

**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 23, 2003**

The work session came to order at 1:05 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room.

City Council present: Mayor Bernard, Councilors Barnes, Lancaster and Marshall, and Stone.

Mayor Bernard read a statement regarding his disappointment in the recent direction Council has taken. Comments have been made that would make one think the City has been doing business all wrong, but he feels the community has come a long way over the past few years. He cited the North Main Street Project, the South Corridor Project which would as part of phase 1 move the Milwaukie transit center from downtown streets, the prospects for decommissioning the Kellogg Treatment Plant, and good relationships between citizens, City management, and employees. This has been accomplished through good communications, but he has not seen the same resolve in the past few weeks. The city manager prepared a recommendation for meeting the \$1.1 million general fund deficit. Everyone will share the pain, and, although no one likes all of the recommended cuts, people feel they are fair and on track. Mayor Bernard took his share of responsibility for what has been taking place with the City Council and will work to redirect the group's efforts and bring about successful conclusions.

Councilor Marshall agreed with Mayor Bernard's concerns especially in regard to neighborhood services and all the work done over the past 5 years to bring the community together and bridge the communication gap between citizens and their government.

It was moved by Councilor Marshall and seconded by Councilor Barnes that this Council recognize communication and citizen participation as the most important service it provides.

Mayor Bernard called for discussion.

Councilor Lancaster asked Councilor Marshall to repeat his motion.

Councilor Marshall repeated his motion: this Council recognizes communication between government and citizens and encouraging participation in government with its citizens as the most important service it provides.

Councilor Stone did not disagree that communication is important but did not consider it the most important service. Communication is important, and the Council has done things that have won back citizens' trust. She did not think a motion was needed because all agree on its importance. She understood Council was meeting to figure out how the available money will be spent. Some

members have discussed cuts in the neighborhood services area, but that does not negate communication. Council needs to be realistic about what the City can and cannot afford. She did not think a motion was necessary.

Mayor Bernard said a motion was made and seconded, so a motion is on the table.

Councilor Lancaster believes there are 2 issues. He agrees totally with what was just said in respect to how the City communicates and gets citizens involved with their own government. Communication is a fundamental in the conduct of business; it is not a standalone service. To a degree, funding neighborhood services is separate. He understands Marshall is getting at funding neighborhood services, but while neighborhood services feeds communication and participation, it is separate. He agrees but with one exception. He sees communication as a way the City operates as an organization not as a standalone service.

Councilor Stone agreed with Lancaster's comments.

The motion passed 3 – 2 with the following vote: Mayor Bernard, Councilor Barnes, and Councilor Marshall aye; Councilor Lancaster and Councilor Stone nay.

Councilor Lancaster asked what that means exactly.

Mayor Bernard said basically the motion means *The Pilot* is very important and needs to continue and preserves neighborhood services as much as possible. Everyone knows adjustments will need to be made, but the Council believes communication is the most important service provided. The motion provides direction for the Budget Committee and the community.

Councilor Marshall understood this meeting was to set priorities for services the City offers its citizens and to give that information to the Budget Committee so it can do its job.

Councilor Lancaster asked if there was going to be a motion on each item, and **Councilor Marshall** responded if necessary.

It was moved by Councilor Barnes and seconded by Councilor Marshall that all services provided by the City are essential and core services and that the Council forward this information to the citizen members of the Budget Committee in consideration of the city manager's budget proposal.

Mayor Bernard asked if there was further discussion.

Councilor Stone said this meeting is a waste of her time. She feels 3 members of Council have been talking, and this is coercion. This has been set up, and she does not think it is ethical. Everyone agrees that neighborhood services is important and communication is critical, but she does not like backhanded politics. She feels that is what is going on and will not stand for it. She knows this comes directly from the Mayor, and 3 Council members have been collaborating. There are 5 people on Council and discussions need to come before the group. The motion process has been cleverly used to get things passed. She will not sit on a Council that does that; this is not representative of the community and what citizens want. She has not heard a definition of core essential services.

Councilor Barnes said she submitted her list of essential core services to the city manager.

Councilor Stone was not asked to submit a list because she was not at the Budget Committee meeting. People are pretty aware of what she considers core essential services.

Councilor Lancaster asked if this was the way the meeting was going to be run.

Councilor Stone did not want to be in the meeting if that is all that is going to be done.

Councilor Lancaster has no problem agreeing that fact that all of these services are important. They would not have been put in place if they were not. However, to pass a motion that says everything we currently provide is core and essential is pointless. The Council needs to decide what will be funded.

Mayor Bernard said the group is not suggesting funding but is identifying core essential services. Councils have worked many years to develop services they feel are essential to the community and urged continued funding.

Councilor Barnes has not changed her position since she campaigned for office. She asked the voters to believe in her, and they hired her to do this job. Everything she said she believed in is exactly what she is saying today.

Councilor Stone said during her campaign she said she would fight to the death to protect public safety – police and code enforcement. Webster's definition of essential is: "relating to or constituting essence; inherent; of the utmost importance; basic, indispensable, and necessary." When looking for places to make budget cuts, on one hand is neighborhood services which incorporates a variety of things including *The Pilot* and the neighborhood grant program. On the other hand she looks at police and code enforcement, for example. She asks herself what is basic and indispensable. Yes we do need communication, but maybe it can be done on a better budget. Will an issue of *The Pilot* respond if a

burglar is breaking into her house? What matters to the people of this community is safety and livability.

Mayor Bernard said Stone's definition is exactly how he feels, but he considers every service this City provides is essential.

Councilor Stone said all services are important but they are not all basic and indispensable. A police department is indispensable, but there could be less in the neighborhood services area, *The Pilot*, and neighborhood grant program. People must have public safety.

Councilor Marshall said no one talked about eliminating the police department.

Councilor Stone said there is discussion about not filling a couple of positions, which the department is authorized to fill. She is looking at essential services; not important services. Essential services are like oxygen, and citizens cannot live without them.

Mayor Bernard agrees with her totally, but opinions of essential services are different. Police is a budget consideration. What is being said is that all services should be considered as essential.

Councilor Stone said that does not give direction to the Budget Committee.

Councilor Marshall believes it does.

Mayor Bernard asked for any further discussion. There was none.

Motion passed 3 – 2 with the following vote: Mayor Bernard, Councilor Barnes, and Councilor Marshall aye; Councilor Lancaster and Councilor Stone nay.

Councilor Lancaster, because he supported the motion that brought the Council together, shared what he envisioned the group would do. The City cannot go bankrupt because it has a tax base. A certain amount of revenue is guaranteed unless the City dissolves. The issue for him is, based on that revenue, what services will the City fund. His intent in establishing the core and essential services is to set a prioritization. When dollars are the leanest, what will be funded? This would be a prioritized schedule of the singular most important services. The Council is here to make these tough decisions. For example, if fire service is critical, the City will always ensure it is provided. The service is either purchased or the City annexes to the Fire District. Either way, the citizens get critical fire services. Police is another one. From there, the Council builds out based on available funds. It becomes more problematic in terms of providing planning, community services, and code enforcement across the board at some acceptable level. It was his intent to determine the minimum acceptable level of

service provision. Otherwise why provide something halfway versus doing a good job at something based on available resources. He suggested looking at the easiest ones that are virtually funding self-sufficient. He thought it would be important to start with the general fund because that is the critical issue and move forward until every City service is covered.

Mayor Bernard suggested starting from the perspective of knowing something works at its current level and determining if it would continue to work at a reduced level. He supports the police department, but if it works at the level it is, then why consider bumping it up more? Maybe a goal could be set, but should the service not be at a level that works?

Councilor Lancaster asked for a definition of what works.

Mayor Bernard did not believe the Council has the data to make a decision. Where is crime taking place? It is his understanding that 70% of the crime in Milwaukie takes place in the high school.

Councilor Lancaster was concerned that Mayor Bernard could not substantiate his source for that information.

Councilor Barnes said just before the election she interviewed Chief Kanzler and the Ardenwald-Johnson Creek neighborhood leader; this is on tape. She asked him if crime were on an upswing in the area, and Kanzler responded crime was actually on a decline in the City of Milwaukie. He told her the biggest problem was that people do not maintain their yards. Based on what he told her, she did not get the same information she hears from others about increased crime. The only possible explanations could be that Kanzler did not have the right information for the interview or something has changed dramatically.

The group discussed identity theft and who is responsible for investigating.

Councilor Lancaster said the Council needs some credible crime statistics to decide what level of crime is acceptable in the City. No one has hard statistics at this time and believes the chief was charged with doing that. He felt the Council needs to decide the minimum level of acceptable crime, and although comparisons with other cities are useful, he does not really care.

Mayor Bernard added the Council might also consider the types of crimes. He totally agreed with Lancaster, but the Council needs to focus on neighborhoods, the downtown, and the schools -- wherever crime is actually taking place.

Councilor Marshall said the Council is meeting to set priorities, and the first has been set -- communication.

Councilor Stone did not agree.

Councilor Marshall said the motion was made whether Stone agrees or not. Communication is the first priority of this Council.

Councilor Lancaster suggested identifying what priority # 1 means to determine what it entails.

Councilor Marshall thought Council was here to set priorities, not discuss what crimes are acceptable.

Councilor Lancaster said his point is that minimum levels must be decided.

Mayor Bernard felt the Budget Committee should decide this.

Councilor Marshall was disturbed that Council is setting community priorities without input from the neighborhood associations.

Councilor Lancaster said, to a degree, Council has gotten all the needed input because it determined every service currently provided are the ones we have to have. That is what the neighborhoods told us they wanted.

Councilor Marshall said the neighborhoods have been asked many times in the past, but a leadership meeting is scheduled for next week.

Councilor Lancaster feels it is appropriate to ask the neighborhoods again. He commented he was a proponent of having all the appointed Budget Committee members submit their lists of core essential services as well as Council. The neighborhood chairs should do the same. In terms of services, what does communication entail? All he has heard so far is *The Pilot*, neighborhood grants, and code enforcement. He would like to get an idea of the programs involved, unless the intent is to scrap all the existing programs.

Councilor Barnes said communication is partially neighborhood services and includes *The Pilot*, neighborhood grants, public access studio, the website, and anything that brings the community together and enhances two-way understanding between citizens and their government.

Mayor Bernard said no one is suggesting service levels at this point. The planning department is also responsible for providing information. The list will probably not be complete at this time.

Councilor Marshall said the purpose is to make a statement that citizen communication and participation is the first priority, not to come up with a complete list of who provides that service.

Councilor Lancaster wanted to clarify that communication comes before police, fire, and everything else.

Councilor Marshall said if someone's house were on fire, how would the fire department find out.

Councilor Lancaster said his point is the number one priority is communication, so anything that falls under communication is funded first. He needs to know what this entails, and so far he has *The Pilot*, neighborhood services, the public access studio, the website, and legally required planning notices.

Councilor Barnes added the communication from citizens has an equally high priority and is tied to funding personnel who listen to resident concerns. The Council must make sure it hears what citizens want and share responses.

Councilor Lancaster did not disagree but wants to understand what that means in terms of personnel, programs, funding, etc.

Mayor Bernard pointed out that neighborhood associations also do mailings, so their funding needs should be taken into consideration. These mailing are part of the grant package and separate from *The Pilot*. He referred to a recent report on the grant program that indicated 22,000 volunteer hours, or about \$340,000, and \$128,000 in-kind contributions. The grants awarded over the life of the program amounted to \$178,000. This is an incredible leveraging of dollars.

Councilor Lancaster said the program is not on trial. The only issue is at what level it is funded and at what expense to other programs.

Mayor Bernard suggested asking the neighborhood leadership at what level they felt *The Pilot* should be funded. Could the size be reduced? Would people read it on the website? Would people pick it up instead of using direct mail?

Councilor Stone suggested looking at the cost of freelancing out *The Pilot* instead of having it done by an employee who gets PERS and medical and dental benefits.

Councilor Marshall said the Council is here to set priorities. This is not setting a priority.

Councilor Lancaster said he would have expected the city manager to have asked all his staff about doing things differently. He agrees with Marshall and wants to identify key priorities and not brainstorm on cutting things. Hopefully, all the ideas from Juli Howard will be pursued. What else would apply to communications?

Councilor Marshall did not think this was the time to make a definitive list.

Councilor Barnes said a public information officer to act as the official spokesperson needs to be included on the list.

Discussion of Priority #2

Councilor Lancaster believed, if using general titles, #2 should be public safety, although he thinks it should be #1. This includes police, fire, and to a degree code enforcement. He asked if code enforcement was part of communication.

Councilor Marshall said only as under the heading of neighborhood services.

The group agreed public safety is police, fire, and code enforcement.

Discussion of Priority #3

Councilor Barnes feels the library should be included.

Councilor Marshall said water and sewer would be next.

Councilor Stone thought the discussion was only about the general fund.

Mayor Bernard thought the group was discussing everything.

Councilor Lancaster said based on his earlier comments he hoped to focus as much as possible on general fund items because that is where the Budget Committee needs direction right now.

Councilor Stone questioned the #1 priority if things are going to be grouped in this manner.

Councilor Lancaster understands from the city attorney that only an election process is mandated. The rest can be done by other service agencies. For the purpose of prioritizing in general categories, he suggested public works as a general category.

Swanson said there are 2 public works functions: public works/health which is water and sewer and infrastructure which includes land use, transportation, and structural.

Councilor Marshall believes, in that case, there are 2 priority levels.

Councilor Stone suggested public works as priority # 3 with water and sewer as "A" and roads and land use as "B".

Councilor Lancaster suggested the general category be utility services.

Mayor Bernard thought the Council decided all of these services are important and now needs to determine a fair, honest and focused way to continue to provide them. The group knows sewer and water are dedicated funds and that roads and the library are under funded. He sees *The Pilot*, grant program, and planning as one big package.

Councilor Marshall agreed that the Council came to that determination according to the motion.

Swanson said Lancaster's earlier comment was correct. The City will not go bankrupt because it will continue to collect taxes. If the City gets to the point where tax revenues are only sufficient to support a very discreet number of services, he, as a public official having to decide between public safety and communications, would choose public safety if only 1 service could be funded. This, however, is not the situation facing the City. The dilemma would come if the Council has to make a policy decision about whether to submit a road measure or a law enforcement measure to the electorate. There is a limited amount of money with a limited number of services using that money. So far, some level can be funded. When he put his recommendation together, he did not do so in a vacuum. He talks to affected department heads before hand. For example, he would give Grady \$35,000 and tell him to get *The Pilot* to as many people as many times as possible. The classic dilemma will be what to put on the ballot. He knows what he wants to do in the general fund.

Councilor Lancaster said a motion was passed saying everything is important, so let's go home. Where will the cuts come from?

Mayor Bernard said reductions would come from the city manager and department heads deciding how to provide acceptable levels of service with less money.

Councilor Marshall had 2 comments. While he appreciates the city manager's position, he would argue communication with citizens is necessary. Second, the Council hired an experienced professional; so let him do his job. Evidently, the Council is here today because some people feel Council needs to prioritize things differently than the city manager.

Councilor Lancaster said that was certainly not his understanding of what Council expected to accomplish. It was clear this meeting was a waste of time. The decision was made that everything is a priority, and Council will follow the city manager's recommendations.

Mayor Bernard believes all services are equal. The city manager is a professional, and the community will provide input on service levels. There was a lot of public testimony at the Budget Committee meetings.

Councilor Lancaster said, for clarification, the direction to the Budget Committee is that the neighborhood grants program, *The Pilot*, and the public access studio will be funded before any other City service.

Mayor Bernard said the Council has been talking about communication as the #1 priority. No levels are being suggested only that the city manager makes a recommendation for providing that service at the least possible cost.

Councilor Lancaster said, based on that, the Council's policy statement is that whatever the city manager provides, as long as it keeps all of these services alive, is what the Council will go with.

Councilor Stone heard Councilors say just adopt what Swanson has recommended. Interestingly, Swanson met individually with each Council member before the last Budget Committee meeting and presented his proposal. He told her these were his ideas and certainly Council was to have input with other suggestions. He told her he would be worried or scared if Council went along with everything. She understood he did not expect Council just to bend over and agree. That would not follow Council's obligation to the community.

Mayor Bernard said Council and the community provide input, and Swanson makes adjustments. The reason for this work session is consider policies for the Budget Committee and neighborhood leadership

Councilor Marshall said to let Swanson do his job and propose a budget.

Councilor Stone understood Council was going to set its funding priorities, but it looks like everything is a priority.

Mayor Bernard feels everything is essential and core, but communication was set as a priority. Basically, the direction to the Budget Committee is to not get rid of any departments and that good communications is important.

Councilor Lancaster agreed with the communication piece because it is separate from community services. To pass a motion that says just keep doing everything we are doing shows a lack of Council leadership and tells the Budget Committee absolutely nothing. The shortfalls will continue.

Mayor Bernard said the direction was not business as usual. What was said is that all services are essential and communication is a priority.

Councilor Lancaster said the message he understands from this group is that the City will continue to fund every existing program because each is core and essential. The problem will be at what level, but Council decided it did not want to talk about that. He thought the general fund would be discussed because it is

the first one hit. The reason he pressed for this early meeting was to give definitive direction to the Budget Committee. In his opinion, the Budget Committee is not being told anything other than everything is important.

David Aschenbrenner, Budget Committee Chair, had several questions and comments. Swanson has not prepared the proposed budget for fiscal year 2003 – 2004. What he did prepare were budget adjustment recommendations. He understands from the motion that Council considers all services essential, which is how he has felt all along. He believes it is the Budget Committee's responsibility, not just Council's. It is up to the Committee to consider the budget officer's recommendation and make any necessary adjustments to ensure it is a balanced budget before approving it for Council adoption. He has a problem with the Budget Committee's not being involved with decisions on funding levels. Council cannot expect the Committee to rubber-stamp what it sends them. He understands departments will make their proposals, Swanson will put his proposed budget on the table, and the Committee will tear it apart. The Committee understands there are funding problems and that there is a \$1.2 million general fund shortfall. It is also understood some changes will have to be made, and the Committee is willing to take on that task. If the Council says communications is important and every department is important, that is fine. But the Committee would not be willing to rubber-stamp Council direction on funding levels. He expects data from all the departments, particularly from Chief Kanzler, status reports on last year's goals, and goals set for 2003 – 2004 if there is less money.

Joe Loomis said it seems the Council should set priorities for what services it feels are most important. He asked if Swanson had prepared a list of priorities. The issue is what citizens think is important, not what each Councilor thinks is most important. The tone set at the beginning of the meeting was not good, and the motion could have been made after there was more discussion. Most residents would say public safety is the highest priority, and Swanson reiterated that. The question is at what level it will be funded. People need to work together and keep in mind all those things that are important to the community. When the police department is 45% of the general fund budget, it needs to be looked at hard. The chief needs to be involved to determine if residents can be kept safe without the additional officers. Ideally, the goal of 1.5 officers per thousand is important, but everything needs to be considered.

Councilor Lancaster said Council needs to make a decision as the policy-making group. A resolution was passed in 1995 that adopted the community oriented policing plan. At the time it was adopted, 1.5 officers per thousand was the minimum number it took to make community policing work. The City has never attained that goal, and there has never been an explanation. The easy way out is to say the former administration never got us there. The City Council must decide if it will meet the obligations of that resolution or adopt a new resolution. From his perspective, there would be no more reason to pass

resolutions because they are meaningless. The adoption of that plan needs to be considered before making police department funding decisions.

Councilor Marshall wanted input to find how the ratio is determined.

Councilor Lancaster said the ratio was developed from what is actually needed to do crime solving. Officers need to go into the community and talk to residents to determine what causes crime it. This is why the staffing level is needed. The numbers are arguable because cities are getting different results. He does not intend to dictate service levels to the Budget Committee. From his perspective if a priority is, for example, police services, then there needs to be a clear understanding of the level it will be provided. There needs to be a policy that says below that something below that degrades to community to such a degree it is intolerable.

Councilor Marshall agreed this is the policy Council needs to set.

Mayor Bernard felt there should be some flexibility. The City must provide good service, but is 1.5 officers per thousand the correct level?

Councilor Marshall said that is what this community bought into.

Councilor Lancaster said this is what the Council said at that time it would do, and that ratio has never been accomplished.

Councilor Marshall has heard the police department has been at 1.7 officers at certain times. It depends on how the officers are counted. The policy this group needs to make is how to determine that 1.5 ratio.

Councilor Lancaster said the key verbiage the Council needs to focus on to establish a policy is "deployable resource". This means the officer can immediately respond to a call. The school resource officer is not deployable because he is 100% dedicated to the high school. The chief and captain are not deployable because they have other administrative duties. The issue is the City is currently at 24 – 25 deployable officers. Milwaukie is not at 1.5 deployable officers. His point is, as a matter of policy, either the 1995 resolution should be repealed or the City should live up to its own policy.

Mayor Bernard would argue the officers in the schools provide service to a specific portion of the population. In a big emergency, these officers as well as the detectives are deployable.

Councilor Stone used the analogy of the medical profession. All RNs can respond to a crisis or disaster but perhaps not perform at the same level of service and be as effective as those trained to do so. She believes that is why the distinction is made. An officer in the school is certainly doing different things

and is not on the street involved in the kind of crime that occurs on a day-to-day basis. They are not up to speed to respond.

Mayor Bernard understands the school resource officers are on the streets during the summer. These officers have come up through the ranks as have detectives.

Councilor Lancaster understands the detectives are investigating serious crimes.

It was moved by Councilor Stone and seconded by Councilor Lancaster to uphold the 1995 policy decision and uphold the standard of community policing to be 1.5 officers per thousand population.

Mayor Bernard called for further discussion.

Councilor Barnes felt she needed more information on who is an officer and who is not before making a decision. In her mind, the officer at Milwaukie High School is a real police officer.

Councilor Marshall and **Mayor Bernard** agreed more information was needed. This discussion needs to take place with the chief and city manager.

Councilor Stone thinks as city policy makers, the Council needs to consider what its standard will be. Why would standards have changed from 1995?

Mayor Bernard did not feel he could make this type of decision without knowing what is needed.

Councilor Lancaster proposed a friendly amendment: the minimum level for police services will be set once the minimum level of deployable resources required to effectively do community policing is established, based on the information Council get from the chief.

Councilor Stone accepted the amendment.

Councilor Barnes asked how this would be funded if the number of officers is higher.

Councilor Lancaster said that would be part of the budget prioritization for public safety. If the number of officers goes up or down, based on credible criteria used to define deployable resources, then an adjustment is made if warranted.

Mayor Bernard wants to spend more time on community policing to find out about changes since 1995. In general he agrees with Lancaster.

Councilor Marshall tended to agree with Lancaster. He made a friendly attachment to the motion, which is to continue to roll over neighborhood grant funds. This was a commitment Council made to the neighborhoods and is just as important and the 1.5 officer promise.

Councilor Lancaster is completely dedicated to the grant fund roll over commitment. It becomes another issue, however, if it is determined the program cannot be fully funded as it has in the past.

Mayor Bernard is concerned this tells the Budget Committee what funding levels should be and recommended letting the Committee and neighborhoods decide.

Councilor Marshall said the issue is the promise Council made. He would need to see a vote from the neighborhoods saying they do not want the roll over funding.

Aschenbrenner thought neighborhoods would probably be more willing to give back a certain amount of money rather than giving up the roll over.

Councilor Stone thought the "roll over" addition to the motion was inappropriate. The motion was about a 1995 Council policy decision regarding community policing.

Councilor Marshall argued the grant fund roll over was also a policy decision.

Councilor Lancaster would support a separate motion on the roll over.

Councilor Lancaster repeated his friendly amendment to the motion: once the Council determines the minimum level of deployable resources required to do community policing, then that is accepted as the minimum level of police services provided by the City. The ratio would be based on all available information to determine deployable resources. The Council will determine to criteria to assure the number is valid.

Stone seconded the friendly amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Councilor Marshall and seconded by Councilor Lancaster to honor the neighborhood grant roll over.

Councilor Stone did not agree with this unless the neighborhoods have a plan. The grant program is a great value to this community, but people need to be motivated to have a project. Taxpayer money should not be just left sitting.

Motion passed 4 – 0 – 1 with the following vote: Mayor Bernard, Councilor Barnes, Councilor Lancaster, and Councilor Marshall aye; no nays; Councilor Stone abstained.

Aschenbrenner asked what the timeframe was on determining the police officer ratio because Swanson needs it to develop the proposed budget.

Councilor Lancaster guessed all the relevant criteria could be put together quickly and done for use in this budget cycle. He does not intend to hold up the budget process.

Councilor Barnes urged better communications between Council members and urged that no member bring up something in a meeting without letting all members know beforehand.

Councilor Marshall believes a teambuilding retreat is critical. The group discussed the importance of bonding and keeping each other informed.

Councilor Stone agrees teambuilding is important. When she sat down at this meeting, it was apparent a “fast one” was being pulled by 3 members of the Council. At the last meeting, she did not feel it was appropriate for the nurses to address Council. The group discussed public meetings and allowing members of the public to address Council. She did not feel it was appropriate for Barnes to discuss her union affiliations in Council meetings.

Councilor Lancaster commented that things Council says can be interpreted and have unintended consequences, so it is judicious to consider what is being said in the public arena.

Councilor Lancaster asked how the priorities would be established. His it would be easier for the Budget Committee if it has a clear priority of the services the City should provide. If the smallest group of services is identified, then those will be the ones on which the City spends its money in the worst funding years.

Councilor Barnes understood from Swanson the City is not in the worse case scenario funding year.

Councilor Lancaster said in this immediate budget, the City has the ability to spread the pain and still provide everything. It can be reasonably predicted that things will get much worse, so the Council should establish its leadership and focus on critical services. This is what he hoped to do, and what was begun today should continue.


Councilor Barnes urged grant writing begin as soon as possible and working as a team with the School District.

The group determined the first thing to do is schedule a retreat after the new councilor is elected.

Councilor Lancaster said from his perspective the Budget Committee has as much direction as it is going to get. The important thing to do is focus on priorities and keep that moving until all priorities are discussed. He could wait until the new councilor is elected and a retreat is held.

Councilor Marshall hopes part of the direction to Swanson is that adequate time be given to the police chief's budget presentation to discuss the police officer ratio.

The work session ended at 2:50 p.m.



Pat DuVal, Recorder



**CITY OF MILWAUKIE
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA
FEBRUARY 23, 2003**

MILWAUKIE CITY HALL

Second Floor Conference Room
10722 SE Main Street

WORK SESSION – 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

TOPIC:

DISCUSSION OF CORE CITY SERVICES.

The Council may vote in work session on non-legislative issues.

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or turned off during the meeting.***