

NITRO FACING FISCAL DEFICIT, TREASURER SAYS

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Nitro is facing a \$55,000 budget deficit if City Council doesn't take action, Treasurer John Young said Tuesday.

The issue arose when former Fire Chief Ronnie King was promoted to building inspector in July. His salary was taken from the fire department, but no additional money was added to the department's budget to pay for hiring a replacement.

At Tuesday's council meeting, Young asked if he could take money from the Fire Equipment fund and free up money in the city's general fund.

Councilman Craig Matthews said that he was not sure if such action would be legal. Council members recommended that City Attorney Richie Robb look over the court order from the tire fire case to make sure that the city could use that money for the fire department for that purpose.

Also on Tuesday, council members passed a revised zoning ordinance that re-establishes the distance restriction on new video lottery parlors within city limits.

The distance restriction was changed from 1,000 feet back to 3,000 feet and passed without any discussion. The 1,000-foot distance, approved on first reading in December, never took effect.

At January's meeting, there was heated debate over the distance restriction before the council members voted against reducing it.

and Councilman Joe Savilla was adamant that the distance of 3,000 feet was good for the city.

Councilman Bill Javins was among those who felt that the distance was too restrictive to small businesses and should be reduced.