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Edwards,Michelle

CITY CLERK

From: Sarah Dillon [cjester2@juno.com]
 Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2016 12:28 PM
 To: outside email controller; Edwards,Michelle; outside email; Neil Garrison; Morris,Don; Azar, George; Nation, Todd; curtis.debaun@gmail.com; Karrumnasser@inbox.com; eelliott@sackrider.com; Crossen,Martha; Auler,Amy; Witt, Steve
 Cc: vigogreens@yahooogroups.com
 Subject: Financial crisis suggestions

To Leslie Ellis, Michelle Edwards, Mayor Bennett, Steve Witt, City Council, et al:

Been watching the discussion of raising revenue – outside of raising property tax caps – for the city’s present financial crisis. But as most people have mentioned, the problem with this is that lots of poor – or even middle-class – people in the city not affording these fees.

Towards this, here’s a few more suggestions, with a few resources I would recommend reading [a few of these I sent to most of you in city government last year]:

- Regarding the proposed trash fee:
 - Also, been hearing lots of people over the years that have been complaining that trash pickup is “free”, but recycling pickup they have to pay for; lots of them want that reversed.
 - Towards this, I’m also seen 3 sizes of trash bins: the normal 99 gallon bins, 67 gallon bins, and 33 gallons. Would rather that there’s not just one flat fee for all 3 sizes
 - Basically, as I see it [and I’m sure a lot of others can attest to this], these above would not only lessen the impact for raising money on the backs of those that afford it, but it’ll be a good incentive towards keeping trash out of the community’s already overfilled landfill.
- A living wage for Terre Haute and/or Vigo County; not only would it alleviate any possible issues about income inequality, but the way I see it, the more money people have in their pockets, the more they will be able to pay for their bills at home, go shopping. Good example of this is this TEDSalon presentation video from August 2014 from venture capitalist Nick Hanauer = https://www.ted.com/talks/nick_hanauer_beware_fellow_plutocrats_the_pitchforks_are_coming?language=en
- Putting a moratorium on so called “corporate welfare” [tax abatements, TIFs, etc]; Last month, I sent another letter to you detailing some of the alternatives to “corporate welfare”. Here’s a few more materials you may be interesting in reading [most of these I sent to all of you and to the previous City Council back during the last budget process]
 - http://www.gasb.org/jsp/GASB/Document_C/GASBDocumentPage?cid=1176166283745&acceptedDisclaimer=true the Governmental Accounting Standards Board [GASB; pronounced GAZ-bee] — according to their website, “Established in 1984 by agreement of the Financial Accounting Foundation (FAF) and 10 national associations of state and local government officials, the GASB is recognized by governments, the accounting industry, and the capital markets as the official source of generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) for state and local governments.” — starting on December 15, 2015, will be requiring all state governmental entities to disclosed revenue lost due to. The above website is a PDF to their minimum requirements starting with the 2016 budget
 - <http://www.goodjobsfirst.org/blog/gasb-launches-new-era-subsidy-transparency>= a blog posting from the economic development transparency organization Good Jobs First [GJF], one of the lead organizations in getting the above GASB article, giving a
 - <http://www.goodjobsfirst.org/levelfield>= this is an article [written by GJF]. They interviewed 14 groups representing 24,000 small business groups in 25 states around the country about their states’ economic development practices

- <http://www.greatamericanjobsscam.com/> = “The Great American Jobs Scam”, a book recommended by a friend of mine that I got back in 2005 [but most of the details are still relevant today], authored by Greg LeRoy [GJF’s executive director]

Hope these are opens to help in any further consideration of how to get out of the city's financial mess.
Sarah Dillon
Coordinator, Vigo County Green Party