

City Council Chamber, City Hall, Tuesday, May 2, 2000

A Regular Meeting of the Houston City Council was held at 1:30 p. m. Tuesday, May 2, 2000, with Mayor Lee P. Brown presiding and with Council Members Bruce Tatro, Carol M. Galloway, Rob Todd, Mark A. Ellis, Bert Keller, John E. Castillo, Annise D. Parker, Gordon Quan and Chris Bell; Mr. Paul Bibler, Senior Counsel, City Attorney's Office, Mr. Jesse Cantu, Director, Citizens Assistance Office; Ms. Martha Stein, Agenda Director and Ms. Linda Layton, Agenda Office present. Council Members Mark Goldberg, Jew Don Boney, Jr. and Orlando Sanchez out of city on city business. Council Member Gabriel Vasquez absent on city business. Council Member Carroll G. Robinson absent.

At 2:02 p.m. Mayor Brown stated that the first presentation would be by Council Member Bell.

Council Member Bell stated that they were celebrating Arson Awareness Week and invited J. R. Flanagan of the Houston Fire Department to the podium to receive a proclamation which proclaimed that Lee P. Brown, Mayor of the City of Houston proclaimed the week of May 1 through 7, 2000 as Arson Awareness Week. Council Members Galloway, Todd, Ellis, Keller and Parker absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Quan stated that May was Asian American Heritage month and they celebrated it in a big way in the City of Houston and knew that Mayor Brown planned to be at the opening kickoff next Sunday at the Chase Bank Building and introduced the President of the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month celebration, Ms. Annie Mack, Barbara Joe-Gallo, Executive Director and Ms. Mariam Issa, a very active board member and invited Ms. Mack to the podium. Galloway, Todd, Ellis, Keller and Parker absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Ms. Mack stated that she was very happy to be present and invited everyone to attend the events that they planned for the month of May, that as Council Member Quan had said May was the Asian Heritage Month, and on Sunday, May 7, 2000 they would have a kickoff ceremony at the Chase Bank downtown lobby from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. to kickoff the whole event, that this year they would spotlight Korea, that they would also have their parade and festival on Saturday, May 13, 2000, that on May 23, 2000 was their Pan Asian Gala at the Wortham Theater and welcomed everybody to join them; that they had passed out an invitation and a little paper fan to every Council Member, that they had a little art contest for the students of Houston Independent School District from 14 years to 25 years old and would announce the winners at the kickoff on Sunday. Council Members Galloway, Todd, Keller and Parker absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Quan stated they would also have a delegation from Malaysia, and the gala would be recognizing the works of former Council Member Martha Wong as well as the participation by Shell Oil Company. Council Members Galloway, Todd, Keller and Parker absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Castillo presented an appointment of Honorary Houston Citizenship from Lee P. Brown, Mayor of the City of Houston to Mr. Khalid Khannouchi and selected him to serve as Goodwill Ambassador of the City with full power and authority to inform others of the genuine hospitality and friendly atmosphere that

prevailed in Houston and of the many great advantages and unlimited opportunities that the City had to offer. Council Members Galloway, Todd and Keller absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Mr. Khalid Khannouchi stated that it was a great honor and was so happy to be in Houston where he hoped go get his citizenship, and he honored his lawyer, Mr. Harry Gee and his crew for their help and their professional effort, and he thanked the Houston 2012 Olympic Committee for their support in making his stay in Houston more joyful and pleasant, that he would return to his home and try to take care of business and get focused to hopefully bring the gold medal back to the states. Council Members Galloway and Keller absent.

Mayor Brown congratulated Mr. Khannouchi for being an Honorary Citizen of Houston and for being the fastest marathon runner in the world and he knew that he would give the United States a gold medal. Council Members Galloway and Keller absent.

Council Member Castillo stated they also had a presentation honoring Mr. Harry Gee, attorney for Mr. Khannouchi, for his compassion and hard work were instrumental in helping Mr. Khannouchi, a young marathon runner who wanted very much to be a United States citizen have an opportunity of competing to become a member of the U.S. Olympic Team, and today the City of Houston recognized the efforts of Attorney Harry Gee and commended him for his support of the Olympic Movement and the Houston 2012 Foundations bid for the Olympic Games, and Council Member Quan stated that Harry Gee had been an inspiration to many young lawyers in the city and joined in the celebration as they recognized Mr. Gee's efforts. Council Members Galloway and Keller absent.

Mr. Harry Gee stated he was pleasantly surprised with the presentation, that they worked with Sister Cities of Houston and a number of various City organizations and the Mayor had graciously appointed him to the Houston Olympic 2012 Bid Committee and that was just his contribution in working for the community and hoped that Mr. Khannouchi being their honorary Houstonian would carry the flag and knew that his heart was in it and would be making all the efforts in terms of doing well for the community. Council Member Quan stated that this was only one of many cases where Mr. Gee had shown leadership and provided help to people in need and set an example for all the members of the Legal Profession especially as they began honoring Asian Heritage Month in May and thought he was sterling example of how the diversity had really aided the City. Council Members Galloway and Keller absent.

At 2:14 p.m. Mayor Brown called to order the meeting of the City Council and Council Member Parker led everyone in the prayer and pledge of allegiance. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of town on city business. Council Member Vasquez absent on city business. Council Member Robinson absent. Council Members Galloway and Keller absent.

At 2:15 p.m. Mayor Brown requested the City Secretary to call the roll. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of town on city business. Council Member Vasquez absent on city business. Council Member Robinson absent. Council Members Galloway and Keller absent.

Council Members Tatro and Quan moved that the minutes of the preceding meeting be adopted. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of town on city business. Council Member Vasquez absent on city business. Council Member Robinson absent. Council Members Galloway and Keller absent.

At 2:17 p.m. Mayor Brown requested the City Secretary to call the list of speakers.

Ms. Laura Bodenheimer, 811 Rusk, Ste. 1730, Houston, Texas 77002 (713-227-2001) had reserved time to speak, but was not present when her name was called. Council Members Galloway and Keller absent.

Council Member Castillo moved to suspend the rules to allow Mr. Bud Franks to speak in place of Ms. Laura Bodenheimer, seconded by Council Member Bell. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of city on city business. Council Member Vasquez absent on city business. Council Member Robinson absent. Council Members Galloway and Keller absent. MOTION 2000-0580 ADOPTED.

Mr. Bud Franks, Hobby Center, appeared and stated that they had a special event across the street at the construction site for the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts on Thursday and understood that Mayor Brown would be there, that they had art paintings on the construction fence and would have 1,000 children from five elementary schools participating, that they had one art installation and this would be the second of three art installations, that there would be 1,000 children at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday morning to see their art panels put on the construction fence, that it was very important to the children and was a way in which they worked with the Texas Institute for Arts in Education to bring some additional art activity and experience to the children in the classroom who otherwise would not get in and he invited all the Council Members to go and see how excited the children would get with the opportunity to have their art displayed. Council Members Galloway and Keller absent.

Mayor Brown stated they enjoyed seeing the process of the Hobby Center and that the pictures helped a lot in highlighting the children. Council Members Galloway and Keller absent.

Mr. R. J. (Bobby) Taylor, 3107 Sumpter, Houston, Texas 77028 FA20234511 had reserved time to speak, but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Galloway and Keller absent.

Mr. Stan Stewman, 515 Richmond Ave., Houston, Texas 77006 (713-528-2555) appeared and thanked them for letting him blow off steam and for the bright lights, he drove in Houston for 28 years but for the last 2 years he had low vision and had ridden the rail for sometime, that he had some suggestions and having lived in Europe he saw no reason that they could not be implemented, that uniformed Metro Policemen should ride at random on buses, that the rowdies on the buses were one problem, that bus schedules in Europe were posted at the bus stops, that one time one of his friends looked at his Swiss watch and said the bus would be there in 2 minutes and in 2 minutes the bus was there, that they should try to ride a Houston bus at random and see how accurate that was, that also the thing that especially concerned him was that he slowed the bus system down because he could not see the numbers on the buses, that there were things

that announced the buses that were coming and he suggested that instead of trying to keep them safe at the bus stops that people be allowed to buy something that would announce which bus was coming and which streets were being passed, that some of the beginning bus drivers announced the streets they were going past but most did not, that because he had low vision he had to walk, take a cab or do something, and how did they get around, they walked on Houston sidewalks and the cuts that were being put in on the sidewalks were put in it seemed totally at random and in different patterns, that he had stubbed his toes countless times and he did want wheelchair people to be able to get up the curb, but if they could not tell where the cut was going to be or what direction it was going in or what edge it was going to have on it, it was a big problem. Council Member Keller absent.

Mayor Brown thanked Mr. Stewman for being present and on his last issue he would have the Public Works Department look at that and see what corrective action needed to be taken, that on the Metro issues he made sure that those very good suggestions get over to the President of Metro for their consideration. Council Member Keller absent.

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

Mr. Tom Bazan, P.O. Box 2786, Houston, Texas 77252 (446-4477) appeared and stated he was present to ask the Mayor and Council to seriously consider the implementation of a lead base paint ordinance, that too many children had been lead poisoned and a lead ordinance could be fashioned to make sure that families were protected from inadvertent exposure, that on Monday the Houston Chronicle ran an Associated Press story out of Galveston where 25% of the children tested were lead poisoned, that the City Health Department kept a lid on the number of poisoned kids in Houston and just how many of those lived in HUD funded homes where many of the homes were improperly certified lead free or lead safe, that seven months ago he was present before Council to ask that the City enforce a contract provision that required proper lead base paint testing and to date the City had taken no action to enforce the HUD funding contract or warned families that they may in fact have lead poison hazards, that the Mayor asked for a second OIG investigation and the City refused to release the reports and he asked the Mayor to release the reports since the OIG had exonerated all City officials. Council Member Keller absent.

Mayor Brown asked Mr. Bibler to give an explanation of the law on the issue that Mr. Bazan brought to their attention, and Mr. Bibler stated that as he understood the law there were three categories of open records, those that they could not release, those that they had to release and those that were optional if they released or not and the issue was in the last category that was optional, that Chief Oettmeier believed that it would not serve the City's best interest to release that document. Council Member Keller absent.

Council Member Bell asked Mr. Bazan if he had a service that actually engaged in testing and Mr. Bazan answered that he did have a dog in the hunt, and Council Member Bell stated that should be clear and asked where were the other people, that there were other people who were involved in the issue and had spoken out on the issue and asked why they never heard from any of them, and Mr. Bazan asked if he was talking about the number of certified lead inspectors, and Council Member Bell said no, not

necessarily inspectors, but people who had been affected, or folks who had children affected by lead poisoning, and Mr. Bazan stated he had a conversation with a lady who was a church secretary for a Hispanic Pentecostal Church who had a conversation with a mother of a 2 year old poisoned child and they were going to speak out but at the last minute the mother broke down crying and said she did not want to be identified for fear that the bank would come take her home, that many of the families did come from countries or had backgrounds where they did not want to call attention to themselves and frankly he thought that everyone recognized that only in America they could have the government give them most of their down payment and help them buy a house and in many other countries they could not do that, and Council Member Bell stated he would try to find a name for Mr. Bazan too because he thought there would be more credibility to the effort and did not necessarily disagree with what he was trying to do, but some folks would look at it and say that Mr. Bazan would make a lot of money if there was an ordinance requiring a greater number of inspections and think that it was somewhat self serving and he did not fault him for doing it because a lot of people were on self serving missions, but thought they should be hearing from some of the folks affected and knew of at least one individual who was actively seeking some ordinances just a few years ago in that area because her family had been negatively affected by lead base paint and one of the problems was that people wanted to believe that it was just a problem associated with low income neighborhoods and as they knew it was not really true, it was anywhere older homes existed, and Mr. Bazan stated also the number of children did not increase because when they turned 7 years of age they dropped off the list and the list was not growing to an alarming proportion or they did not know because the Health Department would not release the numbers, and Council Member Bell stated he would be happy to talk to him about it. Council Member Keller absent.

Ms. Stephana Oetinger, 3762 Tanglewilde, No. 8, Houston, Texas 77063 (713-904-8194) had reserved time to speak, but was not present when her name was called. Council Member Keller absent.

Ms. Pat Garlinghouse, 2708 Frostwood Circle, Dickinson, Texas 77539 (713-524-7700 Ext. 13) appeared and stated that she was the Executive Director of Houston Media Source and as such she would love to talk to them for the next half hour about all the wonderful things they were doing, but she had invited a special guest from Grand Rapids Michigan to speak to them on behalf of Access Around the World and would give the rest of her time to Mr. Derk Koenig, and introduced Mr. Koenig who was the Executive Director of the Community Media Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan and that was the first center who was able to successfully integrate television, radio and the Internet, and was the founder and president of the Alliance for Communications Democracy that preserved democracy in cyberspace and had also developed dozens of media centers in other parts of the world, and had also passed out handouts and coins to Council that Mr. Koenig had minted and would explain the process. Council Member Keller absent.

Council Member Tatro moved to suspend the rules to hear Mr. Derk Koenig out of order, seconded by Council Member Quan. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of city on city business. Council Member Vasquez absent on city business. Council Member Robinson absent. Council Member Keller absent. MOTION 2000-0581 ADOPTED.

Mr. Derk Koenig, 5810 W. 43rd., Houston, Texas 77092 (713-681-4842) appeared and stated that it was his privilege to be in Houston, that it was his second visit, that the media center in Grand Rapids was similar to Houston Media Center and as they could see on the coins it said that information was the currency of democracy, that actually was a belief that they had at the media center and at Houston Media Source as well, that he had the luxury of working with governments in South Africa, the Mandela Government, Korea and Brazil where citizens were trying to use technology to share information throughout their communities in economic, social, educational, political and religious issues, that it was not just television anymore and what was happening with those community media centers around the Country and world, there was truly an international movement that citizens along with the help of governments and other entities were finding out how to take television, radio and the Internet and instead of just using it as a capital gain source, which they saw big battles of major titans like ABC and Time Warner and others out there, that these were citizens using media to build community and empower each other, that in South Africa they built 16 community radio stations across Southern Africa to help the local folks in the townships share information about AIDS awareness, water purification and educational components with safe sex practices, and those were citizens not having media done to them but using media to empower themselves and their communities, that it was an economic development issue as the information era washed over them like a tsunami and was critical that their citizens have a way to understand media and to use it, not just to be passive consumers for 7 hours and 42 minutes a day, which was what the Nielson group told them was being watched in America, but to be part of media and use media to share their information, that places like Houston Media Source and the Community Media Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan and over 1,200 other community technology centers across the United States were finding ways to teach citizens how to use technology to make their lives better, be more employable, build community and strengthen neighborhood associations, that they were also using equipment and it was not just televisions, they were talking about Internet streaming, low power FM radio, multi media CD ROM and DVD development within community centers, that once they created their information from the knowledge they had learned have a way to share that information, that he thought it would make some sense when they saw the battle over the ABC affiliate going on and how critical a television station could be to a community and more and more across America those 1,200 community television channels were being used for community development purposes, that he knew publicly the national media had taken shots at Wayne's World and other forms of public access television, but from models he had seen across the Country and saw the changes of Houston Media Source they were talking about a channel that was very valuable in the community, that there was less and less access by citizens to information technology and those were channels that the cable companies had awarded to the community to turn around and share their information for their non profit organizations, their citizens groups and meetings like the Council Meeting which he understood went out to one of the community television channels, that it was 6 mega hertz of band width which was the amount of space a television channel took up and that amount of band width was really escalating in value and there was an attempt nationally by the cable industry to remove those channels as a constitutional infringement on the cable industry's free speech rights so it was not a given for ever and ever and they had to fight for those channels and use those channels and they had to show how those channels could be critical for community development and so he was happy to have the chance to be present and that Ms. Garlinghouse had mentioned that he had the good fortune to be in about a dozen different countries to help them find ways to take radio,

television and the Internet and instead of just making it just a platform to sell commercials to make it a valuable tool for community development.

Mayor Brown asked Mr. Koenig if he had any observations on the Time Warner and Disney issue, and Mr. Koenig stated that in his opinion it was a classic example of the battle of the titans and the subscribers were the very last ones to be considered, and it just reiterated the point for some local control, which was what they had in franchised negotiations and they had that in those channels, that it was an unfortunate development but it was just the beginning of what they were going to see with some of the battles of those mega corporations.

Council Member Bell stated that Mr. Koenig stated that efforts were under way by the cable industry to try to remove those types of channels or the requirements for those types of channels and asked where those efforts stood at the present time based on Mr. Koenig's information, and Mr. Koenig stated that the organization he was with, the Alliance for Communications Democracy was actually defending several circumstances or court challenges that the cable industry had pursued regarding the channels for public education and government access as a taking of private property without fair remuneration so there was a certain tactic that was being deployed, and if in fact those channels were taken for public purpose, like a railroad or right of way might do for a highway or something, that in fact cities should pay for those, and it had happened primarily at the circuit court level and there was actually a case that was referenced at the Supreme Court level, but that was not accepted by the Supreme Court, so there had been various challenges but had not risen to the point where there were huge alarm bells going off and again certain cable companies supported community channels, that he did not want to throw them all in a hopper, but on a national level the National Cable Television Association had clearly indicated there was a strategy that those channels might not be that beneficial to them because they could sell them for a lot of money to another home shopping channel, and Council Member Bell asked if he knew which cable companies had taken the biggest role in trying to pass legislation or fight the court suits to take away the channels, and Mr. Koenig stated that Time Warner had been a leader in the effort.

Mayor Brown stated they appreciated Mr. Koenig being present and sharing the information with them.

Reverend Gary Daniel, 811 Grand Oak Dr., Houston, Texas 77015 (713-451-1362) had reserved time to speak, but was not present when his name was called.

Ms. Gladys Yvonne Carter, 5034 Pershing, Houston, Texas 77033 (no phone) had reserved time to speak, but was not present when her name was called.

Mrs. Deborah Elaine Allen, 7809 W. Bellfort No. 227, Houston, Texas 77071 had reserved time to speak, but was not present when her name was called.

President Joseph Charles, P.O. Box 53831, Houston, Texas 77052 (713-710-1715) had reserved time to speak, but was not present when his name was called.

Mr. James Partsch-Galvan, 1611 Holman, Houston, Texas 77004 (713-528-2607) had reserved time to speak, but was not present when his name was called.

At 2:34 p.m. upon motion by Council Members Castillo and Parker the City Council was recessed until 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, May 3, 2000. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of city on city business. Council Member Vasquez absent on city business. Council Member Robinson absent.

City Council reconvened in the City Council Chamber at 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, May 3, 2000, with Mayor Lee P. Brown presiding and with Council Members Bruce Tatro, Carol M. Galloway, Rob Todd, Mark A. Ellis, Bert Keller, Gabriel Vasquez, John E. Castillo, Annise D. Parker, Gordon Quan, Chris Bell and Carroll G. Robinson; Mr. Al Haines, Chief Administrative Officer, Mayor's Office; Mr. Anthony Hall, City Attorney; Mr. Paul Bibler, Senior Counsel, City Attorney's Office; Ms. Martha Stein, Agenda Director, and Ms. Linda Layton Agenda Office, present. Council Members Mark Goldberg, Jew Don Boney, Jr. and Orlando Sanchez out of the city on city business.

At 8:27 a.m. the City Secretary read the descriptions or captions of items on the Agenda.

At 9:15 a.m. Mayor Brown called the meeting to order. Council Members Galloway, Boney, Todd, Keller, Vasquez, Castillo and Bell absent.

MAYOR'S REPORT

9:00 A.M. - **REPORT FROM CITY CONTROLLER AND THE CITY ADMINISTRATION REGARDING THE CURRENT FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE CITY** including but not limited to, a revenue, expenditure and encumbrance report for the General Fund, all special revenue funds and all enterprise funds, and a report on the status of bond funds and a Quarterly Investment Report by the City Controller – was called.

Ms. Sylvia Garcia, City Controller, stated that she was pleased to present the monthly financial report for March 2000, the ninth month of the current fiscal year; that today the good news was in the general fund the Administration's projections were closer to theirs, however, the bad news was that the overall projections were \$20.9 million less than budgeted; that the general fund revenue projections remained unchanged from last month at \$1,216,000,000 and they did continue to forecast an overall 4% sales tax increase from last year with total sales tax receipts reaching \$319,000,000; that municipal Court collections continued to improve slightly and projections remained unchanged from last month with their revenues running at about 22.4% less than last fiscal year at this time and their projections remained at \$40,000,000; that overall they projected general fund revenues \$21,000,000 below budget; that departmental expenditure projections reflected spending patterns within each department and they had incorporated the limitations imposed as a result of Council action on the general appropriation ordinance a few weeks ago and the projected undesignated fund balance for the end of the fiscal year was at \$83,000,000, about \$29.5 million more than the required 5% and about \$2.7 million more than the 7 1/2% level for nonrecurring expenses; that on the quarterly investment report there was

good news, despite difficult conditions which affected the overall financial markets the city's bond portfolio was not negatively affected and their yield in the general pool was at 5 3/4% which was generally competitive with other portfolios in the market and their portfolio now stood combined at \$1.7 billion; that the investment committee met the last quarter and made their annual review of investment policies required by their investment policy and the committee had no recommendations to be acted on this year and next week would bring forward a resolution for Council's adoption reflecting that the investment committee had done its annual report and that they wanted to keep it as it was with no changes. Council Members Vasquez and Robinson absent.

Ms. Sarah Culbreth, Acting Director Finance and Administration, (F & A) stated that their monthly report ending March 31, 2000, had projected revenues for the end of this fiscal year at \$1,219,000,000 which was slightly less than reported last month, the projections were lowered by \$1.7 million primarily in property taxes; that on the expenditure side the Controller was correct with the budget reflecting the current appropriation ordinance recently approved; that on the expenditure side they lowered projections by \$1,700,000 to keep a balanced budget in the general fund and with the undesignated year end fund balance it was expected to be \$80.4 million; that there were no other significant changes, however, she would note that in the water and sewer fund revenue projections were increased by \$5,000,000 as a result of increased consumption; and there was other slight changes in other funds relating to the appropriation ordinance and year to date activity. Council Member Vasquez absent.

Council Member Todd stated that he had a memo from Controller dated April 19, 2000, asking for numbers and he wondered if she had received a response; and Ms. Garcia stated that if he was referring to the memo sent to the Mayor and copied to Council Members the answer was no and she had sent a subsequent follow-up memo last week and had received no response; that she was waiting for answers with regard to budget priorities, policies and strategies issued by the Mayor and thought they needed to be addressed as they approached the budget cycle; that she was charged with responsibility of superintending the fiscal affairs of the city and in order to do that she needed to have as much information and early enough so if she needed to make a forecast and sound the alarm to let Council Members know of shortfalls or dips in revenue sources she needed to be able to; that last year Council Member Bell asked her a similar question about August indicating that she should have said something sooner and now she is saying sooner. Council Member Vasquez absent.

Council Member Todd stated that he would like to know if the Mayor's Office would be sending the Controller her response; and Mayor Brown stated that they were busy in the process of dealing with Council and Council had the responsibility of analyzing the budget and asking questions as he presented it; that their efforts were in dealing with Council's efforts, questions and concerns. Council Member Todd stated that he relied on the Controller's Office to help him analyze the budget; and Mayor Brown stated that at this time he only had a policy statement and not a budget; and upon further questions by Council Member Todd, Mayor Brown stated that as indicated earlier they were spending time responding to Council and it was Council and not the Controller who had the responsibility to approve the budget; that there was nothing in the Charter which authorized her to be a part of Council; that if he had questions he would suggest he ask Finance and Administration to be responsive; that he should keep in mind the budget was a Council budget, the Mayor prepares the budget and submits it to Council and

Council will in turn approve it or modify it. Upon further questions by Council Member Todd, Mayor Brown stated that he did not know how to make it much clearer efforts were being spent on Council; that when the budget was put together the budget would respond to his questions, he had not yet received the budget but only what was required and that was budget strategies and priorities and once the budget was received he would have his answers. Council Member Todd stated that he wanted it firmly on record that he thought the Mayor's Office had a responsibility to respond to the Controller's questions and as a Council Member he relied on her office for numbers and he wanted a yes or no from the Mayor; and Mayor Brown stated that his questions would be answered in the budget not at this time; and he would add that he thought it was inappropriate to deal with political issues in the budget, the budget was a planning document to run city government.

Council Member Ellis stated that yesterday in the Fiscal Affairs Committee Meeting time was spent discussing revenue projections F & A had come up with and he was feeling insecure because of the inefficiencies in revenue projections for 2000; that in October the Controller had a projection of \$28,000,000 and it was his understanding that she had come off that number and down to approximately \$21,000,000; and upon questions, Ms. Garcia stated that was the current projection; that the projection made was early in the fiscal year and as the year developed, particularly in the area of Municipal Courts and property tax they made adjustments; that in the Courts an adjustment was made beginning in July predicting a \$5.4 million shortfall and since then had adjusted it to \$16.4 million and they had maintained it through today; that in the property tax area they began with a projection at budget and that was before they had received new appraisal numbers from the Harris County Appraisal District and after receiving those they made a slight adjustment and after having a one on one conversation with the tax assessor on how collections were going they made a second adjustment; that it was a common place and practice in every city to make projections and she had looked at what San Antonio and Austin had done and this was nothing different than what any other major city put together and San Antonio's strategy book outlined 56 policy issues and said what she had been saying that the forecast was a tool for Council and the community, something to look at showing issues that would be facing them through the budget process and if necessary to sound an early warning signal about potential issues that may be raised and she did not think her questions were any different from anyone else who was charged with the responsibility of superintending the fiscal affairs of the city; that this was the checks and balances of city government; and yes, they did always prepare a five year forecast and it had always been done, but for some unknown reason it was not in this year's budget book and her office would prepare one once they had received answers to questions; that they had slowly started doing a lot more themselves such as more direct contact with the Appraisal District and State Controller's Office, but were waiting to see what full impact the PUC ruling would be making.

Mayor Brown stated that he would like to add that the city's mission by the City Controller of a city manager which was a different form of government than what they had here in the City of Houston as the Mayor was responsible for submitting a budget to the City Council which they were in the process of doing, the budget had not been submitted only budget priorities were submitted which was a policy statement; that soon they would receive a budget and all questions being asked would be answered and if not they would be answered.

Council Member Castillo stated that at the meeting yesterday the Finance and Administration Department presented a sheet containing detail of the five year forecast of revenues and it was pointed out that it was a work in progress and would continue to change until the numbers were adopted that they would go with; that the committee asked for a meeting that would be reserved completely for reviewing the methodology for revenue projection and expert testimony and they would do that Tuesday and it would be posted so everyone could listen; that he really believed the budget priority and policy statement was a qualitative document and revenue projections in the back of the book were not directly relevant to statements made and he hoped when they did get to the budget point there would be full Council involvement at the hearings; that he supported budget priorities but that was not the point they were on, they were on the report of the Finance and Fiscal Affairs Committee; and moved to accept the monthly Financial and Operations Report, and was seconded by Council Member Parker.

Council Member Tatro stated that the Mayor suggested that Council Member Todd work with F & A and he had been working with them and it took four weeks to get a response; that it was difficult for Council Members to make good financial judgements and they did rely on F & A and the Administration's timing had been suspect with release of priorities and detail; and Mayor Brown asked what was suspect about the list of priorities. Council Member Tatro stated that it was his time now; and Mayor Brown stated that he made a statement that was blatantly false and he wanted him to clarify it. Council Member Tatro stated that the priorities contained no detail; and Mayor Brown stated that it was not supposed to. Council Member Tatro stated that every Administration's priorities he had seen contained the five year projections; and Mayor Brown stated that he had only served under him. Council Member Tatro stated that he could look at books; and Mayor Brown suggested he do so as he was making blatantly false statements. Council Member Tatro stated that he would ask Council Members to look at priorities of previous Administrations and compare; that going back to the monthly financials and one trend coming from F & A was oops we missed on this projection; that he passed a chart to Council Members which was something to be considered, looking at the financials, revenues and expenses and how they affected the fund balance, as there was a trend over the last couple of years that was disturbing in the sense they had a very significant dwindling cash reserve along with an unreserved fund balance and he had questioned the Administration about the amnesty program and he believed their projections were too aggressive and he would dare say as they came in Council would see another oops on the projection; that his biggest concern was when he asked F & A for actuals on the electrical franchises because one of the significant discrepancies between the Mayor's and Controller's projections was the electrical franchise; that the Mayor's projection was for \$3,000,000 more than last year's actuals and the Controller was holding steady at the budget amount; that he asked for the amount from F & A and was not given the right amount; that if you went to the MOFAR on March 31, 1999, and looked at the actuals it was \$59,000,000 and this year, March 2000, actuals were \$57,000,000; that the actuals between now and last year was \$2,000,000 down and yet his Administration continued to project a \$3,000,000 increase over last year's budget; and he wondered how he justified that discrepancy. Ms. Culbreth stated that if she could respond the information she gave him this morning on the electric franchise was on a calendar year basis; that she gave him the actual cash receipts and she explained to him that what was in the financial statement was an accrued amount; that she had not seen what he passed out at the table, but he had

pointed it out and she had explained. Council Member Tatro stated that his guess was within the next two months they would come back with another oops and Council Member Todd suggested yesterday to delay priorities until they had an indication of the methodology used by the Administration in projecting revenues and he was seeing basically a \$5,000,000 discrepancy.

Council Member Quan stated that there was a motion on the floor and he would call the question, and was seconded by Council Member Galloway. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business. MOTION 2000-0582 ADOPTED.

Ms. Garcia stated that she believed the motion was to accept the Monthly Financial Report and she was not sure he mentioned the Quarterly Investment Report.

Council Member Castillo stated that he had meant to accept both reports and amended his motion to accept both the Monthly Financial and Quarterly Investment Reports, and was seconded by Council Member Robinson. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business. MOTION 2000-0583 ADOPTED.

Council Member Robinson moved to suspend the rules to consider Items 40 and then 39 out of order.

Council Member Castillo stated that the Agenda had several items with people in the audience waiting on them and if they would go through them then they could get on the budget; that he felt they would get hung on the budget and everyone would have to stay; and Mayor Brown stated that he agreed.

Council Member Robinson stated that he would amend his motion to consider Item 39 out of order, and was seconded by Council Member Ellis. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business. MOTION 2000-0584 ADOPTED.

39. **SET A PUBLIC HEARING DATE** regarding the establishment of an ordinance restricting lane use for trucks upon a portion of Interstate Highway 10 - **DISTRICTS B - GALLOWAY and I - CASTILLO - SUGGESTED HEARING DATE - 9:00 A.M. - WEDNESDAY - 2 WEEKS FROM DATE OF PASSAGE** – was presented, and Council Member Robinson moved to set the hearing date as suggested, and was seconded by Council Member Vasquez. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business. MOTION 2000-0585 ADOPTED.

Consent Agenda (Items 1 through 37) were considered as follows:

DAMAGES - NUMBER 1

1. RECOMMENDATION from City Attorney for settlement of lawsuit styled **MARIA DEL CARMEN ARREZ, et al** v. City of Houston and Evette Basey Taylor; in the 113th Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas; Cause No. 97-36985 - \$42,000.00 - Property and Casualty Fund – was presented, moved by Council

Member Castillo, and seconded by Council Member Vasquez. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business. MOTION 2000-0586 ADOPTED.

PURCHASING AND TABULATION OF BIDS - NUMBERS 7 through 12

OTHER

8. **ROCKFORD BUSINESS INTERIORS, INC** for Purchase and Installation of Modular Furniture from the State of Texas General Services Commission's Contract through the State of Texas Cooperative Purchasing Program for the Municipal Courts/Judicial Department - Replacement \$35,219.52 - General Fund – was presented, moved by Council Member Vasquez, and seconded by Council Member Castillo. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business. MOTION 2000-0587 ADOPTED.
9. **CARRUTH-DOGGETT INDUSTRIES, INC** for Takeuchi Excavator Replacement Parts Contract for Department of Public Works & Engineering - \$116,562.00 - Enterprise Fund – was presented, moved by Council Member Vasquez, and seconded by Council Member Castillo. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business. MOTION 2000-0588 ADOPTED.
11. **GROVES INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY** - \$128,737.00, **UNIFORMS MFG., INC** - \$24,241.25, **OUTDOOR OUTFITS** - \$769,106.00, **DOOLEY TACKABERRY, INC** - \$936,192.00 and **FISHER SAFETY** - \$138,938.75 for Rainwear, Waterproof Footwear and Hard Hats for Various Departments - \$1,997,215.00 - General, Enterprise and Building Inspection Funds – was presented, moved by Council Member Vasquez, and seconded by Council Member Castillo. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business. MOTION 2000-0589 ADOPTED.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES - NUMBERS 13 through 37

14. RESOLUTION authorizing the City Attorney to bring suit to enjoin the destruction of one Montezuma Cypress Tree located at what is commonly known as 1801 Brun, Houston, Harris County, Texas - **DISTRICT D – BONEY** – had been pulled from the Agenda by the Administration, and was not considered.
15. ORDINANCE finding and determining that public convenience and necessity no longer require the continued use of a portion of the Sutton Street right of way containing 1387.50 square feet of land, more or less, being out of the W. R. Baker Addition, SSBB, out of the Obedience Smith Tract Addition, located in the Obedience Smith Survey, A-696, Harris County, Texas; vacating and abandoning said tract of land to Perry Homes, a Joint Venture, the abutting owner, in consideration of owner's payment of \$20,812.00 and other consideration to the City - **DISTRICT D – BONEY** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business. ORDINANCE 2000-333 ADOPTED.

16. ORDINANCE consenting to the addition of 85.4551 acres of land to **CLEAR BROOK CITY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT** for inclusion in its district – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business. ORDINANCE 2000-334 ADOPTED.
17. ORDINANCE consenting to the addition of 56.7 acres of land to **CNP UTILITY DISTRICT** for inclusion in its district – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business. ORDINANCE 2000-335 ADOPTED.
18. ORDINANCE issuing a permit to **GULF COAST ORTHOPAEDIC AND SPINE ASSOCIATION** for constructing, operating, maintaining, replacing and repairing a three-inch conduit for communication cables crossing underneath the 1200 block of Elgin Street, a public street right-of-way within the City of Houston, Texas; containing findings and prescribing the conditions and provisions under which said permit is issued - **DISTRICT I – CASTILLO** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business. ORDINANCE 2000-336 ADOPTED.
23. ORDINANCE awarding an Executive Search Services contract between the City of Houston and **RUSSELL REYNOLDS ASSOCIATES, INC** for the Parks & Recreation Department; providing a maximum contract amount - \$50,000.00 - Grant Fund – had been pulled from the Agenda by the Administration, and was not considered.
26. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing first amendment to a Ground Maintenance Services Contract (approved by Ordinance No. 97-483) between the City of Houston and **ON OUR OWN SERVICES, INC** for Houston Fire Department – had been pulled from the Agenda by the Administration, and was not considered.
28. ORDINANCE amending Ordinance No. 97-963 to increase the maximum contract amount for Maintenance and Repair Services of the Security Systems under contract with **NZ CONTROL SPECIALISTS, INC** for Solid Waste Management Department (Approved by Ordinance No. 97-963) - \$18,725.25 - General Fund – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business. ORDINANCE 2000-337 ADOPTED.
29. ORDINANCE appropriating \$39,950.00 out of Street & Bridge Consolidated Construction Fund No. 437 (Fund), and approving and authorizing compromise and settlement agreement between the City of Houston and **COASTAL TESTING LAB, INC** to settle a claim arising out of activity financed by the Fund – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business. ORDINANCE 2000-338 ADOPTED.
30. ORDINANCE correcting Item Number 66 in the Assessment Roll included within Ordinance Number 93-335, which ordinance levied assessments with respect to the improvement of portions of Nadine, Michaux and various other streets (Topping Project 411) in the City of Houston, Texas **DISTRICTS B - GALLOWAY and H –**

VASQUEZ – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business. ORDINANCE 2000-339 ADOPTED.

32. ORDINANCE appropriating \$464,000.00 out of Street & Bridge Construction Fund, awarding construction contract to **PEDKO PAVING, INC** on low bid of \$356,982.00 and approving and authorizing professional services contract for engineering testing services with **QC LABORATORIES, INC** in the amount of \$30,000.00 for construction of the Neighborhoods to Standard - Overlay Projects in Cottage Grove; GFS Q-1145-01-3; (245-98) providing funding for construction management and contingencies relating to construction of facilities financed by the Street & Bridge Construction Fund - **DISTRICT H – VASQUEZ** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business. ORDINANCE 2000-340 ADOPTED.
33. ORDINANCE appropriating \$848,000.00 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund, awarding contract to **JAY C. CONTRACTOR** on low bid of \$717,400.00 and approving and authorizing professional services contract for engineering testing services with **LAW ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC** in the amount of \$15,000.00 for construction of new 5/8-inch through 2-inch water service connections, GFS S-0035-SS-3 (10344-2); providing funding for contingencies relating to construction of facilities financed by the Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund - **DISTRICTS B - GALLOWAY; D - BONEY; E - TODD; H - VASQUEZ and I – CASTILLO** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business. ORDINANCE 2000-341 ADOPTED.
34. Omitted

Items removed from the Consent Agenda were considered as follows:

ACCEPT WORK

2. RECOMMENDATION from Director Building Services Department for approval of final contract amount of \$450,408.00 and acceptance of work on contract with **SUMCO, INC** for Parks to Standard Program, Fondren Middle School Park, GFS F-0351-84-3 - 03.10% over the original contract amount - General Improvements Consolidated Construction Fund - **DISTRICT F – ELLIS** – was presented, moved by Council Member Castillo, and seconded by Council Member Parker. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business. MOTION 2000-0590 ADOPTED.
3. RECOMMENDATION from Director Building Services Department for approval of final contract amount of \$481,317.00 and acceptance of work on contract with **D. L. MEACHAM CONSTRUCTION COMPANY** for Parks to Standard Program, Melrose Park and Burnett Bayland Park, GFS F-0351-85-3 - 03.77% over the original contract amount - CDBG Grant and General Improvements Consolidated Construction Funds - **DISTRICTS B - GALLOWAY and F – ELLIS** – was

presented, moved by Council Member Castillo, and seconded by Council Member Quan. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business. MOTION 2000-0591 ADOPTED.

PROPERTY - NUMBERS 4 through 6

4. RECOMMENDATION from Director Department of Aviation for condemnation of the owner's right, title and interests in a 24.360 acre tract of land located in the T. S. Roberts, A-659, for the **EXPANSION OF GEORGE BUSH INTERCONTINENTAL AIRPORT (IAH), CIP A-0024 DISTRICT B – GALLOWAY** – was presented, moved by Council Member Castillo, and seconded by Council Member Parker. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business. MOTION 2000-0592 ADOPTED.
5. RECOMMENDATION from Director Department of Aviation for condemnation of the owner's right, title and interests in a 16.99 acre tract of land and a 10.988 tract of land located in the Charles Huffman Survey, A-319, for the **EXPANSION OF GEORGE BUSH INTERCONTINENTAL AIRPORT (IAH), CIP A-0024 - DISTRICT B – GALLOWAY** – was presented, moved by Council Member Castillo, and seconded by Council Member Parker. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business. MOTION 2000-0593 ADOPTED.
6. RECOMMENDATION from Acting Director Department of Public Works & Engineering for condemnation of Parcel C99-10, located north of the 7600 block of Goudin Drive, owned by Westbury Village Homeowner's Association, Inc., a Texas corporation, no known officers, for the **WESTBURY VILLAGE LIFT STATION PROJECT, CIP R-0267-00-1 - DISTRICT D – BONEY** – was presented, moved by Council Member Castillo, and seconded by Council Member Parker. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business. MOTION 2000-0594 ADOPTED.

PURCHASING AND TABULATION OF BIDS - NUMBERS 7 through 12

OTHER

7. **CREATIVE SWITCHING DESIGNS, INC** for Voice Logging Recorder System from the State of Texas General Services Commission's Contract through the State of Texas Cooperative Purchasing Program for Health & Human Services Department - Replacement - \$77,160.81 Equipment Acquisition Consolidated Fund – was presented, moved by Council Member Castillo, and seconded by Council Member Parker. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business. MOTION 2000-0595 ADOPTED.
10. **AMEND MOTION #99-913, 5/26/99, TO EXTEND** expiration date for an additional 12 months from September 1, 2000 to August 31, 2001, for Corrugated Polyethylene Pipe for Department of Public Works & Engineering, awarded to **ACT PIPE & SUPPLY, INC** – was presented, moved by Council Member Robinson,

seconded by Council Member Vasquez, and was tagged by Council Member Todd. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business.

12. **AMEND MOTION #98-793, 5/13/98, TO EXTEND** expiration date for an additional four months from May 13, 2000 to September 13, 2000, for Fuel, Reformulated Gasoline for Various Departments, awarded to **ADA RESOURCES, INC** and **PETROLEUM TRADERS CORPORATION** – was presented, moved by Council Member Robinson, and seconded by Council Member Galloway. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business. MOTION 2000-0596 ADOPTED.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

13. RESOLUTION relating to the appointment of Directors to the Board of Directors of the Houston Housing Finance Corporation – was presented. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business RESOLUTION 2000-21 ADOPTED.

Council Member Castillo stated that new directors to the Houston Housing Finance Corporation were present at this time; and invited them to stand to be recognized. Mayor Brown expressed thanks and appreciation to those appointed for devoting time to a very important mission for the city.

19. ORDINANCE adopting an additional fifteen percent (15%) penalty for all property taxes that remain delinquent on July 1, 2000, pursuant to Section 33.07 of the Texas Property Tax Code, and for all property taxes that become delinquent on or after June 1, 2000 pursuant to Section 33.08 of the Texas Property Tax Code; directing the provision of notice thereof; containing findings and other provisions relating to the foregoing subject; providing for severability – was presented, and was tagged by Council Member Bell. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business.
20. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing an Occupancy Agreement between **SPECIAL OLYMPICS TEXAS, INC** as occupant, and the City of Houston, Texas, as owner, for space in the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center - **DISTRICT D – BONEY** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business. ORDINANCE 2000-342 ADOPTED.
21. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing second contract amendment between the City of Houston and **PILGRIM COMMUNITY CENTER, INC** to provide an additional \$25,265.00 of Federal Community Development Block Grant Funds for construction of a new facility at 3118 Blodgett - **DISTRICT D – BONEY** – was presented, and was tagged by Council Member Quan. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business.

22. ORDINANCE authorizing the acceptance of grant assistance from the **TEXAS AUTOMOBILE THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY** and approving and authorizing Interlocal Agreements between the City and the **TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY** and **HARRIS COUNTY** for the Major Accessory Shop Enforcement Program; declaring the City's eligibility for such grant; authorizing the Chief of the Houston Police Department to act as the City's Representative in the Application Process and to accept such grant funds; authorizing the Chief of the Houston Police Department to apply for and accept all subsequent awards, if any, pertaining to the program \$1,110,340.00 ATPA - \$729,529.00 Cash Match - \$1,839,869.00 Total - General and Grant Funds – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business. ORDINANCE 2000-343 ADOPTED.
24. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing second amendment to restated and amended Administrative Agreement and approving and authorizing second amendment to restated and amended funding agreement with **NATIONWIDE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY** and Public Employees' Benefit Services Corporation related to the City's Deferred Compensation Plan – was presented, and was tagged by Council Members Ellis and Robinson. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business.
25. ORDINANCE amending Ordinance No. 99-357 to increase the maximum contract amount for additional products and services for contract between the City of Houston and **MULTIFORCE SYSTEMS CORPORATION** (approved by Ordinance No. 96-418) for High Technology Products and Professional Consulting Services relating to the Fuel Automation System for Various Departments - \$161,379.00 - General, Enterprise and Special Revenue Funds – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business. ORDINANCE 2000-344 ADOPTED.
27. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing fourth amendment to contract between the City and **WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.** and **WELLS FARGO MERCHANT SERVICES, L.L.C.** for Charge Card Processing Services – Revenue – was presented.

Council Member Bell stated that he understood there was a short period of time to work something out or charge cards used by departments would no longer be in effect; that the Controller had negotiated a new contract with Chase Bank a year ago and he was curious as to why this was not addressed. Council Members Todd and Vasquez absent.

Mayor Brown called on Ms. Culbreth who stated that from her understanding the contract here for credit card services had the RFP issued last April before the Controller went out for the RFP on the depository services; that his office called her yesterday to see why Chase was not contacted and she said she would have to research it; that they had been trying to negotiate the original low with Wells Fargo and had spent a considerable amount of time and it ended with them not agreeing to some of the contractual language specifically the drug free policy and the EEOC portion so they chose to go to the next low; that the depository contract was handled out of Controller

and the charge card was a separate issue and she would research and get back with him on why Chase was not contacted. Council Member Todd absent.

Council Member Quan stated that he understood it was the drug and EEOC policies that were the difficulties; and upon questions, Ms. Culbreth stated that Wells Fargo had no problem with the city's existing contract provisions but since there had been a merger and perhaps the corporate headquarters had a position which made the change; that this was the first time she had such a problem with a contractor not agreeing with those two provisions normally it was other items and options were now being looked at to see whether it be best to waive the provisions or go out again for bid, etc., so they could go forward; that this was to just keep the contract from lapsing so they could work on negotiations.

A vote was called on Item 27. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business. ORDINANCE 2000-345 ADOPTED.

31. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing contract between the City of Houston and **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES CONSULTING GROUP, INC** for Business Process Redesign Support Services for the Public Works & Engineering Department - \$210,489.00 - Enterprise Fund – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business. ORDINANCE 2000-346 ADOPTED.
35. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing Amendment No. 2 to contract between the City of Houston and **DEREK CONSULTING GROUP** for Professional Consulting Services in connection with Information Systems Support for the Houston Airport System; containing certain provisions relating to the subject - **DISTRICTS B - GALLOWAY and E – TODD** – was presented, and was tagged by Council Member Robinson. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business.
36. ORDINANCE appropriating \$9,780,000.00 out of Airport System Subordinate Lien Revenue Bond Fund Series 1998 (NON-AMT) CIP A-0235 and \$4,500,000.00 out of Airport System Subordinate Lien Revenue Bond Fund Series 1998 (NON-AMT) CIP A-0358, awarding construction contract to **CHAMPAGNE-WEBBER, INC, TEXAS** on low bid of \$12,863,542.36 and approving and authorizing professional services contracts for engineering testing services with **MCBRIDE RATCLIFF & ASSOCIATES** in the amount of \$386,000.00 for construction of Economy Parking Lot Upgrades at George Bush Intercontinental Airport/Houston (IAH), Project No. 507- **DISTRICT B – GALLOWAY** – was presented, and was tagged by Council Member Tatro. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business.
37. ORDINANCE appropriating \$15,574,200.00 out of Airport System Commercial Paper Series A, C (AMT) CIP A-0251 and A-0378, awarding construction contract to **LAUGHLIN ENVIRONMENTAL, INC** on bid of \$13,967,854.59 and approving and authorizing professional services contract for engineering testing services with **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE INDUSTRIES, INC** in the amount of \$488,900.00 for

Expand Fuel Farm Capacity at George Bush Intercontinental Airport/Houston (IAH), Project No. 510 - **DISTRICT B – GALLOWAY** – was presented, and was tagged by Council Members Ellis and Tatro. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business.

The Non Consent Agenda (Items 38 and 39) were considered as follows:

MISCELLANEOUS

38. RECEIVE nominations for Positions 4 and 5 of the Land Assemblage Redevelopment Authority, the two year terms to expire April 26, 2002 – was presented.

Council Member Parker stated that it was her understanding Item 38 was incorrectly captioned; and moved that the notice be amended and re-posted for the May 10 Agenda to have unexpired terms for Position 4 to expire on October 31, 2000, and for Position 5 to expire October 31, 2001, and was seconded by Council Member Castillo. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2000-0597 ADOPTED.

MATTERS HELD - NUMBERS 40 through 44

Council Member Castillo moved to suspend the rules to take Items 41 through 44 out of order, and was seconded by Council Member Robinson. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business. MOTION 2000-0598 ADOPTED.

41. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing contract between the City and **INTER/DIRECT U.S.A., LTD, D/B/A CDS MARKET RESEARCH** for an Industrial Market Demand and Absorption and Site Selection Study - \$20,000.00 - Grant Fund - **DISTRICTS B - GALLOWAY; H - VASQUEZ and I - CASTILLO - (This was Item 19 on Agenda of April 26, 2000, TAGGED BY COUNCIL MEMBER KELLER)** – was presented.

Council Member Keller stated that he hoped someone with CDS was hearing him; that he thought there was a good market for industrial in east Houston but he would request and follow-up on a copy of the report in its full detail and he looked forward to analyzing and reviewing it to see that it was worth the money being spent; that it was of great importance to the District Council Member and he would caution the city on becoming a developer even if the report was to that; and Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo stated that it was duly noted and he would receive the copy. Mayor Brown absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding.

A vote was called on Item 41. All voting aye. Nays none. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Boney, Council Members Goldberg and Sanchez out of the city on city business. Mayor Brown, Council Members Bell and Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding. ORDINANCE 2000-347 ADOPTED.

42. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing the City of Houston to enter into a fourth contract amendment with the Houston Housing Finance Corporation to increase the maximum amount of Subsidy Financing available to individual qualified

homebuyers in the Fourth Ward Area, to be used for down payment, closing costs and/or prepaids for home purchases - **DISTRICT I - CASTILLO - (This was Item 24 on Agenda of April 26, 2000, TAGGED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS BELL, TATRO and BONEY)** – was presented.

Council Member Tatro stated that this item was for increasing the down payment on new homes under the home program, they were CDBG moneys and money forgiven if they stayed in the home a certain period of time; that this was increasing the money for the Fourth Ward Area homes only and it doubled the amount; that he was told there was more need, more participants for this program than there was money available and this would reduce the pot of money for loan recipients around the city at the cost of those getting money in the Fourth Ward; that there was a TIRA in the Fourth Ward and now they were increasing the subsidy in the Fourth Ward because prices were going up but prices were going up all over the city and he did not think it proper or fair to favor Fourth Ward development and he would be a no vote and urged other Council Members to consider the same. Mayor Brown and Council Member Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding.

Council Member Parker moved to suspend the rules to hear from Ms. Margie Bingham, and was seconded by Council Member Galloway All voting aye. Nays none. Mayor Pro Tem Boney, Council Members Goldberg and Sanchez out of the city on city business. Mayor Brown and Council Member Robinson absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding. MOTION 2000-0599 ADOPTED.

Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo asked that Ms. Bingham explain why there was a different policy for the Fourth Ward; and Ms. Bingham stated that the city had invested \$3.4 million for land purchases in the Fourth Ward and Houston Renaissance transferred the property to the Houston Housing Finance Corporation who had entered into agreements with four community development corporations in the area; that originally there was a cap of \$82,000 for the price of the homes, however, with all the development in the area the Houston Housing Corporation had to sell the property to the CDCs at \$2.90 a square foot and with the total development cost it was impossible to come up with a sales price of \$82,000 and now they were looking at more at \$92,000. Mayor Brown absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding.

Upon questions by Council Member Parker, Ms. Bingham stated that without the steeper subsidies for down payment they would not be able to keep the property available for low income. Mayor Brown absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding.

A vote was called on Item 42. Council Member Tatro voting no. Balance voting aye. Mayor Pro Tem Boney, Council Members Goldberg and Sanchez out of the city on city business. Mayor Brown absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding. ORDINANCE 2000-348 ADOPTED.

43. ORDINANCE appropriating \$393,000.00 out of Airport System Subordinate Lien Revenue Bond Fund and approving purchase of approximately 31.73 acres of land out of the W.C.R.R. Co. Sec. 3, Blk. 5 Survey, Abstract 927, Houston, Harris County, Texas, for the expansion of Bush Intercontinental Airport, CIP A-0024, and approving purchase and sale agreement with **R. BRUCE LABOON, Trustee** to acquire the land for a purchase price, including Title Insurance and Closing Costs,

which does not exceed the sum hereby appropriated - **DISTRICT B – GALLOWAY - (This was Item 29 on Agenda of April 26, 2000, TAGGED BY COUNCIL MEMBER TATRO)** - was presented. Council Member Tatro voting no. Balance voting aye. Mayor Pro Tem Boney, Council Members Goldberg and Sanchez out of the city on city business. Mayor Brown absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding. ORDINANCE 2000-349 ADOPTED.

44. ORDINANCE appropriating \$264,000.00 out of Street & Bridge Consolidated Construction Fund and approving and authorizing first amendment to professional services contract between the City of Houston and **PIERCE, GOODWIN, ALEXANDER & LINVILLE, INC** for Street & Bridge Program Management, CIP N-0668-03; providing funding for contingencies relating to construction of facilities financed by the Street & Bridge Consolidated Construction Fund – **(This was Item 34 on Agenda of April 26, 2000, TAGGED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS KELLER and QUAN)** – was presented.

Council Member Keller stated that as a contrast of Building Services who came to him three months before the expiration of their contract with Gilbane and who he was working with in tightening it up, the one before them today was a fat deal for the company representing them, it was not a market deal; that Public Works was the client and customer in this and responsible on Council's behalf as they were entrusted to make sure they were market situations; that the contract was way too open-ended and did not even define the scope of services; that the percentage fee for design was way too favorable for the architecture firm and at some point they needed to lock in percentages; that they were asking for a two month extension, it expired in April and if they did not do this they walked off and all fell apart; that he had assurance from the Acting Director of Public Works that he would be involved in this and he wanted all to be aware that they must start becoming the client and customer and demanding their money's worth and he hoped in 60 days when they redid the contract they really had someone negotiating the contracts with engineers as they looked like they were giving above market; that he hoped when this was redone someone would be held accountable and that there would be a bonus/penalty program for incentive. Mayor Brown and Council Member Galloway absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding.

Upon questions by Council Member Ellis, Council Member Keller stated that this item was not close to market, but the problem was the contract was up in April so they had them by the tail and they should go ahead and give the two months and he would be reviewing and then changing. Mayor Brown and Council Member Galloway absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding.

A vote was called on Item 44. All voting aye. Nays none. Mayor Pro Tem Boney, Council Members Goldberg and Sanchez out of the city on city business. Mayor Brown and Council Member Galloway absent. Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castillo presiding. ORDINANCE 2000-350 ADOPTED.

40. RESOLUTION adopting the Fiscal Year 2001 Budget Priorities, Policies and Strategies – **(This was Item 17 on Agenda of April 26, 2000, TAGGED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS SANCHEZ and TATRO)** – was presented.

Mayor Brown stated that he would make a couple of preliminary statements on the budget priorities before proceeding in discussions; that first they were addressing and approving a policy statement and not the budget and secondly, he did agree with comments from many Council Members that they needed to be very conservative in putting the budget together and to that end he had directed staff to go back and reduce revenue projections; that he did not want to find in this fiscal year them adjusting the budget in midyear so that meant they also needed to reduce expenditures to have a balanced budget; that he had also directed staff to locate and engage an economist so they could enter into a contract with someone who was an expert in revenues and thereby having a clear picture of what could be expected; that when they talked about revenue at best they were talking about estimate and looking at past practices that revenues involved the different streams of sales tax, property tax, franchises, etc., and all must be considered as a whole and he wanted someone detached from the process to take a look at it for them; that clearly there were tough decisions to be made and they were looking at an increase in the amount of money needed to budget debt service; \$30,000,000 for the METRO refund; covering the increases given to police and fire and covering civilian employee salaries and there was two major points he would like all to consider one, the priorities he submitted were required by ordinances and it was a policy statement and not a budget and second, he had directed staff to go back and adjust revenue projections and be conservative in doing so thus calling for a reduction in expenditures as well.

Council Member Robinson stated that in the committee meeting yesterday he and other Council Members asked that the priorities be postponed and in light of the Mayor's comments he would like to do two things one, he would like to separate the numbers so they could take-up a full discussion on the projection via revenue at the special committee meeting that Council Member Castillo scheduled for Tuesday; and moved to separate the budget revenue figures included in priorities, and was seconded by Council Member Parker.

Council Member Robinson stated that one of the other issues all had in the back of their mind and expressed by Council Member Bell at the committee meeting was to have a commitment of reducing expenditures.

Council Member Quan stated that he appreciated the Mayor's comments on the budget and priorities and respected his position to offer the priorities; that Council had also offered several priorities and he would like to see those come up and be adopted, but as for the Fiscal Affairs Meeting yesterday his concern was on the modeling the city was undertaking to see that they had more accurate figures and he appreciated that Council Member Castillo would be having the meeting Tuesday, but he would also like to comment on Controller Garcia's questions and the role of Council vs, Controller and he would like to incorporate those questions as his questions because he thought they were very valid and needed answering.

Council Member Bell stated that he appreciated the Mayor's comments and what appeared to be a willingness to reduce expenditures and make it a priority; that he would love to see more money being spent as no one had to drive far to see needs, but things changed for him a few weeks ago; that he had talked about wanting to see a bond issue for park improvements and he asked someone in the private sector to see what kind of issue the city maybe able to put forth without raising taxes and he was shocked at what

was found; that because of the city's debt service and it being ever expanding in two fiscal years they could be looking at \$50,000,000 less in the maintenance and operation budget and under any scenario that was frightening; that they could smooth out the debt and push it further into the future but if they did so it could cost anywhere between \$20,000,000 and \$30,000,000 more and this was the fiscal year to start concentrating on it and to make it a priority to cut back; that his point yesterday was he thought it would be easier for the Administration and the departments who knew the department best to make those decisions and bring them forward; that a motion was on the floor, but when the proper time came he would ask the Administration to accept an amendment to make it a priority to reduce expenditures by \$15,000,000.

Mayor Brown stated that to respond to his concern of parks and libraries he was very much a supporter of both and they were looking at means of implementing the two master plans and needed to also be cognizant of the fact that if they issued bonds for that purpose it could be very costly in both debt service and operations; and Council Member Bell stated there was no question and that was his point, but there was no way to make that kind of cut in one year it had to be gradual and he hoped he would be accepting to that. Mayor Brown stated that he was in agreement.

Council Member Todd stated that he was speaking in favor of reducing the budget by that amount of dollars; that when he first came to Council he frequently complained about the way the debt had been restructured with its refinancing and being stretched out over a longer term and that it would be ballooning in outlying years and now those years would soon be here and that was the crisis Council Member Bell was discussing and he believed \$15,000,000 was a real commitment; that he too supported park development and thought Houston being the largest city in the Harris County area should take the lead in park acquisition, development and open and green-space development; and upon questions, Mayor Brown stated that he was not saying he would commit to a \$15,000,000 decrease; that he could not tell the dollar figure nor should they try to determine the dollar figure; that over a five year period with two more years to go they would have taken \$50,000,000 and given it back to METRO and that was a big hit; the accumulation of police and fire raises would be \$18,000,000 this year and another \$8,000,000 for civilian and he was saying he wanted conservative projections of all revenue and they would need to cut back on expenditure to stay in budget and believed they needed to ask departments to comply with what he was asking, but they did not want to start reducing services; that the will was to cut expenditure. Council Member Tatro absent.

Council Member Castillo stated that he represented District I, one of the poorest areas in the city, and there were other districts likewise represented and they were struggling for basic services; that they were trying to get programs like Parks to Standard and Neighborhoods to Standard and as Council struggled to balance the budget he hoped they did not budget it on the back of the people in those districts; that he hoped they were not cutting muscle and bone; and requested Mr. Hall to explain the ordinances on priorities.

Mr. Hall stated that the budget process was governed by ordinances adopted by the city first in 1989 and amended in 1994, they outlined with a time schedule activities which should occur in the budget process; that because of considering revenue estimates they were kind of mixing two things this morning, but the budget process for

2001 was outlined in the budget process that ran from September 1999 through June 2000 and part of the process was for the Administration to present to the Council Fiscal Affairs Committee its priorities and strategies to elicit from Council Members their priorities and strategies in March of the budget year and the budget itself was not included at that time; that in the priorities distributed by the administration numbers were included which produced a good deal of discussion but it was not envisioned by the ordinance as being a part of budget priorities and the resolution which adopted the budget priorities did not contain numbers or reference the numbers and it only embodied the priorities and he wanted to emphasize that the priorities were not the budget and did not deal with any numbers at all; that the Mayor was required in May to present to Council its first budget including numbers, revenue estimates and expenditures and there was a series of ordinances that would be reproduced and given to Council offices outlining a simple document and the schedule was attached; that the resolution before Council today he would ask all to look at because it did not involve much of what had been talked about and included only priorities; and lastly, the first seventeen pages related to priorities and the last with the scheduling had nothing to do with the priorities themselves but was added information.

Council Member Keller stated that the motion was to take the numbers part out; that they were not going to learn to live with less unless they were given less and they were going to need to focus on the event and not the process; that they needed to maintain priorities such as public safety and infrastructure and taxes and education and he did hope a bonus/penalty would get into this and he hoped they would have a \$15,000,000 goal to reduce; and he hoped the formula would be focussed on.

Council Member Vasquez stated that he wanted to speak in favor of the motion because it provided a way for Council to endorse the budget priorities and allowed for continued discussion on the reduction of expenses and revenues; that he agreed it was too early to set a specific amount for reduction and he wanted to comment that in cutting and reducing he did not want services cut to neighborhoods, that they be fair and across the board so it would not negatively affect one district over another; and he hoped that as the Mayor was being responsive to Council that it was also not a setup and that the people making the suggestions for reduction would be there to support the types of reductions made as well regardless of the pain involved in them.

Council Member Tatro stated that he understood the motion was to separate the numbers from the policies and he saw it as one with the policy defined by the commitment and the commitment defined by the dollars allocated; and upon questions, Mayor Brown stated that in looking at the Request for Council Action they were asking to approve pages 1 through 16 which was before Council now and not the other pages and in retrospect those would be left out in the future. Council Member Tatro stated that he saw it as one and would not be supporting the motion to separate the money.

After further discussion Council Member Robinson stated that the numbers were already separated and he would remove his motion; that before the Mayor got to departmental discussions he would be more interested in what kind of policy choices would have to be made if he came down \$8,000,000 or \$14,000,000 and then Council could look at those policy discussions and make a call and then the Mayor could go department by department for analysis; that he was more interested in the macro and he

hoped that was where this would end up. Mayor Brown stated that Council Member Robinson had withdrawn his motion.

Council Member Todd stated that if they approved the budget priorities today without the financial figures they were essentially giving carte blanche to a system where there was not open disclosure of finances behind the budget and he disagreed with that sort of backroom politics, he thought it was backroom when the Mayor was unwilling to answer the Controller's questions; and Mayor Brown stated that he disagreed and this was a Council responsibility. Council Member Todd stated that he intended to vote no on the item today because he found the Mayor's absolute refusal to commitment to a \$15,000,000 reduction to be evidence of his unwillingness to engage in discussions about fiscal conservatism; that he was in favor of providing good services and making certain people were safe, being certain that the appropriate amount of amenities were here to make it an attractive place to live, but at the same time if he could not assure the money would be there in the future year or years he would not think he had done his job and he would be voting no and hoped other Council Members would do the same.

Mayor Brown stated that in the general fund budget about 65.5% of the department's budgets went to public safety and 90% was personnel so they needed to look at the delivery of services.

Council Member Parker stated that she agreed on two things with Council Member Todd that this was about providing the best services they could to the citizens of Houston and that they can't separate the numbers from the budget priorities, but she had no problem with the concept of this being the Mayor's budget priorities; that this was a process they went through annually where the Mayor provided Council with a framework of what he would be bringing to Council Members when he actually brought the budget numbers and she really did hope they could move the question.

After further discussion Council Member Bell stated that everyone was saying they wanted to see the numbers and the Administration said they would need time; and moved to postpone Item 40 one week, and was seconded by Council Member Tatro.

Council Member Keller stated that he would like a moment to introduce a group of third graders from John Paul II School and asked them to stand to be recognized. Mayor Brown welcomed the students and stated that Council was delighted they were present.

Council Member Castillo stated it troubled him that they were starting the budget process and already some members picked \$15,000,000 as the reduction; that all he knew was he represented a district with many needs for services, some districts could do without things but his district could not do without the basic services the budget provided and it was dangerous to pick a number and say that was the cap; that he believed they needed to look at service by service and neighborhood by neighborhood . Council Member Keller absent.

Council Member Quan moved to call the question, and was seconded by Council Member Bell.

Council Member Bell stated that the motion before that was to postpone Item 40 for one week.

Mayor Brown stated that the only thing before them was he was required to present by the laws of the city a budget strategy, a policy document, and before this month was over with Council would have a budget before them containing all the numbers and revenue projections would be lower and hopefully all Council Members questions would be answered.

Council Member Castillo stated that he would like to know if a question was amendable after it was called; and Mr. Hall stated no, if the motion for the previous question was passed by this Council then the vote automatically occurred on the question pending at the time it was called. Council Member Castillo stated that he would ask the maker of the motion if he would accept a friendly amendment to delay budget priorities three weeks instead of one week; and Council Member Bell accepted.

Mayor Brown stated that the motion before Council now was to call the question. Council Member Bell asked Council Member Quan if he would withdraw his motion to call the question; and Council Member Quan withdrew his motion. Mayor Brown stated that the motion before Council now was to postpone Item 40 three weeks.

Council Member Vasquez stated that if Council Member Quan withdrew his motion then the Council Members on the list should be allowed to speak. Mayor Brown called on Council Member Vasquez who stated that he supported the fact that what the Mayor was proposing was a budget policy framework, but thought it unreasonable that someone would demand cutting the budget not knowing what would be cut, and he thought it was poor fiscal management to cut without knowing what the cuts were; that he wanted to caution the Mayor and Council Members that this was poor fiscal management and that was what they were accusing the Mayor of was poor fiscal management and he supported the Mayor's stance to know what the cuts were and supported his general commitment to reduction but did think additional time would be needed to identify the cuts and he would like a good faith commitment from the Council Members demanding the blind faith cut to support the cuts when they came forward.

Council Member Parker stated that she was in great sympathy with the desire to cut spending; that her number one budget priority was a "0" based budget and she wanted to remind her colleagues that Council had previously voted to increase the budget this year by the METRO transfer of \$10,000,000 and by police and fire increase, etc., that they needed to be clear when talking about cutting the budget where they were starting from; and she did hope they would get on with the discussion.

Council Member Todd moved to call the question, and was seconded by Council Member Castillo. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business. MOTION 2000-0600 ADOPTED.

A vote was called on the motion to postpone Item 40 three weeks. Council Member Tatro voting no. Balance voting aye. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business. MOTION 2000-0601 ADOPTED.

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Member Robinson stated that from the prior discussion he was not calling for blind cuts and he was not unaware about where they were starting from, but his main issue was if you started at a base of the original numbers put forward by the Administration and policies and priorities and then you ran permutation and come to Council saying this is what the numbers mean then Council could make decisions and he had always tried to look at the budget as a macro as opposed to micro document; that he felt setting a target as a growth rate would leave details to the Mayor and he could come forward and say in light of the target given to him these were the policy decisions that would have to be made to achieve the goal; and when the Administration brought forth their budget in three weeks the first thing he would look at was whether it was less than 4.6% growth and then what policy decisions did they make to go forward into individual department cuts as opposed to trying to wrangle with each department he was more interested in what the policy was that guided the decision; that as a Council Member he would rather be in on the policy making side at the front of the process as opposed to in the middle of the fiscal year. Council Members Galloway, Todd, Castillo, Parker and Bell absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Quan stated that he applauded the Mayor's commitment to retaining an economist and he was not for across the board cuts as he did feel some districts had more needs than others; that they did need the best data available to make intelligent decisions and he applauded all Council Members who were looking out for the public and agreed with the Mayor they should take politics out of the process. Council Members Galloway, Todd, Castillo, Bell and Robinson absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Tatro stated that to follow-up on the budget and Council Member Robinson's comments they had just passed a three week delay on priorities which would put Council at May 24 before it would come back before them and if Council was to set priorities for the city he believed it was their responsibility to make the hard decisions and he believed the cart was now before the horse because they would effectively have policies coming May 24 and they would already be into the budget process; that by delaying the item three weeks Council did themselves an injustice in trying to create policy; that Council Member Castillo had eluded to cuts and services and what happened when you aggressively estimated revenues was you set marks for the operating budget high and this Administration missed the mark substantially and yet he did not hear Council Member Castillo saying there were current operating needs not being met and that was a concern of setting a mark to high and why Council needed to set a conservative mark and to give the responsibility to department heads to operate within the mark; that Council Member Robinson talked about what they would do to prepare for what was estimated to be a \$30,000,000 increase in health care next year, etc., and they were budget policies and strategies that needed to be taken into consideration. Council Members Galloway, Todd, Bell and Robinson absent.

Council Member Vasquez stated that he thought most Council Members had the same concerns they wanted to see addressed and the question was how to get there; that Council Member Robinson talked about macro level policies and those policies existed, the Mayor submitted his budget priorities and those macro policies he referred to so they were in existence and there and if he wanted to submit his own budget as a

Council Member he would be happy to review it. Council Members Galloway, Todd, Bell and Robinson absent.

Council Member Keller stated that he wanted to wish his wife a belated happy birthday. Council Members Galloway, Todd, Bell and Robinson absent.

Council Member Keller stated that a cause he had taken up in his short time with his father-in-law Don Sanders and Bob Allen was crime victims, a memorial to commemorate the victims and they were raising money and having their fourth annual golf tournament at Memorial Park, Thursday, June 1 and they already had 20 teams and had 14 to go; that Houston was the only city with its crime victim advocate office spaced from the Mayor's Office and he felt that was important to know and they also had more victim support groups than any other large metropolitan city in the country which was another huge accomplishment; that they had also done many legislative changes spearheaded by the group like sex offender notification, abolishing mandatory release, and increasing victims compensation; that he was very passionate about this and he wanted all to join in the effort to give them a place to meditate and grieve, a place to heal and a sign of respect. Council Members Galloway, Todd, Vasquez, Quan, Bell and Robinson absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Parker stated that certain Council Members seemed more intent on attacking the Mayor over his budget priorities rather than accepting that they were his priorities and moving on and she hoped he clearly got the message it would be difficult, if not impossible, to increasing spending in the budget over the increases already voted on by Council, but she had to agree with Council Member Tatro that by delaying his budget priorities acceptance for three weeks Council had taken themselves out of the ability to have any say over them and they would now be moving into the real budget process; that she was glad today was over and she was looking forward to the real budget process and the real process, but she did want to comment on her desire to see them move forward with changes to the ordinances dealing with right of way work by companies doing fiber optics and other cables in the ground; that she had been staring at a crater in front of her house about two weeks and it was about six feet wide, twelve feet long and eight feet deep and there was one in the next block and one down from that; that now they were full of water and she wanted to tell citizens that Council Members too had to experience such problems and that many companies were tearing out the streets and it was not always City of Houston, but they were working on an ordinance and she would urge that they move it along as quickly as possible and she also hoped the crater in front of her house was repaired as quickly as possible. Council Members Galloway, Todd, Keller, Vasquez, Bell and Robinson absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Castillo stated that he wanted to reiterate a concern he had about the moving of personnel and apparatus from Fire Station 40 which was located at OST and Wheeler; that the engine was going to Kingwood and the ambulance was going to Fire station 25 on Wheeler and Scott which was far away from the service area of Station 40; that many elderly people lived in the area and it would be leaving a vacuum for the service area; that he recommended in a memo to the Mayor that the Fire Department consider moving the apparatus about 1,000 feet away to the campus of the Fire Department on Wayside and Wheeler and there were temporary trailer buildings the city owned which had been used when refurbishing stations and they were currently

parked and stored at Station 50 so combining the trailers and moving the personnel and apparatus to parks would keep it all within the service area; that he did not know if it had received any consideration; and Mayor Brown stated that he would make sure it was considered. Council Members Galloway, Todd, Keller, Vasquez, Bell and Robinson absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Ellis stated that Council was talking about trying to free up money and they were in the budget process and so forth and one of his budget priorities which the Administration said would be impossible because it was an enormous task was to go to a "0" based budget; that he was not saying the whole city should do it at once but if they had 20 departments and each year they looked at two departments and went for a "0" based budget then by the end of 10 years they would be there; that also with a "0" based budget a line item budget would be created for each department and it would be much easier for Council and the Administration to evaluate; that he hoped this Administration would take a look at it, last week they heard from METRO who had gone to the "0" based budgeting process and found \$12,000,000 in doing so; that he felt there was a way they could tap into and find the resources, become more efficient and in turn create a line item process. Council Members Galloway, Todd, Keller, Vasquez, Bell and Robinson absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

Council Member Parker stated that she agreed with him on "0" based budgeting, though some of the smaller departments may be a target, but she wanted to acknowledge a memo which just came about regarding the passing of Ms. Francis Frazier, a long-time community activist and she wanted to extend sympathies to her family and thank them and Francis for all the work she put into making Houston a better place. Council Members Galloway, Todd, Keller, Vasquez, Bell and Robinson absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT)

There being no further business before Council, the City Council adjourned at 11:49 a.m. upon MOTION by Council Member Castillo, seconded by Council Member Quan. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Goldberg, Boney and Sanchez out of the city on city business. Council Members Galloway, Todd, Keller, Vasquez, Bell and Robinson absent. (NO QUORUM PRESENT) MOTION ADOPTED. COUNCIL ADJOURNED.

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

MINUTES READ AND APPROVED

Anna Russell, City Secretary