen in the heart of Sunnyside and they would be holding their traditional remembrance on January 13, 2006. Council Members Wiseman, Holm and Garcia absent.

Council Member Edwards stated that the issue that Mayor White made regarding

education in his presentation yesterday was right on time, that District D had an Education Task Force since they had been in office and it had been meeting as of late for about three months, that one of the things they were looking to do was give an agenda to the State when they went back to special session, that she wanted the Mayor to know that they stood in support of whatever he needed or would like to do, that they were working with not only local educators but with parents and with students so whatever information they could share with the Mayor they would be more than happy to do that. Council Members Wiseman, Holm and Garcia absent.

Council Member Edwards stated that regarding Item No. 5, the vendor had gone out of business and she knew they had to still deal with their contract responsibilities, but they did not submit an MWBE report at all so she was not really inclined to vote for them to accept the work but would like to know once again when a vendor went out of business what was the process and how did they collect the things they needed to know, did they have a contractual responsibility, that maybe Mr. Michel could help her with that and give her information as to what was the process. Council Members Wiseman, Holm and Garcia absent.

Council Member Edwards stated that regarding the DNA Report, they pulled it off the computer this morning and she would encourage members of the Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee, to pull that report and read it, there were some very serious issues in there that she thought everybody should really take note of. Council Members Wiseman, Holm and Garcia absent.

Mayor White stated that Council Member Garcia had agreed to chair the Public Safety Committee again and they needed that briefing sometime next week, a comprehensive review of the new programs implemented in the next six weeks by Chief Hurtt to that committee. Council Members Wiseman, Holm, Garcia and Berry absent.

Mayor White stated that as to the redistricting, until the 2010 Census there would not be reliable demographic information in detail that would allow them to do some things that were based upon the demographics of the particular districts, that they may need to have some clarification of the ordinance. Council Members Wiseman, Holm, Garcia and Berry absent.

Council Member Lawrence stated that she wanted to thank Mayor White for their inauguration, that it was extra special at the Police Memorial and wanted to thank Mayor White and his staff and everybody who made that such a memorable event for all of them. Council Members Wiseman, Holm and Garcia absent.

Council Member Lawrence stated that a C3 Program had been established and District Council Members would have a cleanup, a designated month would be theirs, that District A's was February, that Chief Lumpkin had a wonderful program started, that they already sent out an e blast to find out what their constituents thought needed to be cleaned up, that they would kickoff a volunteer graffiti taskforce program that they had already started to get volunteers for, paint donated, and all over the district on February 18, 2006 they would cover the graffiti. Council Members Wiseman, Holm and Garcia absent.

Council Member Lawrence stated that they had their second Celebratory Gunfire Event on December 28, 2005 and wanted to thank the Chief of Police who came out, the Sheriffs and Constables, along with many residents, that they had it at Summer Crest Apartments, it was one street that was less than a half a mile long had 6,000 residents on it, that with Representative Jessica Farrar they had been very successful to stop other apartments coming in with Section 8, so there was a lot they could learn from their State Legislators who had been there and really addressing the problems. Council Members Wiseman, Holm and Garcia absent.

Council Member Lawrence stated that for the second year in a row they had a Christmas fire and it was on Christmas eve at Eagle Hollow Apartments and visiting that sight was very sad, that 12 apartments were burned and another 12 were destroyed due to water damage, that

the demolition crews moved in and leveled those apartments, that they had set up a fund and Saint Marks Lutheran Church was collecting checks and they would be distributing some of that money. Council Members Wiseman, Holm and Garcia absent.

Council Member Lawrence stated that she wanted to give kudos to Mr. Dadoush who was continually doing wonderful things for the City. Council Members Wiseman, Holm and Garcia absent.

Council Member Lawrence stated, hook um horns for the game tonight, that her prediction was 10 points for the University of Texas. Council Members Wiseman, Holm, Garcia and Sekula-Gibbs absent.

There being no further business before Council, the City Council adjourned at 12:21 p.m. Council Members Wiseman, Holm, Garcia and Sekula-Gibbs absent.

DETAILED INFORMATION ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY.

MINUTES READ AND APPROVED

Anna Russell, City Secretary