

NITRO COUNCIL APPROVES BUDGET

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Nitro City Council approved the 2010-2011 budget at its Tuesday meeting.

Treasurer John Young noted in the budget report that projected revenues should be \$5,196,060 with expenses at \$5,231,443. The \$35,383 difference would be made up with the surplus in the city's rainy day fund.

Revenues from the lottery machines at Tri-State Racing and Gaming Center are projected to be \$190,500. Table game funds are projected to bring the city \$245,000.

Funds requested by the **Nitro** Police Department total \$1,236,928, including \$773,000 for salaries.

The fire department requested \$821,335.

Salaries for fire department personnel are projected to be \$490,206.

Young also said the police and fire department pensions could be up-to-date by the end of fiscal year 2009-2010.

In another matter, Young was concerned that purchases by the fire department were being made without him seeing purchase orders. But Mayor Rusty Casto said he had signed the purchase orders.

"I don't feel comfortable doing it this way," Young said. "I just need to know what council wants me to do."

Councilman Craig Matthews suggested the fire chief come up with a plan before any more money from the "tire fire fund" is spent.

"We need to know where the money is going," he said. "Any major purchases should have a plan and be approved by council and the mayor."

City attorney Richie Robb noted that the money is restricted to new equipment purchases by the fire department.

The "tire fire fund" started with \$208,984 and now has \$183,742, reflecting the fire department's recent purchase of a rescue boat.

In other business, council members tabled any action on naming a board of directors to the newly formed **Nitro** Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"We could have set it up tonight, but out of respect for Councilman Joe Savilla, who's not here tonight, I agreed to table it," said Councilman Dave Casebolt.

Councilman Craig Matthews, City Recorder Rita Cox and Mayor Rusty Casto met last week and worked on a list of candidates, but Cox felt it was not representative of the **Nitro** business community.

"We should give more consideration to Tri-State," Cox said.

It was suggested that every council member e-mail a list of candidates to the mayor by the Friday before the next council meeting, which will be April 6.

City Council is also sponsoring a contest for a new **Nitro** banner and flag for the city. The new banners will be hung from the light poles in the downtown area, while the new flag will be displayed in city offices and departments.

"We're offering a \$500 award for the winning banner and \$500 for the winning flag design," said councilman Casebolt. "The contest will be open to all **Nitro** residents regardless of age."

Those with design ideas should submit them to the mayor's office.

The contest will end June 1.