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Budget

There is one concern I would like to bring up. That is the salaries. We have certain guidelines as to the percentage allocated for salaries in the budget. Our success in implementing this budget depends on a structure that will work. The CDP is of the impression; that this council is not being managed well. Those who are in strategic positions can look back and blame those that were previously in those positions. Just as those who in future will hold those positions, will blame those who are in the position now.

Another problem is our debtors' accounts, which in the eleven years I have been in council has never been in a healthy situation. It has just got worse. So much depends on these two areas for our budget to be successful. One of the things that is necessary is that we have a full complement of experienced well trained staff. Not an insufficient complement of, inexperienced but in some cases "overpaid staff", which seems to be the case. The council is being undermined by the poor choices that have been made in the past few years.

The Salaries on page 102 caught my attention. According to my calculations the salaries are 28.13% of the budget. But if one adds the expenditure for outsourced employees, which is not mentioned as it is hidden salary expenditure, then one wonders how we can justify some of the high salaries that are going to certain people in Tshwane Metro.

One has to see this in the light of the poverty that is around us. We are asking people that earn on average R6,000 a month to foot the bill for salaries ranging from R40,250 per month to an astronomical R125,000 per month. On page 102 of the report, it is stated that there are six people receiving more than a million rand per year and a further 25 that are paid more than R40,000 per month. Which include the Mayor, the Speaker, the Chief Whip, the Mayoral Committee members the City Manager, CFO and many others. There is something wrong when we have staff moving in and out of positions, City Manager's changing regularly, and people getting salaries that are literally through the roof. It would appear as if some people use this as an opportunity to enrich themselves and then when the responsibility is more than they can handle conveniently step out.

With the Mayoral section one cannot argue about this as it is decided by national government, but when the mayor receives an amount which is only 78% of the City Manager's earnings and 81.5% of the CFO's earnings than one needs to raise ones eye brows.

We as councilors are really in the dark when it comes to knowing anything about some of these employees. We do not know who they are, why they were chosen, and what special qualifications they have. Why are we paying them these high salaries?

They are too many questions that have to be answered. For instance, are the two Kekana's mentioned in the Civerelo Water related to our City Manager? Why is the Chief Executive Officer

of Civerelo making more than any one else at 1.5 Million rand a year? Who is this man or is it a woman?

We should be in a dispensation in this country where everyone should be benefiting from this democracy. Our poor are getting poorer and receiving bread crumbs in the way of a little bit of water and a little bit of electricity. They deserve more from a government that pretends they are here for the poor people. We could re-look these salaries and adjust them downward so that the government does not have to be ashamed to mention them when dealing with our outsourced employees who are on strike and are earning in some cases R1,500 per month because we can't afford to pay them a livable wage with a pension and medical aid.