

CITY OF NITRO LOOKS TO END YEAR WITH BUDGET SURPLUS

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Following several years of budget woes, the city of **Nitro** will end fiscal year 2009 with a \$200,000 budget surplus, City Treasurer John Young said Tuesday.

Young told city **council** members that unless something catastrophic happens the city will have a surplus.

"Mr. Young, before you came on board, I thought I'd get thrown out like the proverbial house cat," said Mayor Rusty Casto. "You have done a wonderful job for the city in turning things around."

Council members again discussed the ownership of a 23-foot street off Easter Road.

City Attorney Richie Robb said he believes the city has an interest in the right-of-way. Robb said the road always has been a public right-of-way and as such, the city is part of the public.

Homeowners along the road, Ben and Molly Summers, want the city to do a quick claim deed so they can claim ownership.

Casto said if the city relinquishes it, Mae Zickafoose, another property owner along the road, also should get part of the right-of-way. "We just can't give it to (the Summers)," Casto said.

The woman's daughter, Janet Zickafoose Ellis, attended the **council** meeting and said her mother was against the city filing a quick claim deed. "I don't understand why the Summers want the road for themselves?" she said.

Council unanimously voted to send a letter to the couple stating they could take legal action against the city.

Council also voted to purchase a 20-foot, 288-inch inflatable screen, projector and sound system for \$3,500. The money would come from the city's fairs and festival account, which is all donated funds.

Due to a scheduling conflict, the next **Nitro** city **council** meeting will be at 7 p.m. June 22, instead of June 15.

Councilman Bill Javins asked if the Summers were going to pursue action against the city.

"Robb, tell (the Summers) to go ahead and sue us," Casto said in response.

Councilman Craig Matthews, chairman of the Parks and Recreation Committee, also reported 996 people visited Nitro's pool during the three-day holiday weekend.