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City Employees Fare Well in Trimmed Budget

Mayor Ashe gave his annual budget address at a luncheon on April 12 at Northwest Park. Comparing the current financial situation to a traffic light, the mayor referred to the economy as a green light switching to yellow. The upcoming budget reflects the impact of a slowing economy with more than a \$3 million reduction. However, there is still a 3.4 percent increase in city employee salaries, no increase to employees for family health care and no increase in property tax rate.

"We are (also) able to find room in this budget to continue towards my administration's goal of improving and enhancing the quality of life in neighborhoods all across our city," said the mayor. He made reference to improved parks and greenways, road paving and traffic

upgrades as well as youth-related police program enhancements. He announced that Codes Enforcement will become part of the Service Department and the Development Department's work on improvements to the building codes, adding a rehabilitation specialist and creating a tax incentive program to spur residential development.

"And for those who said it couldn't be done, I am pleased to report that the new Knoxville Convention Center will be completed on time and under budget," said the mayor.

The mayor also highlighted ongoing projects that are spurring local economy, such as the Eagle Distributing Company's redevelopment of the former Coster Railroad Repair Yard and The Knoxville News-Sentinel expansion.



Long-time community activist Raleigh Wynn (shown here with Ruth Benn and Mayor Ashe at the April 12 budget luncheon) was voted by council members to fill the Council District 6 Seat after the death of Councilman Danny Mayfield from cancer. Wynn was a two-time All-American in football at Tennessee State University. He has been a teacher and coach at high schools and colleges in Tennessee and Mississippi, including a 10-year stint at East High School and Austin-East High School. He has also served on the city Civil Service Board.

In honor of the late Councilman Mayfield, Mayor Ashe announced that the park in the on-going renovated area in the heart of Mechanicsville will be named after him.



A Message from Mayor Ashe

At the May 1 meeting, City Council approved the Operating Budget for the fiscal year, which starts on July 1.

The city faced a tight budget situation. The same cloud of economic uncertainty that hangs above the state capital in Nashville also causes problems in Knoxville.

Some of the areas of concern include declining sales tax collections and business tax collections. Another concern is the uncertainty on how the state will handle its financial problems. Will state-shared taxes be eliminated or reduced?

For example, the city would have to come up with the equivalent of 19 cents on the property tax rate if the \$4.8 million from the state's Hall Income Tax was not shared with Knoxville.

However, through the hard work of Finance Director Randy Vineyard, Deputy Director Jim York and OMB staff members Cheryl Davis, Jack Dixon, John Harold and Sherrie Bates, a budget was prepared that improves neighborhood conditions and invests in city employees with a property tax increase.

As detailed on page one, this budget is actually less than last year's budget by about \$3 million. The budget calls for paving 40 miles of streets, drainage improvements, the development of two major parks at Caswell and at the new Northwest Park and continues work on the construction of the new convention center.

While this is a lean budget, the budget proposal continues to improve benefits for the city's workforce. The proposed budget calls for a 3.4 percent across the board pay increase for all city employees.

The Finance Department and Risk Management are anticipating as much as a 12 percent increase in health care costs. However, the city will pay for any increase in the

Mayor's Message, continued on page 4

News About People

New Hires

Michael A. Johnson, Public Service Worker I
Glenda J. Keck, Registered Nurse
Timothy T. Luttrell, Automotive Service Worker
Sherman L. Manis, Public Service Worker I
Rick L. Morrison, Public Service Worker I
Johnnie Mae Ratliff, Systems Analyst
Jason Slagle, Public Service Worker I

Police Officer Recruits

Jeffrey Arthur Anderson
Anthony Miller Barnes
Timothy Gayle Belcher
Andrew William Boatman
Darren Kurt Brock
Ralph Richard Dyer
Robert Lynn Ellison
Michael Todd Foster
Donny Gary Huskey
Michael Patrick MacDonald
Shawn Timothy Neal
Roger McKennely Rimmer
Daniel Len Roberts
Lawrence Delmer Severy, Jr.
Adam Chelsea Willson
Joyeux Noel Womac

Service Awards

10 Years

Henry Madison Brown, Public Service
Malinda Curtis Claiborne, Police
Cynthia Gayle Davis, Police
Sean J. Hejna, Police
Edward T. Johnson, Police
Thomas M. Lawson, Jr., Police

Karen Ann Long, Finance
Myron L. Massey, Police
Steven L. Owens, Police
Franklin L. Ramsey, Police
Vicki Lynn Rickman, Police
Scott E. Sheppard, Police
Stephen F. Sise, Police
Theresa A. Tarantino, Police
Janice L. Torres, Police
Sherri L. Uzzle, Police
Brian K. Wallace, Police

20 years

Sue R. Noe, Finance
Victoria V. Dalton, Fire

25 years

Charles R. Kitts, Fire

35 years

Carl E. Cummings, Jr., Police

Promotions

Quentin Houston Ashford, Public Assembly Trades Craftworker
Karen L. Massey, Convention/Exhibition Center General Manager
Roy Glen Nix, Equipment Operator I
Police Officer Recruits

Jason Lawrence Best
Larry J. Jones
Jeremy Smith Maupin

Senior Firefighters

Lucas Steven Barnes
Kevin Carroll Bost
David Bryan Branch
Brian Edward Buchanan
Anthony W. Buckner
Tommy Stuart Chaffin
Monica Ann Eslinger
David Brickey Frazier
Albert T. Gibson, Jr.
Thomas Christian Glenn
Tiffany Nicole Haun
Christopher George Karnes
Robert Lee Key, Jr.
Joshua Adam Lane
Casey Todd Mink
Jeff A. Nichols
Dale Allen Patterson
Matthew E. Perkinson
Gregory Lynn Phillips
Todd Preston Shaver
Edward Cyril Stokey
Donald William Tipton, Jr.
John Mark Wilbanks
Timothy W. Williams
James M. Womble, Jr.

Retired

Warren Buster, Public Service Worker I
Lillard E. Ailor, Jr.; Sergeant
James E. Flanagan, Master Firefighter
Noel P. Kirby, Master Firefighter
William T. Pultz, Master Firefighter
John F. Blazer, Senior Firefighter
Edward L. Rains, Jr.; Senior Firefighter
Sandra B. Curry, Collections Officer Senior
Shirley Bryant, Development Office Asst. II
Mary Ann Stiles, Collections Officer Senior
David M. Hammond, Fire Officer

In Memoriam

Arthur R. Wright, Fire

James Parnell, son of Engineering Director Sam Parnell, reflects upon life in this poem he composed for an English assignment at Karns High School:

A Life Cycle

We come into this world
Holding nothing in our arms.
Able to do nothing, fully dependent on others.
Sitting and Smiling, Rolling and Laughing.
Laying and Sleeping, Watching and Waiting.
Extending in growth day by day,
Transforming into human beings.
Our life is new, exploration is key.

Our growth overwhelms those around us.
Mommy and Daddy keep us safe,
Provide for us, teach us, and play with us.
Running and Falling, Hurting and Crying.
Meeting and Befriending, Watching and Learning.
Moving about our surroundings our curiosity abounds.
To us, touching yields knowledge
And that knowledge is abundant.

It's said "time flies when you're having fun,"
Maybe not always happy but learning from all experiences.
Dating and Kissing, Driving and Wrecking.
Rebelling and Returning, Caring and Loving.
This life is not easy by any means
But you must become independent
And sometimes that growing up is hard to do.

Graduations are over, college is done.
Use what you know to do what you enjoy.
The independence is there but it seems often unfair.
Moving and Beginning, Marrying and Loving.
Working and . . . Working, Stressing and Relaxing.
Your life has become the great balancing act.

Working all your life, it's time to relax.
Retirement is the best part of life.
No worries, no work, unlimited time.
Gardening and Golfing, Traveling and Viewing.
Loving and Resting, Visiting and Sitting.
Your children care for you
As you once cared for them,
And when you leave this world at last, you again hold nothing in your arms.

Parks and Recreation was represented well in this year's Mardi Gras parade. With the "Psychedelic Shuttle" in the background, Cindy Greene, Darrow Davenport and Mike Bensey (left to right) do their best "Austin Powers" character impersonations as children from Christenberry Community Center and Austin Homes Recreation Center dance along.



Enjoy Doris Sharp's Chili

Vice Mayor Jack Sharp has long been active in the Knoxville community, including a quarter of a century on City Council. It comes as no surprise, then, that wife Doris has mastered the art of serving up delicious food to large groups, whether it be for church suppers or neighborhood meetings. One of her crowd pleasers is her chili. Here's the recipe:

Mrs. Sharp's Hearty Chili

1 to 1½ pounds ground chuck (do not use ground round)
1 large onion, sliced (not chopped)
1 medium green pepper, chopped
2 15-ounce cans of dark red kidney beans, drained
1 1-pound can of whole tomatoes, chopped
1 8-ounce can tomato sauce
2 cups water
1 bay leaf
2 tablespoons chili powder
A dash of cayenne pepper
Salt & Pepper To Taste

Brown beef, onion and pepper. Drain excess fat.
Add all other ingredients.
Simmer 1-1½ hours.
Remove bay leaf.
Serves six. Can be doubled.

"The best thing about the future is that it only comes one day at a time."

-Abraham Lincoln

Take KAT to the Ball Game



The Knoxville Area Transit (KAT) and the Tennessee Smokies are providing service from Knoxville to all Sunday home base-

ball games. The shuttle departs from the Knoxville Police Department's Safety Building Parking Lot (by the Civic Coliseum) and runs directly to the stadium. There is no charge for parking.

The round-trip shuttle price is \$1.00 for adults, with children under 5 riding free. The Tennessee Smokies are also offering admission ticket discounts to all KAT shuttle pas-

sengers.

Times: Buses depart the KPD parking lot at 4:15 p.m. for the 5:00 p.m. game time. Buses depart the stadium to return to Knoxville at the top of the 7th inning and 10 minutes after the last out of the game.

For more information and to get the Sunday home game schedule, visit KAT's website at www.katbus.com, or call 637-3000.

Also look for information around town at KAT's schedule racks. It's a great way to get to the Sunday baseball games!



Welcome to Kevin DuBose, new Assistant Development Director (shown with Acting Director Leslie Henderson). DuBose received his degree in business marketing from Knoxville College and has been involved in planning throughout the southeast, including the Knoxville/Knox County MPC. "We are happy to have Kevin join us and are already putting his expertise in downtown, neighborhood and brownfield issues to good use," said Henderson.

Mayor's Message, continued from page 2

premiums for family health care insurance. This budget will absorb any increase in family health coverage costs. This means health care costs will not eat away at the paychecks of employees with family coverage.

The city will continue to provide funding for the deferred compensation program of up to \$260 per year for all employees in the

program.

These pay and benefit enhancements represent a significant investment in the city's employees. I hope that City Council will support the proposed budget. I intend to continue to work with the Employee Benefits Committee in the future on other ways to enhance employee benefits.

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