

PROPOSED SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

2011-2012

Overview of Proposed Supplemental Budget

These supplemental budget requests are intended to permit the governing body to consider needs articulated by staff and considered valid by the City Administrator. The basic budget document does not require an increase in the millage rate. It is possible, after considering revisions to the roll back rate and final net digest numbers provided by Henry County in July, that some upward modification of the rate is possible. The amount of this increase, if any, would be determined by the selection of any of the proposed proposals offered in this supplemental document. Note that because of digest declines for the past two years, it is possible that the majority of taxpayers would pay taxes at the rate equivalent to that paid in 2009. Until final decisions are made relative to this proposal, the net digest following appeals, and the roll back millage rate, the actual rate cannot be predicted until after the adoption of the budget and would be discussed prior to establishing the rate for this year.

To generally offer impact data on the homeowner using \$100,000 assessed value as the basis, each property owner in the City would pay \$40 more in increased taxes, or \$3.33/month. In exchange, the following general service additions would be provided (1) 4 additional police officers (6 requested by the Chief); (2) Incident Command capability for the Fire Service requiring 3 additional Battalion level personnel and is a principal factor foregoing the need for consolidation with the County Fire Service; (3) 2 additional Public Works laborers and 2 additional season temporary employees to enhance the City's ability to engage in all associated Public Works activities; (4) 2 additional temporary employees and related equipment to maintain the length of Jonesboro Road from the railroad tracks to the approximate vicinity of I-75 in partnership and exchange for highway and street services with Henry County forces. This project is associated with a \$500,000 grant from GDOT to landscape the corridor; and, (5) the addition of a Manager of Downtown Development Activity. This position would have responsibility to strengthen, coordinate and re-organize the various components associated with the CBD and the entire community. Impacted entities would possibly include the Downtown development Authority, the Tourism Authority and the Main Street Program. An explanation of each request and proposed funding is as follows-note, however, that the cost projected is for a 12 month period and the hiring process likely will serve to reduce these costs from a 12 month projection in some cases to a 9 month projection (such as Police and Fire positions especially).

POLICE PERSONNEL: Chief Dorsey has requested 5 additional uniformed patrol officers and 1 crime scene technician. The 5 uniformed officers would be assigned to the shifts. If fully funded 2 would be specifically assigned to speed enforcement and traffic accident investigation thereby freeing officers to respond in a timelier basis to other police related activity. Currently the complexity of accident as well as the increase in reported speeding incidents, especially in residential neighborhoods, strains the Department's ability to effectively engage its limited resources. Moreover, while numbers of criminal activity have not significantly increased, the type and complexity of criminal behavior has. Again the enforcement, investigation and prosecution of these kinds of crimes strain the Department's effectiveness currently. In addition, the City does use the CSI resources available through the County and the GBI. Unfortunately, their resources are equally constrained and except for major crimes, suspicious

deaths, etc., a CSI tech engaged by the City could more effectively assist us in focusing on crimes such as burglaries, entering autos, rapes, etc. Administrator's comments: The cost of these 6 positions, including salary, benefits and uniforms (ineligible for retirement year 1 of employment) is \$349,939, or slightly more than ½ of a mill. While the addition of these officers is warranted, present economic circumstances combined with other priority needs suggest that 4 officers be supported this year with the possible addition of two next year. If economic circumstances continue in a favorable direction, or if other factors intervene perhaps the additional two officers can be considered prior to June 30, 2012. SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATION: \$233,293 (12 MONTHS-CAN POSSIBLY BE ADJUSTED TO A PROJECTED HIRING DATE OF SEPTEMBER GIVEN THE PROCESS-SUCH A MOVE WOULD LOWER THIS COST TO \$174,970 BUT WOULD IMPOSE FUTURE COST)

FIRE PERSONNEL: One of the major deficiencies we experience and arguments for consolidation is that the County provides all incident command on fire scenes for the City. It should, however, be noted that Chief Morgan indicated that last year we actually only engaged incident command 4 times. Nonetheless, fire and emergency services operations are such that even 1 failed incident command situation can have dire consequences for both the impacted victim and the fire personnel on scene. While this comment will likely warrant further conversation, it does not appear to be in the best interests of the City to consolidate. The staff has concerns about the potential impact on our ISO rating and it appears that we are very close to an upgraded rating, there appears to be no match of salary and possibly benefits between City and County fire personnel, our response times are excellent, we, in fact, deployed our personnel outside the City 46% of the time to County situations, and there are other factors that seemingly do not warrant consolidation as a viable option at this time. However, the County has tentatively indicated that automatic aide will no longer be provided in the future without contemplation of some type of charge or fee. If that is the final outcome of discussions, the City's interests can be adequately protected by supplying the necessary personnel properly trained and experienced in incident command. We believe such personnel are available for employment during the budget year.

ADMINISTRATOR'S RECOMMENDATION: Engage 3 (shift relief comes into play here) qualified incident commanders at a cost of \$212,287 (Again this is a 12 month cost-if 9 months-\$159,215)

PUBLIC WORKS: As you know we currently have 9 personnel engaged in responding to all related public works task that do not involve water and sewer-even then our public works staff is sometimes involved. Mowing, storm water issues, road repairs, sidewalk repairs and many other activities engage our personnel and they are understaffed to adequately do the job. The number of employees in this Department at one time was at least 12 and our staff has done a commendable job with very limited resources. Some relief was provided last year with the addition of 4 seasonal temporary employees but the work load continues to expand with aging facilities and general maintenance responsibilities throughout the City. We propose to add two additional full time laborers to the staff, making the total 11, which is 1 less than was previously provided. We also propose to employ two additional temporary employees. The cost of the two additional employees is \$73,895 and the 2 additional temps is \$44,000. ADMINISTRATOR'S RECOMMENDATION: Add the personnel as stated for a total 12 month cost of \$117,895

PUBLIC WORKS-COOPERATIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH HENRY COUNTY: Several years ago the City and County received a \$500,000 grant from GDOT for the purpose of landscaping the Jonesboro Road corridor grassed medians basically from I-75 to the Railroad Crossing in the City and to add some of the major intersections along the corridor. After significant delays and conversation, GDOT continues to wish this project completed but requires an intergovernmental agreement between the City and the County. Both parties believe it is more effective for one party or the other to maintain the entire length of the corridor rather than each party maintaining its individual sections. It should be noted that the City has little landscaping inside the corporate limits-perhaps one grassed median island and a couple of intersections. We have a tentative proposal submitted to the County which would require the City to maintain the corridor in exchange for an equivalent indirect allocation of highway and street equipment and manpower by the County to assist the City with its resurfacing and other related street repair needs. This budget proposal assumes that we can reach agreement with the County in which case our cost would be 2 additional temporary employees @ \$44,000 total, 1 zero turn mower @ \$8,500, 1 landscaping trailer @ \$1,600, and small equipment @ \$2,000. We would also incur indirect expenses involving street sweeping of the corridor and watering the landscaping regularly especially year one of installation. **ADMINISTRATOR'S RECOMMENDATION:** If we can come to agreement \$56,200 for related direct expenses. Please keep in mind that the landscaping has not yet been installed and these are 12 month costs which, if delayed further, would reduce the \$44,000 allocated for the temporary employees.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY: For some months now we have been engaged in discussions about how to better direct the City's limited resources to promote downtown revitalization, activities targeted to the Main Street, the Downtown Development Authority and Central Business Districts and Tourism roles and responsibilities. Some of the City's future direction will likely be associated with the outcomes of the impending visioning sessions but consistent themes seems to be that we need greater coordination, focus and directed resources to stimulate economic development activities in the City. Staff has had communication with an individual who is recognized as an expert on these topics within the State and even the Southeast in downtown development/redevelopment and tourism. This individual would provide instant credibility and has the knowledge and expertise to guide the City in better utilization and outcomes associated with its current level of activity. An additional meeting is scheduled with this individual the week of June 13th to discuss possible employment relationships. Three options have been considered and as of this point in time, the option would include a two year consulting contract with details that would be discussed. The individual would essentially be a full time, equivalent to 40 hour per week employee with some unique provisions. **ADMINISTRATOR'S RECOMMENDATION:** Given the apparent need for implementation of a strategy to generate new enthusiasm and economic vitality with the City it is recommended that negotiations with this individual continue and that the position be funded at a total cost of \$86,000 with appurtenant operational costs to be absorbed within the existing proposed General Fund budget. Note that potential reorganization could result in a redirection of cost centers that already exist with General Fund and Hotel-Motel Tax Funds.

Financial Impact Summary:

If all positions are funded for the 12 month period: \$705,675

Since at the current estimated net digest and collection rate of 93% 1 mill yields \$624,861,472 it is likely that some, if not all positions, may have to be phased in. I would recommend consideration of a 1 mill increase to fund all of these associated activities for the benefit of the community. As stated previously a 1 mill increase would impact each \$100,000 of property value by \$40/year or \$3.33 per month. I would also note that with the possible improvement of the City's ISO ratings, in many cases property owners could experience a decline in their insurance premiums.