Myron Lowery's Report on 2005 Council Actions

January-

- -Welcomed former Indianapolis Mayor Bill Hugenut, speaker, at the Economic Development Retreat.
- -Accepted 34 acres of property at Dunn Field for a new rail or bus multimodal transportation facility.
- -Approved a development at Tchulahoma/Holmes Road to allow two office/warehouse buildings.
- -Approved \$600,709 for shelving, desks and furniture at Randolph and Hollywood Branch Libraries.
- -Appropriated \$3.9 million for the construction of the Hickory Hill Police Precinct.

February-

- -Approved a resolution accepting funds in the amount of \$8,500 for the City Schools DARE Program.
- -Approved a resolution appropriating \$161,000 for the Orange Mound Drainage District.
- -Approved a resolution appropriating \$931,000 for a replacement field at the Liberty Bowl stadium.
- -Discussed the Mayor's plan to reorganize city government.

March-

- -Approved an ordinance to reflect changes in the Public Library system since the departure of Germantown and Collierville as members of the library system.
- -Approved a resolution appropriating \$125,000 for a Tom Lee Memorial.
- -Appropriated \$130,000, the 11.5% local share for the purchase of paratransit buses.
- -Approved an ordinance providing for the proper disposal of items set out due to eviction.
- -Approved a resolution appropriating \$200,000 to Girls Incorporated of Memphis.
- -Approved a resolution appropriating \$481,733 for ADA Wheelchair Ramps.
- -Supported the April Woods Apartments demolition to make way for new multi-family housing.
- -Honored Dr. Adrian Rogers, Retiring Pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, with a street name change.
- -Advised that 200 full-time City employees were laid off as a result of budget problems.

April-

- -Appropriated \$7,693 million for Memphis City Schools maintenance and ADA needs.
- -Approved the transfer of surplus property on James Road for a middle income housing initiative.
- -Appropriated \$97,570 for Marquette Playground improvements.
- -Approved \$450,000 for Pickett Playground improvements.
- -Approved a resolution for the continuation of plans for the \$4 million Traffic Precinct project.
- -Approved \$3 million to fund land acquisition for the HOPE VI Lamar Terrace housing initiative.
- -Accepted \$61,000 for the Juvenile Violence Abatement and Project and Project Safe Neighborhoods.
- -Received the Mayor's FY '06 Operating Budget of \$517,666,082 and .54 property tax increase proposal.
- -Received the Mayor's Fiscal Year 2006 Capital Improvement Budget request of \$261,983,000.

May-

- -Approved a resolution adopting the Fowler Homes redevelopment plan.
- -Appropriated \$140,000 for design of the Motor Vehicle Inspection station.
- -Approved a resolution appropriating \$3,637 million for the resurfacing of various streets.
- -Participated in Memphis In May activities.

June-

Council lowered the Mayor's FY '06 Operating Budget request to \$505,543,118 and approved a 27 cents property tax hike.

-O&M Budget Highlights included:

A Council requested reduction of all city department budgets by 5%.

The City Court Clerk's presentation of an Amnesty Program in which drivers with fines dating back at least 10 years could pay a reduced amount.

The Police Director's announcement of a considerable reduction in overtime costs.

An Engineering increase of fees charged to developers for construction and housing projects.

Public Services and Neighborhoods request to hire an additional veterinarian and animal control officers.

- -The Council lowered the Mayor's FY '06 Capital Budget request to \$200,174,000.
- -CIP Budget Highlights included:

Fire: The purchase of two aerial trucks, and a warehouse for Search and Rescue equipment.

Police: An expansion of the Vehicle Storage facility and new Crime Scene and Property Room.

Parks: Improvements to Church Park and the Liberty Bowl Stadium.

Public Works: \$9 million for asphalt paving, and \$11 million in drainage improvements.

Public Services and Neighborhoods: New Animal Shelter and Motor Vehicle Facilities.

General Services: Facility upgrades to comply with ADA guidelines and Mud Island Repairs.

Information Systems: A Disaster Recovery Facility and Communications Network Expansion.

Riverfront Development: \$1 million for Beale Street Landing and Cobblestone restoration.

- -Celebrated the grand opening of the Orange Mound Resource Center.
- -Announced the revitalization of Clayborne Homes for development of 25 single family homes.
- -Celebrated the renovation of the J.E. Walker Home to become the South Memphis Resource Center.
- -Targeted neighborhoods chosen as part of a city neighborhood revitalization plan.
- -Approved Councilman Lowery's proposal to establish a red light camera system in Memphis.

July-

- Increased the solid waste fee from \$6.50 to \$19.00 for residential customers.
- -Approved an ordinance to increase the impound storage fee \$10 to \$17.00.
- -Approved a resolution appropriating \$2.1 million for Vice Narcotics Unit Special Funds.
- -Approved a resolution honoring students that participated in the NAACP ACT-So competition.
- -Approved a resolution appropriating \$252,600 for the Middle Income Developer's Program.
- -Approved the continuation of plans for the \$19 million Police Headquarters project.
- -Participated in the open house for the Metropolitan Multi-family Development in the Uptown area.
- -Approved the Memphis City Schools Operating Budget request of \$785,218,624.

August-

- Approved an ordinance giving local bidders preference for construction contracts.
- -Approved a resolution for the demolition costs for the former Ewing Children's Theatre.
- -Approved a resolution encouraging the city to maintain the Second Chance program.
- -Approved a resolution appropriating \$474,415 for ADA Wheelchair Ramps.
- -Approved a resolution appropriating \$3.4 million for the paving of city streets.
- -Participated in the Disabilities Conference to promote awareness of ADA requirements.

September-

- -Approved a resolution declaring September 18, 2005, as Racial Harmony and Equality Sunday.
- -Approved a resolution for an emergency fuel surcharge of \$2 per trip for the taxi industry.
- -Confirmed the appointment of Robert Lipscomb as Chief Financial Officer.
- -Confirmed the appointment of Roland McElrath as Finance Director.
- -Approved a resolution to settle the Clark Construction/Cook Convention Center lawsuit.
- -Supported Emergency Management in helping Hurricane Katrina victims in our city.
- -Rejected Mayor Herenton's plan to lease Nathan Bedford Forrest Park to UT.

October-

EaJuan Stout Mitchell as the 2006 Chairman of the Memphis City Council.

- -Approved more than \$270,000 for improvements to Charles Powell Community Center.
- -Approved \$930,000 for improvements to Kennedy Park.
- -Approved \$41,678 in grant funds for the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Program.
- -Approved \$4 million for street paving.
- -Toured park properties that the Mayor wants considered for future sales.
- -Honored Councilwoman Janet Hooks for her 14 years of service to District 4.
- -Participated in ceremonies renaming the Main Public Library the Benjamin L. Hooks Library.

November-

Attorney Dedrick Brittenum to replace Janet Hooks who resigned her District 4 seat.

- -Accepted a \$2 million grant to relieve traffic congestion on Germantown Parkway.
- -The Hyde/Park/Hollywood/Douglass area was designated as a slum/blight area and eligible for federal funding.
- -Accepted \$1.2 million from the DOT for traffic enforcement equipment and supplies.
- -Appropriated \$112,000 to purchase properties on Leath Street related to Leath Bayou problems.
- -Received a \$20 million HOPE VI grant from HUD to replace the Dixie Homes development (HOPE VI grants were awarded in prior years to improve Lamar Terrace, Uptown and College Park).
- -Allowed RACE to continue operating without a low-level radioactive incinerator.

December-

- -Received a report from a consulting firm hired to evaluate the city's PILOT program.
- -Amended the regulation restricting beer sales for off-premise consumption.
- -Accepted grant funds of over \$2.1 million from the State for an Adult Services Training Grant.
- -Accepted grant funds of over \$1.3 million from the State for Dislocated Worker Services.
- -Accepted \$392,669.40 from the State for an Administration Services Grant.
- -Approved Memphis Light, Gas and Water's 2006 Budget of \$1.8 billion.
- -Enacted a six-month moratorium on dance permits for adult entertainment businesses.
- -Council members rang the Kettle Bell on Christmas Eve to raise money for the Salvation Army.