

## Different Employee Budget Ideas

Why has the city be so resistive in bringing new tax generating business into the city? I read constantly that surrounding area bring new resources in yet Kent is always in the dark. In contrast we seem to be more focused on tapping our resources currently in place with more subsidized housing and retirement centers that create more of a burden than currently have.

#2

The issue of a sin tax added to the sale of beer, wine and spirits was at one time presented. With obvious influence this plays a large part on the safety forces activity supplementing the budget with what would be a trivial cost increase to the patrons of the city may have a positive effect on the budget issues.

#3

Lastly the cost of doing business in all areas of municipal government will always increase. It is fool hardy to think that the budgets 5-10 years ago will allow the same service levels in today's time. I would hope the tax payers would understand that as long as the tax money is not being wasted on items that city doesn't need or already has plenty of.

I just had a thought... has there been any discussion of the city implementing a "sin tax"? I'm thinking specifically about a per-drink levy on alcoholic beverages sold in the city. It would seem to me to be a fairly easy sell to just about everybody besides the bar owners, and I don't think they'd even have much of an argument against it, since I'd doubt that a couple of extra pennies per drink is going to prevent any of our drinking guests from doing so. Those extra pennies can add up for the city though... you may or may not know, but such a sin tax was a major source of funding for the Jacobs Field/Gund Arena project in Cleveland several years ago. Thanks for listening.

- 1) Charge a fee for each booth space at the Heritage Festival to go specifically towards overtime costs (including security and clean-up) of the PD and Central Maintenance.
- 2) I have mentioned a trash hauling fee in the past. There are 3 potential benefits: (a) reduced costs for all residents; include the cost of the once a year large item/spring clean-up; reduce the amount of heavy truck traffic on our streets. For example, in my neighborhood there are three different trash pick-up days. Reduce that to one day and we save a lot of wear & tear on our streets — think of it as preventive maintenance. A franchise agreement could be written in such a way as to provide free service to municipal facilities. I did all of the above in a previous lifetime. Took a serious amount of flack, but it worked.
- 3) Someone shared with me an idea of adding \$1 per month to the utility bill (it could be placed either in the recycling line or stormwater line) for leaf pick-up, Christmas tree pick-up, and street tree replacement.
- 4) Web site sponsorship.
- 5) Hike all fees by 5-10%; Ask the Health Board to consider align their fees so that Board can be self-supporting, or set a goal to generate 50% more revenue than they are presently.
- 6) Could we realign the salary distribution in CD with the utility funds. This has the potential of saving about \$175,000 to the General Fund.

Could we use the County Health Dept?

What about the Clerk of Council - how many meetings a year - minutes, agendas, passports - what else does she do? Do we need passports? Civil Service?

The Newsletter is supported via the CD budget (i.e., General Fund) and water and sewer funds. I am thinking that a portion of the newsletter be also supported from the Health Dept and Parks & Rec budgets that come from their respective levies. I know we are not talking about a lot of dollars, but even if they both kicked in about 4-5k apiece, that's something.

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If the budgets were on the computer for the Depts/Divisions to view daily it would save a lot of double work. Most of us keep our own excel spreadsheets to track our budgets so that the Dept heads and ourselves know our daily balances. We could put our time to better use if we could view the Budget and Finance Dept budget records instead of balancing every 30 days when we receive the paper budget records from the Budget and Finance Dept (not to mention the savings in paper cost).

I would like to make another suggestion. The Service Dept has been holding nightly and Saturday meetings concerning the Crain Ave Bridge, Kent State Parking Committee, Stormwater Meetings, Watershed meetings etc. Perhaps these meetings can be held during the eight hour work day or lunch hour meetings. That would certainly help with cutting overtime hours in the service dept.

What about a sin tax?

Or geothermal heating and cooling for city buildings(Stanton middle school has it)

Is there more low risk investing to make the money we have know work for us in the future?

Can we charge businesses for false fire alarm drops (every time we get one overtime is called in to protect the citizens in case of another call).

We should encourage city employees to exercise (healthy people are happier with fewer health problems and injuries)

I just wanted to give you some of my input on some things. First of all I do agree that the city needs to come up with alternate ways of generating income. Without new businesses coming into town we need to be smart and creative too. We must make sure also to follow through with our master plan.

I read recently that council is considering changing the zoning on the old mall property to allow hi density residential there, I think that more apartments is the last thing this city needs, we need to stick to our plan and aggressively market that property to bring in income tax money.

Also, this being a college town of course alcohol is a big part of the problems this town is facing. Either we dry up the town (not likely) or take advantage of the sale of alcohol and place some sort of sin tax on the sale of it. Many of the police and fire runs are alcohol related and I'd be interested in seeing the exact percentages involved. We do have great potential in increasing our revenue, we just have to make a plan and stick with it. I'm sure the bar owners are a pretty powerful group, however we have to consider the other 30,000 people who live here.

Have you considered the "Buy Out" option for City employees as a way to save some \$\$\$\$ for the future. I don't know much about municipality buy-outs, but I do know something about public higher education buy-outs. Kent State University, for instance, has been offering buy-outs for several years now. Initially these buy-outs were exclusively for faculty, and, now administrators and all other staff members have that option as well.

What about having an in-house print shop? There are still some of us that use local copy centers such as WordSmith's, Kinko, and other shops out-of-town.