

City of Newburgh

Press Release

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City Manager Meets with Employees to Discuss Cost Saving Measures

On Monday, July 6, Acting City Manager Dwight Douglas held a series of meetings with department heads and City employees. He began at the Department of Public Works at 7 a.m.; then met with the Police Department, and Water Department. At close of business, he met with general City staff, and a meeting with the Fire Department followed that.

“The same discussion was held at all the meetings,” said Douglas. “We talked about how we can implement cost saving measures given serious budget issues.”

The focus of the meeting was on the 2010 budget, which is being analyzed and prepared for an early release to City Council in September, Douglas added. He indicated that it seems “inevitable” that there will be layoffs, but the extent of them could be potentially reduced if cost saving measures, such as the use of furloughs, were instituted.

The furloughs offered by Douglas for consideration by City employees are one day per month without pay, for calendar year 2010.

“In order to share the pain, it is important that bargaining (union) and non-bargaining personnel agree on the furloughs,” he said. If everyone gave up 12 days a year without pay, an estimated \$1 million could be saved.

The furloughs will not prevent layoffs, said Douglas, but they may reduce their number.

As of this time, no layoffs have been announced, but, Douglas continued, “These are painful economic times both for the City of Newburgh, and for the personnel whose jobs will be lost. It appears likely that as we analyze the status of the 2009 budget, we may have to institute some layoffs this year. The hiring freeze instituted in March and other cost-saving measures are likely not sufficient to bring in a balanced 2009 budget.”