EXTERNAL AGENCIES

Women's Shelter Funding Increased

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Mayor Kenny Bowen pushed the City Council for more money for the Salvation Army's Battered Women's Shelter yesterday — and won.

It was time to dole out money for external agencies. A Council committee composed of Wilfred Pierre and Al Simon recommended allocating $156,374 for 14 organizations, including $5,000 for the shelter.

But Director of Administration Glenn Weber told the Council members that Bowen had looked over the list and made only one change — upping the shelter's funding to $7,500.

Simon said the committee was working within tight budgetary restraints and, when reviewing expenditures proposed by the shelter, noticed that some money would be earmarked to allow shelter personnel to attend conferences.

"I don't see how attending a conference would make that much difference in how they treat the women," the District 4 councilman remarked.

But Weber supported Bowen's action. The mayor, in the spirit of compromise, left the other allocations untouched, he said.

"It would not be unreasonable" to accede to the mayor's wishes, he told Simon.

Simon quickly pointed out, "I'm not trying to start a hassle..."

Councilman Billy Cantrelle jumped into the discussion, stating, "I'd like to see it (the increase) put on."

Before the discussion got out of hand, Chief Administrative Officer Roger Larivee played the role of peacemaker by offering a compromise.

Since the Council must, according to law, enter contracts with the external agencies, the CAO said, it can simply spell out in the document that the city's dollars are to be spent "in house," not on conferences.

Simon was appeased and the councilmen started signing budgetary revisions which officially recognized their intent to fund the 14 agencies as approved by Bowen.

The only other organization which drew talk from the Council was the Lafayette Museum.

The committee had recommended $9,000 for that agency. It received $8,000 last year and Councilman Benny Ritchey questioned the increase.

Simon explained that the museum representatives had requested $11,000, but since it was a tourist attraction, the committee felt the Tourist and Convention Bureau should be providing more money to agencies which are responsible for luring tourists to Lafayette.

"They should assume a greater burden of the responsibility," Simon said.

Ritchey dropped the issue. After the Council decided to go along with the committee's recommendations, David Botchin approached the table to make a pitch for more funds for the Lafayette Boys' Club.

Since the time it made its request for funding, he explained, the club has been informed by the city that it must vacate (Continued On Page 8, Col. 3)

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the City Park Recreation Center within 90 days so renovation work can begin.

Boswell said that move should cost the club about $7,000 to $11,000 more per year than it had expected, so he asked for the committee to review its funding recommendation.

But the Council had already taken action, so Council President Pat Calais said it would take the matter under advisement and could possibly make an additional budgetary revision in the future to increase the allotment to the Boys’ Club.

The following is a list of the agencies which the City Council will fund during the coming year:

Lafayette Children’s Council, $1,500; Battered Women’s Shelter, $7,500; Alleman Center, $6,000; Council on Aging, $7,500; Southwest Mardi Gras Association, $10,000; Lafayette Mardi Gras Association, $10,000; Easter Seal Society, $7,000; The Family Tree, $5,000; Boy’s Club, $6,720; Lafayette Museum, $9,000; SMILE, $34,000; LJYA, $15,000; Elderly Blind, $5,000; and the Lafayette Regional Planning Commission, $34,654.