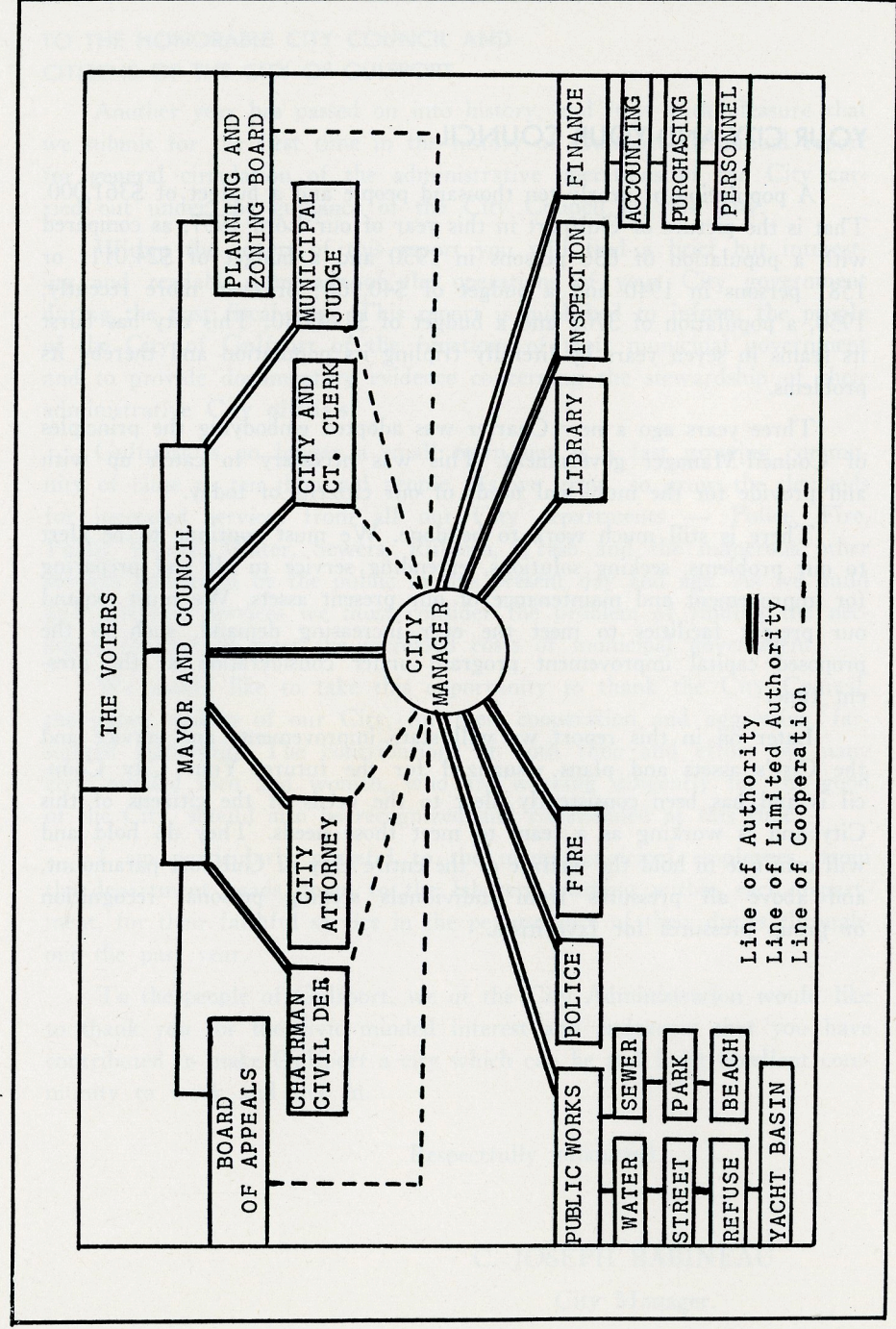




CITY OF

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**1956-57
First Annual
REPORT**



YOUR CITY AND YOUR COUNCIL

A population of nearly ten thousand people and a budget of \$361,000. That is the picture of Gulfport in this year of our Lord 1957, as compared with a population of 630 persons in 1930 and a budget of \$24,011; or 1581 persons in 1940 and a budget of \$40,966; or even more recently, 1950, a population of 3702 and a budget of \$144,630. This city has burst its seams in seven years by literally tripling its population and thereby its problems.

Three years ago a new Charter was adopted embodying the principles of Council-Manager government. This was necessary to catch up with and provide for the municipal needs of our citizens of today.

There is still much work to be done. We must continue to be alert to our problems, seeking solutions, extending service to all and preparing for improvement and maintenance of our present assets. We must expand our present facilities to meet the ever increasing demand, such as the proposed capital improvement program under consideration at the present time.

Later on in this report we will state improvements and service and the City's assets and plans visualized for the future. Your City Council is and has been consistently alert to the needs of the citizens of this City and is working as a team to meet those needs. They do hold and will continue to hold the welfare of the entire City of Gulfport paramount, and above all pressures from individuals seeking personal recognition or group pressures for favoritism.

INTRODUCTION

TO THE HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL AND CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF GULFPORT

Another year has passed on into history, and it is with pleasure that we submit for the first time in the history of Gulfport an annual report for general circulation of the administrative operations of the City carried out under the guidance of the City Council of this City.

Within the covers of this report you will find a brief but interesting and readable summary of the operations of your City government during the past fiscal year. This report is published to inform the people of the City of Gulfport of the functions of their municipal government and to provide documentary evidence concerning the stewardship of their administrative City officials.

Gulfport is no longer a small town but is a fast growing community of close to ten thousand people. As we grow, so grow the demands for increased services from all our City departments — Police, Fire, Public Works, Water, Sewers, Rubbish, Trash and the numerous other services demanded by the public in this present day and age. As we build and add new services we must consider the problem of finding the necessary revenue to meet the increased costs of municipal government.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the City Council, the policy makers of our City, for their cooperation and aggressive, far-sighted leadership. The contributions of both time and effort by many civic minded men and women, who are working diligently for the good of the City, should also be recognized and commended at this time.

I am particularly grateful to the many municipal employees, from the department heads down to the laborers working within each department, for their faithful service in the performance of their duties throughout the past year.

To the people of Gulfport, we of the City Administration would like to thank you for the civic minded interest and endeavors that you have contributed to make Gulfport a city which can be and is an excellent community to work and live in.

Respectfully submitted,

C. JOSEPH BABINEAU
City Manager.

CITY OFFICERS AND BOARDS FOR THE YEAR

COUNCIL

Councilman-At-Large and Mayor	A. L. Anderson
Councilman, Ward #1	Merton A. Murphy
Councilman, Ward #2	William MacNeill
Councilman, Ward #3	G. Forrest Riley
Councilman, Ward #4	T. S. Rice

ADMINISTRATIVE

City Manager	C. Joseph Babineau
City Clerk	John F. Holsapple
City Attorney	Noble C. Doss
City Judge	Crosby Gray III
Director of Finance	Stanley C. Cornell
Chief of Police	W. G. Jopson
Fire Chief	Mack O. Brooks
Director of Public Works	Reese M. Whitworth
Casino Manager	Richard Hern
Librarian	Mrs. Marie Bryan
Harbor Master	Mark Elliott
Superintendent of Water Dept.	Lawrence T. McCarthy
Building Inspector & Zoning Administrator	G. M. Netling
Secretary to Manager	Mrs. Basilia C. Haygood
Secretary to Council	Mrs. Ellen Bauer
Civil Defense Director	George W. Jones

PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD

R. E. Dwight
 William Tattan
 William A. Lange
 Earl Guy
 Leon E. Case

PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Charles J. Sinning
 Ralph Aylesworth
 Leonard Bergeron
 Merle Stillabower
 William L. Herne

LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mrs. Lillian Rockow
 Harvey Rockow
 Mrs. William G. Shepherd
 Frederick Bailey
 Alice Wilson
 Forrest E. Godfrey

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

The pending capital improvement program, a complete sanitary sewer system, complete storm sewer system and necessary water improvements, lead the list for recommendations for the future of Gulfport. These are a subject of the referendum to be held in November of this year.

Sidewalks should be installed in our business district.

Definite steps should be taken toward the preparation of a master plan of the City.

There is a dire need for improvements at both the Yacht Basin and the waterfront.

Once the storm and sanitary sewers are installed there must be a program of street construction, both repairing and resurfacing the old brick streets and building new streets in areas now having unimproved streets.

The City should continue its present program of encouraging annexation of areas lying contiguous to our borders on the west.

There is an imperative need for the development of additional parks and playgrounds and the improvement of all.

The continued growth of the use of the Public Library will someday require a new building and new facilities with adequate parking adjacent.

We should continue the program of improving street lighting in our business sections and the sections where there is considerable pedestrian traffic to safeguard our people.

We should develop a more modern, efficient garbage and trash collection service, coupled with modern incineration.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST YEAR

Remodeling, by the Public Works Department, of the old incinerator building into a modern storage building and garage.

Purchase of one new one-ton truck, a front end loader for the Ford tractor and replacement of the power mower utilized for mowing parkways and vacant lots.

A new roof was installed at the Casino and new siding on the parapet ends.

The Police Station was completely redecorated and remodeled.

Air conditioning was provided for City Hall. A Conference Room was added and a new Manager's Office was constructed within the present building.

Six blocks of street were paved in accordance with new standard specifications, and two more were started before the end of the fiscal year.

At the end of the fiscal year the budget for 1957-58 provided for an adjustment in salaries of all City employees in line with the cost of living increases. Provision for a new policeman to be added to our present department of six men was authorized and the addition of three special officers was authorized.

A mosquito spray program was started, brought about by the donation of the equipment by the Gulfport Lions Club.

A new Burroughs Sensimatic bookkeeping machine was purchased for the bookkeeping department to handle the increased load because of the City's growth.

The Fire Station was completely rewired, as the original wiring was unsafe.

The water tower was repaired and painted and brought into first class condition

Successful contracts were negotiated with the City of St. Petersburg for the furnishing of water for a period of 32 years and also for the treatment of sanitary sewage if and when the people of the City vote the capital improvement program. This, however, has a restriction of a two year limit as an option to us to take advantage of the sewage treatment.

We have authorized a study by Russell and Axon, consulting engineers, of our garbage and trash problem.

The 1956 underwriters fire code was adopted. The present Building Code has had several amendments, bringing it up to date, providing for additional height above paved streets, etc.

New channel markers were installed at the Yacht Basin. The Pier at the Yacht Basin was extended some forty feet. Additional berths were provided for boating.

A full time man was added as a caretaker at the beach and at Hoyt Field.

The playground equipment has been painted and brought into first class repair.

CITY COUNCIL



The voters, voting by wards in the City of Gulfport, have delegated the functions of policy making and administration of their City to their duly elected members of the Council, of which there are four members selected from the wards and one councilman elected at large with the title of Mayor of the City. The administration of the City is delegated by the City Council to the City Manager, who is appointed by them and serves at their will. He may be relieved of his duties by the City Council at any time. The City Council determines the policy for the City on recommendations of the Manager and others or upon recognition of certain needs. The City Manager administers these policies as set down by the City Council.

The City of Gulfport within the past seven years has experienced a population increase from 3500 people to the present estimate of 10,000-plus. Your City Council and the administration have been extremely busy with the many and varied problems pertaining to the welfare of a City of people requiring municipal services and municipal protection of all sorts.

The City Council meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 P.M. at City Hall. These meetings are open to the public. Provision is made at each session for a public discussion. An agenda is posted on the City Hall bulletin board at least 48 hours prior to each meeting. Copies of the agenda are available for interested persons who wish to pick one up at City Hall. The meetings are formal and conducted by the president of the Council; yet, every effort is made to answer any question which can be answered from a policy standpoint at Council meetings or are referred to the City Manager in the case of administrative ques-

tions. The public is urged to attend all these meetings and become informed in order that we may better safeguard the rights we all have under the principles of democratic government. The City Council, in addition to their regular meetings, must attend work sessions and conferences, both as a group and as individuals in carrying out the functions of their office. All in all, your councilman is a very busy man in attending to the affairs of your City. He contributes many hours of his free time working for the interests of his constituents and for the overall benefit of the City of Gulfport.

Your City Councilman serves his City without any pay or remuneration.

CITY MANAGER

C. Joseph Babineau

The City Manager is the chief administrative officer of the City. He has the responsibility of administering the policies set forth by the City Council and the City Charter as smoothly and as efficiently as possible with the limits of the funds approved.

The City Manager is responsible to the City Council for the proper administration of all affairs of the City. The City Manager shall appoint and, when necessary for the good of the service, remove, all officers and employees of the City with the exception of those persons appointed by the City Council, namely the Judge of the Municipal Court, the City Clerk and the City Attorney.

The City Manager has the responsibility of preparing the annual budget and submitting it to the Council. Once the budget is accepted, he has the prime responsibility for its administration.

The City Manager is also responsible for the preparation of a complete report on the finances and administrative activities of the City at the end of each fiscal year. The City Manager is responsible for keeping the City Council advised of the financial condition and of the future needs of the City and periodically makes such recommendations as may seem desirable to him.

The City Manager must submit annually to the City Council, not less than 90 days prior to the beginning of the new budget year, a list of recommended capital improvements that in his opinion are necessary and desirable to be constructed during the forthcoming six year period.

Complete understanding and cooperation between the City Council, department heads, the City employees and the public are of the greatest importance. All are working towards the same goal — a better and more efficient government. The City Council determines the needs of the City and the Manager determines the best way in which to carry out these policies. Whether you have a request for civic improvements or a suggestion for better service, please feel free to register your feelings at City Hall. Nobody will be denied an opportunity to talk with or to present a request to the City Manager. Because of the work load, quite frequently appointments do have to be made. But the City Manager is always most willing to discuss and talk with any citizen about any project under his jurisdiction.

LEGAL DEPARTMENT

Noble Doss, City Attorney

The City Attorney of our City handles legal matters, defends the City in suits brought against it, and prosecutes action for the City. Unlike a business, a City such as ours is subject to a great many laws and restrictions. Some of them are very complicated. It is necessary that our City Attorney advise the City Council and all of the administrative officials in order that they may be familiar not only with the ordinary laws under which we operate but also the provisions of our City Charter and its amendments and all the special acts of the general Legislature that have affected our City.

The City Attorney is responsible for answering all the legal questions which may be brought up by the City Council, the City Manager, the Planning and Zoning Board, or anyone in the employment of the City who needs legal advice regarding the City operation.

The City Attorney attends all regular meetings of the City Council and when requested attends any special work sessions or caucus meetings of the Council.

The City Attorney prepares all ordinances, leases, agreements, liens, and handles the legal work involved on all.

The City Attorney cannot, of course, advise our citizens on their own personal legal problems. When approached in these, he may refer them to another attorney or to himself as an individual attorney practicing law.



MUNICIPAL COURT

Crosby Gray III, Judge

"So shall ye reap."

The City Charter of the City of Gulfport establishes a municipal court for the trial of all offenders against municipal ordinances. The judge of the municipal court holds office at the pleasure of the City Council and is appointed by the City Council. The municipal judge has the power to try all cases involving violations of the City Charter and ordinances and for such violation to impose such penalties or fines as may be prescribed by the ordinance.

All costs and fines collected by municipal court revert to the treasury of the City of Gulfport. The regular established time of the court sessions of the City of Gulfport is weekly, Monday nights at 7:00 P.M. at City Hall. Appeals from the Gulfport Municipal Court are taken to the Magistrates Circuit Court in and for Pinellas County, State of Florida. Safeguarding your liberty is the function of our municipal court. In providing for the safeguard the court recognizes the importance of the individual and does all in its power to see that justice is administered to all who come before it.



CITY CLERK AND CLERK OF THE MUNICIPAL COURT

John F. Holsapple

"Let's take a look at the records."

The City Clerk holds a vital position in the operation of municipal government. His intricate knowledge involves all the affairs of the City. He has custody of and must maintain all the City records. He must have knowledge of all the property throughout the City. He must be familiar with the procedures required to pass ordinances and laws and how such matters are to be brought to the Council's attention.

The City Clerk, acting as Clerk of the Court, must also be thoroughly familiar with the laws governing operation of municipal courts, the preparation of warrants and affidavits, the procedure for issuance of summons, and finally and most important the maintenance of court records.

The City Clerk must also be responsible for the conduct of all elections and the making of local improvements by special assessment.

The City Clerk is in a position to be called upon on many occasions by the City Manager and by the City Council to aid them in the successful completion of their individual work.

The City Clerk must give notice of all Council meetings, maintain a journal of its proceedings, authenticate by his signature all official actions of the Council and maintain the record of all ordinances and resolutions.

He is responsible for the summarizing, indexing and filing of all official documents of the City. He must prepare the necessary advertising in connection with ordinances, bids, elections and other legal notices. He is the custodian of the corporate seal of the City. The City Clerk prescribes the form of and prepares petition papers relating to elections;

he receives and files such nominating petitions. He takes and prescribes oaths of office and files and maintains them. In addition to his regular work, he attends all Council meetings, acting as a clerk for the Council. He also attends each Municipal Court meeting held weekly and such other meetings as he is requested to attend by the Council or informally by the City Manager.

Whenever you need to check an official record of any sort, your first and best source of information is the office of your City Clerk.

During this year past while a new Manager was being sought, our City Clerk served, along with his regular duties, in the position of Acting City Manager, a position he handled very well.

CITY CLERK AND CLERK OF COURT FINANCES

	1956-57		1957-58
	Budget	Expended	Budget
Salaries	\$4,472	\$4,472	\$ 4,680
Steno Service	877	867	1,300
Publishing & Printing	2,123	1,877	3,500
All Other	1,030	810	1,350
Total	\$8,502	\$8,026	\$10,830

PUBLIC WORKS

Reese Whitworth, Director

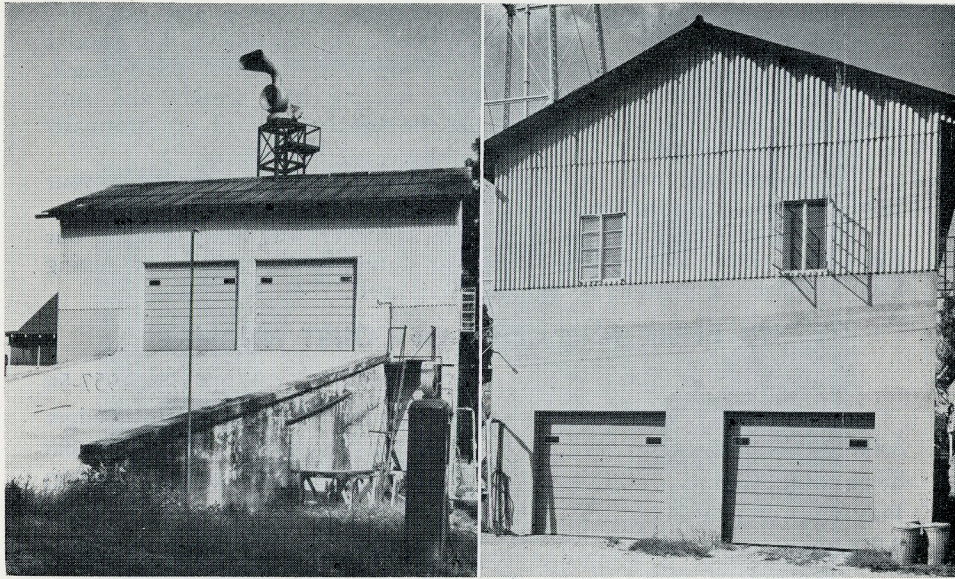
"Putting the machinery of progress in motion."

The Public Works Department of the City of Gulfport consists of a Director and a full time authorized strength of 14 employees. Throughout the year the average employee strength is 12. This crew, equipped with trucks, road grader and various small pieces of equipment, is responsible for the maintenance of 50 miles of streets, of which more than half is unpaved and is dirt or shell. It is inequitable to make any large expenditures on unimproved streets because streets are paved by local assessment procedure. The City Public Works crew, insofar as street construction is concerned, is primarily a maintenance crew which patches, grades, cleans curbs, marks lines, cuts bushes at intersections, and cleans ditches and the few storm drains that exist.

With a small Public Works Department, it is much more economical to let out for contract construction on new pavement and new projects. This also includes resurfacing projects, which were started this current year.

PARKS

The parks that exist in the City of Gulfport are maintained by the Public Works Department and are mowed frequently by equipment maintained for that purpose and for mowing of individual lots on a charge basis. During the rainy season we have experienced this past summer, the need for mowing was very critical.



PUBLIC BUILDINGS

During the past year the Public Works Department remodeled the old incinerator building, making it into an excellent storage garage. The same department also built the air conditioning building which is attached to the City Hall and remodeled some of the office space in City Hall.

REFUSE

The problem of maintaining the City free of refuse in an area that grows as Florida grows is a very serious one. It is requiring at the present time four men and two trucks handling an average of 2600 cubic yards of trash per month, which is hauled to an open dump in Clam Bayou and there burned. There is no direct charge imposed for the hauling of trash with the exception that when an individual has a large load, which is determined by the men operating the equipment, a minimum charge of \$3 to \$5 is then imposed. It is the practice of the Public Works Department to make one pickup per month for each homeowner in the City. We have been very successful on this pickup when weather conditions make it possible for the equipment and men to cover the areas assigned to them. Because of the extreme wet condition of this past summer, there was some delay and their pickup schedules were upset. By adding additional men and equipment we were able to catch up and return to normal schedule.

GARBAGE

The garbage of the City of Gulfport is handled by a separate contract with C. E. Permenter, who has collected garbage in the City for a number of years. It was necessary this year to increase the charge of \$1.00 per month to \$1.20 to provide for the increased costs of operating equipment, hiring personnel, etc. The City makes approximately \$10,000

a year on the garbage contract. This pays for administration of the billing and provides considerable income toward the cost of refuse collection, which is not tax supported and is a service of the City at no direct cost to the individual resident.

PUBLIC WORKS

Salaries of Public Works Personnel

	Weekly 1956-57	Yearly 1956-57	Weekly 1957-58	Yearly 1957-58
Supt. of Public Works	\$89.00	\$4,628	\$95.00	\$4,940
Maintenance Man III.....	61.00	3,172	64.00	3,328
Maintenance Man II.....	56.00	2,912	59.00	3,068
Maintenance Man I.....	50.00	2,600	53.00	2,756

Division of Trash & Garbage Collection

	1956-57 Budget	Expended	1957-58 Budget
Salaries	\$ 9,997	\$ 9,730	\$11,596
Garbage Disposal Svc. (Contracted).....	32,000	31,432	41,000
Capital Equipment	3,228	3,160	10,000
All Othher Expense	1,467	1,206	1,772
Total.....	\$46,692	\$45,528	\$64,368

Street Division

	1956-57 Budget	Expended	1957-58 Budget
Salaries	\$23,384	\$23,290	\$36,666
Equipment Operations	2,480	2,382	3,000
All material purchased	7,199	6,783	11,340
Capital Equipment (Trucks, etc.)	3,839	3,839	1,800
Repair Public Buildings	850	814	1,000
All Other Expense	1,440	1,372	3,376
Total.....	\$39,192	\$38,480	\$57,182

WATER DEPARTMENT

"In order that we may drink."

During the year past total billings for water were \$130,944.

During the year past 25,319 bills were prepared, which required a cumulative total of 23,256 water meter readings.

There were 257 new accounts added during the year.

There were 610 requests to turn water off and 679 requests to turn water on. These are our winter visitors and summer vacationers.

There were 520 changes of address and name, which gives us an indication of the real estate activity in the City in the transfer of property, new property, etc.

There were 173,133,000 gallons of water purchased and resold by the City during the past year.

There were 3482 water meters in the City and 276 meters serving people in the unincorporated areas to our west. During the past year there were 285 new meters installed.



Clerical Staff, Water Department

Water Department Finance

	1956-57		1957-58
	Budget	Expended	Budget
Purchase of Waater	\$37,000	\$36,669	\$ 43,000
Salaries	15,348	15,130	15,080
Materials & Supplies	17,135	14,707	23,150
Capital Outlay & Depreciation	14,372	6,901	26,000
Capital Equipment-Office	5,228	5,063	500
All Other -Water Dept.	2,610	1,607	4,419
Total	\$91,693	\$80,077	\$112,149

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Stanley C. Cornell, Director

The Department of Finance for the City of Gulfport performs three specific functions; namely, accounting, purchasing and personnel.

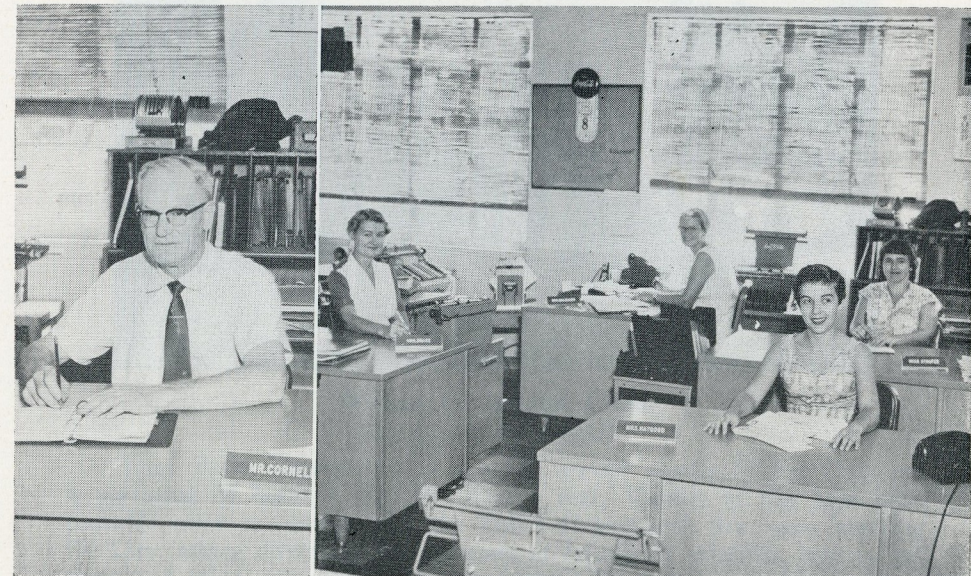
The Department of Finance is headed by the Finance Director, who is appointed by the City Manager. He must have knowledge of municipal accounting and taxation and must have experience in budgeting and financial control.

The Director of Finance has charge of the administration of the financial affairs of the City and is required to compile current expense estimates for the budget, both for operating and for the capital budget for the City. He is responsible for the disbursement of all monies and has control over all expenditures, to insure that budget appropriations are not exceeded.

The Director of Finance and his department must maintain an accounting system for each of the offices, departments and agencies of the City and must maintain rigid control of the items of appropriation as set forth in the annual budget, which is the official document the City operates from on a fiscal basis.

The Department of Finance is responsible for submitting to the City Council, through the City Manager, a monthly statement of all receipts and disbursements in sufficient detail to show the exact financial condition of the City at all times.

This department is responsible for the collection of all special assessments, license fees and other revenues of the City, including water department collections.



The Department is also concerned with the investment and invested funds of the City..

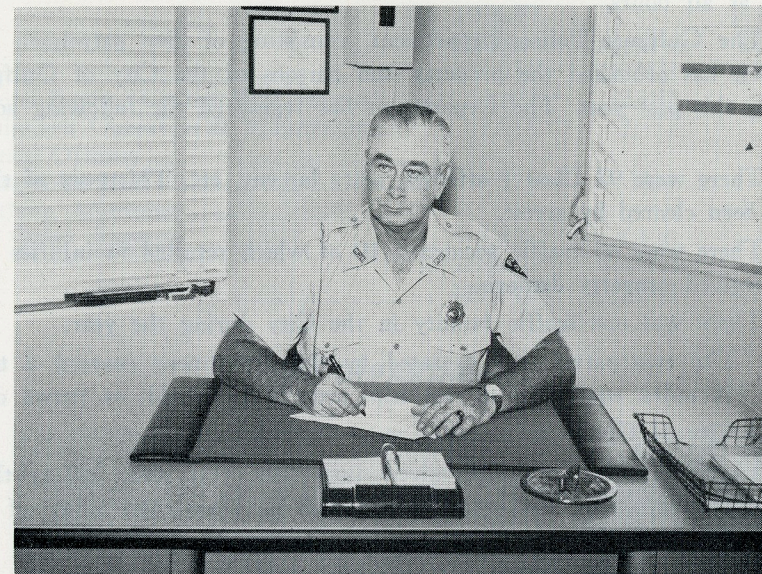
The Finance Director and his department are also responsible for the purchase, storage and distribution of all supplies, materials, equipment and other articles used by any office, department or agency of the City.

This department is responsible for the payrolls of all City employees and for the preparation of the necessary reports to the Federal and State governments on withholding taxes, Social Security and other deductions. It is responsible for the insurance condition of the City's properties.

Finance Department Budget

	1956-57		1957-58
	Budget	Expended	Budget
Salaries	\$ 9,388	\$ 9,348	\$10,868
Supplies	1,287	720	1,200
Capital Equipment (Office)	200	32	500
All Other	1,343	1,136	1,429
Total	12,218	\$11,236	\$13,997

POLICE DEPARTMENT



William G. Jopson, Chief
"Highlights of 1956-7."

Your Police Department is a public service agency of the City and is operating 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Visitors in this area most probably come in contact with the Police Department first upon entering the City, asking directions for addresses of friends or relatives, how to get there and other information regarding the City and surrounding area in

the County. Your Police Department is an excellent source of this information at all hours.

The Gulfport Police Department, consisting of five patrolmen and a chief, has protected the property and persons of the City of Gulfport during this past year. The Department has registered the following activity.

There were 93 Class 1 offenses, petty larceny, etc. Thirty-six of these have been cleared by arrest.

There were 45 traffic accidents, 10 of which resulted in injuries and 11 involved property damage.

There was one traffic fatality in the City during the year.

The two patrol cars operated by the department covered a total of 65,796 miles, equivalent to two trips around the world, on patrol duty in the City of Gulfport.

There were 1188 citations given during the year past, 369 of them moving citations, 867 parking citations, and 52 other than either of the above.

There were 22 juvenile cases received during the year and 22 cases closed by the department.

The Police Department received, investigated and took care of 790 various and sundry complaints.

There were 376 court convictions and 69 dismissals, for a total of 445 arrests.

Emergency calls are answered promptly by trained personnel.

A constant patrol of the City at all hours regulates and controls traffic, checks security conditions of business property, and also keeps records of same. To date during this calendar year 217 private residences have been kept under surveillance while the occupants were out of the City.

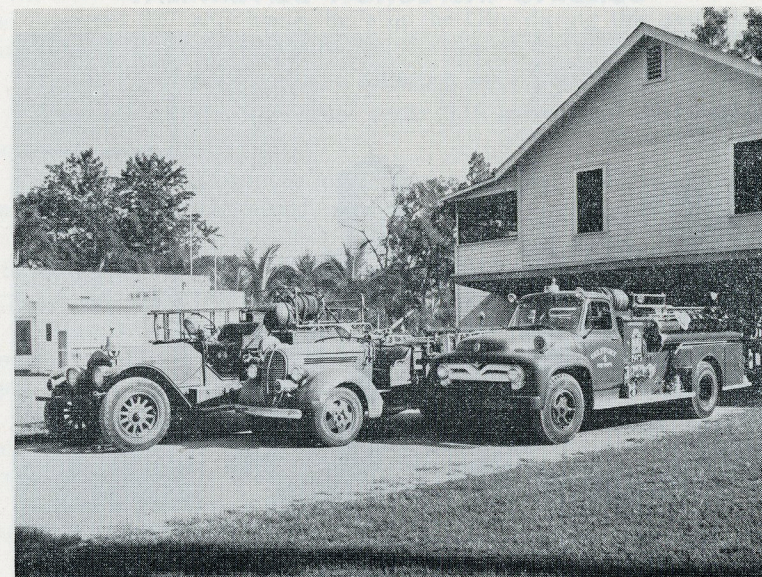
All the police officers employed by the City of Gulfport are graduates of accredited police schools, each having received a certificate of attendance presented upon completion of the various and numerous courses taken in the training for their service.

The two police cruisers are equipped with all the necessary equipment for any emergency that might arise. Both cars in service are in contact with the monitor service supplied by the St. Petersburg Police Department, which is in constant operation 24 hours a day. Your Police Department is an asset to the City of Gulfport. It is for your service and for your protection—use it.

Police Department Budget

	1956-57 Budget	Expended	1957-58 Budget
Salaries	\$21,031	\$20,922	\$27,404
Capital Equip. (Cruiser Replacement)	2,102	2,102	2,000
Equipment Operation & Maintenance	2,515	2,352	3,040
Special Officers			500
Communications	575	534	650
Clothing Allowance			350
All Other Expense	1,521	1,138	1,822
Total	\$27,744	\$27,048	\$35,766

FIRE DEPARTMENT



Mack O. Brooks, Chief

"The Fire Demon never sleeps."

The City of Gulfport Fire Department stands ready to serve you 24 hours a day. Greater safety is assured to all the City because of our mechanized department and the trained volunteer personnel.

During the past year your City government has augmented the fire alarm system by the purchase of a new official air raid siren, which is also utilized in the calling of alarms for fires.

Each year equipment replacement is carried out to insure an adequate supply of good hose, fire extinguishers, and to insure that the trucks are kept in top rate condition.

The volunteer fire department meets weekly every Monday night at

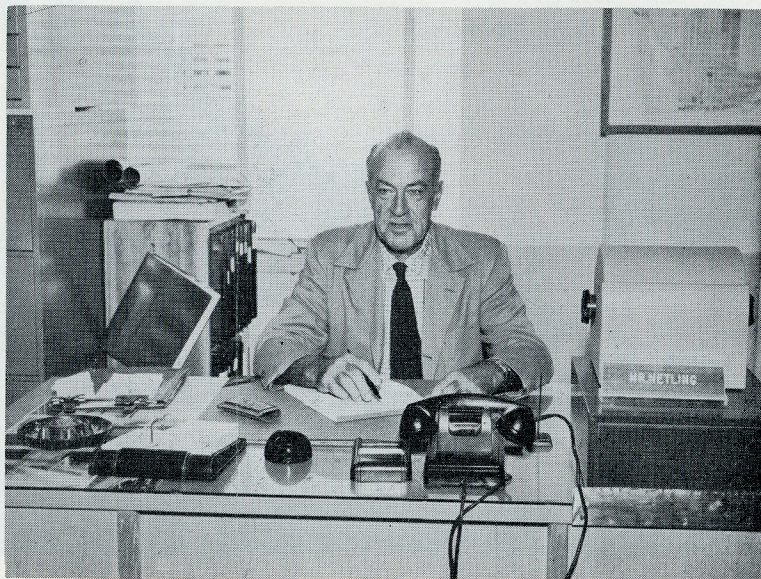
the fire station to discuss problems regarding fire fighting techniques and to work on the equipment in preparation for its need.

Should a fire occur in your home or near the premises, call the fire department immediately so that the fire does not get out of control. Be sure the telephone number (DI 1-5111) is always available in the event of emergency. In placing your call, be sure to give the house number and the street.

Fire Department Budget

	1956-57		1957-58
	Budget	Expended	Budget
Salaries	\$3,758	\$3,635	\$3,920
All Supplies	1,500	905	1,300
Repairs & Maintenance	936	712	930
Total	\$6,194	\$5,252	\$6,150

BUILDING INSPECTION DEPARTMENT



G. M. Netling, Building Inspector
"Sound inspection for safe structures."

Building inspection for the City of Gulfport these past few years has been a virtual nightmare to the inspector. It has required several changes in the building code, the electrical code and changes in the zoning law. These changes have imposed additional work on this department.

The Building Inspector in his official duties is also zoning administrator. His responsibilities and activities range from the handling of back yard feuds on such subjects as fences, shrubs, bushes, trees, garbage cans, singing parakeets, canaries and parrots, barking dogs, loud radios and television sets, pigeons, cats and drainage water to the problem of preparing specifications for alterations or repairs at City Hall or other public build-

ings. Not all of these problems can be handled equally well, but certainly this department has made every effort to carry out its responsibilities in settling these various feuds and performing these various functions as amicably as possible.

The Building Inspector makes necessary inspections regarding the safety of playground equipment. He has on occasion collected money from the parking meters during vacation period. He has prepared various maps and proposed improvements for the City and City property. The Building Inspector serves as an advisor to the Zoning Board of Appeals and has prosecuted violations of zoning and occupational license ordinances in the City Court, of which there were 60 or more such violations during the past year.

In the spirit of cooperation with other governmental agencies, our Building Inspector has acted as an advisor to the County Sanitation Department field representative both in this City and in County areas adjacent to the City. This department has also made 97 fire inspections of businesses in the City as well as all its schools. Statistically, he has issued permits for and inspected 227 new homes built in the City during this past fiscal year, with a total value of \$2,598,642.

Total building permit fees collected were \$10,780.

There were 3316 inspections made, 118 corrections were ordered, 277 complaints were answered.

There were 152 zoning inspections made, and 1089 license inspections were made during this period.

There were 472 electrical permits issued during this period, requiring a total of 756 inspections; 80 corrections were ordered. Total fees for electrical permits collected were \$3317.

There were permits issued for 243 new septic tanks, requiring 253 inspections. There were 20 corrections ordered. Total fees collected for septic tank permits were \$540.

There were 227 sanitation complaints received and 192 complaints rectified. To summarize, the activity of the Building Inspection Department, (consisting of one man, the Building Inspector,) realized total fees collected of \$14,617. Building permits totaled \$10,780; electrical permits, \$3278; plumbing permits, \$540; signs, \$19.

There were 212 single dwellings, 11 duplexes, 3 buildings of more than 3 families, constructed during the year. In addition there were 12 commercial buildings and 191 additions or structural alterations. There were 16 general repairs and improvements, 38 carports and garages built, and 29 installations of air conditioners.

Building Inspection Department Budget

	1956-57		1957-58
	Budget	Expended	Budget
Salaries	\$4,413	\$4,395	\$4,576
Gas & Oil	300	300	600
Social Security	97	97	99
Total	\$4,810	\$4,792	\$5,275

GULFPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Gulfport Public Library is under the direction of Mrs. Marie Bryan, Librarian, and her able assistants, and has completed its year successfully with the following statistics.

Total circulation of adult's and children's books, 94,015. This is a slight decrease from the year before, when total circulation was 97,604.

During the year 1262 books were purchased, as against 1544 purchased the year previous.

There were 776 new cards added as against 817 the previous year.

Total fees collected for the year 1955-56 were \$1351.10. Total fees collected this past year were \$1349.

The budget for the library follows and provides for additional assistance. The Gulfport Public Library has increased its hours of operation on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, opening in the morning at 10:00 A.M. This is to afford opportunity for more of our senior citizens to have access to the library during the earlier cool hours. Heretofore the Library was open only in the afternoon and early evening.

Library Budget

	1956-57 Budget	Expended	1957-58 Budget
Salaries	\$5,744	\$5,616	\$6,786
Books	1,500	1,331	1,150
Building Maintenance	275	206	275
Supplies	300	242	300
All Other	327	209	356
Total	\$8,146	\$7,604	\$8,867

GULFPORT CASINO

Richard Hern, Manager

The Gulfport Casino is a profit producing asset to the City of Gulfport, owned by the City and operated by a manager, who has a contract on a commission basis. The Gulfport Casino is a major tourist attraction to the City. The Merrymakers Orchestra has provided excellent dances and entertainment for both the young and senior citizens for many years and has a large following from many of our neighboring cities.

The City meets the operating expense of the Casino, paying the Casino manager 10% of the gross receipts in return for his services. He takes care of the booking of all entertainment, the general operation of the Casino, and protects the property and investment of the City. The City provides the necessary janitors, ticket takers, and the maintenance of the building. The lunch concession operation in the Casino is operated by the Casino Manager as a separate, personal project.

This past year we installed a new roof on the Casino. This was done by contract with Krauss Roofing Company at a cost of \$3204. The repairs also included new asbestos siding on the parapets and the fan housing of the building. This budget year, and at the time of this report, a new floor has already been installed in the Casino, making two major capital improvements to the building within this two year period. This floor was installed by Moderne Floors, Inc., of Gulfport, which was awarded the contract after successfully bidding, for a cost of \$7495. With the new roof and floor and new painting inside the building, we feel that the Gulfport Casino is now in condition to provide wholesome recreation for our winter visitors as well as our people who live here and also to provide an excellent source of revenue for the City for many years to come.

The following is a detail of the budget and income derived from operation of the Casino.

Gulfport Casino Budget

	1956-57 Budget	Expended	1957-58 Budget
Salaries (Janitor, Ticket Taker).....	\$ 4,150	\$ 4,150	\$ 4,420
Commission (Paid to Manager)	3,830	3,830	4,100
Cost of Entertainment	10,525	10,518	10,140
Advertising	1,525	1,436	1,600
Supplies & Utilities	1,602	1,336	1,500
All Other	1,606	1,520	1,452
Total Expenses	\$23,238	\$22,790	\$23,212
Add Capital Improvements to Casino	3,204	3,204	7,495
Total, Including Capital Improvements....	26,442	25,994	30,707
Gross Income Anticipated & Realized....	37,000	38,307	38,000
Less Expenses	26,442	25,994	30,707
Net Income for City.....	\$10,558	\$12,313	\$ 7,293

GULFPORT PUBLIC BEACH

Contributing to the welfare of the City of Gulfport, complementing the activities of the Gulfport Casino and, most important, the entertainment of our recreation and winter visitors, Gulfport Beach is one of the four public beaches remaining in the area.

The beach is patrolled and maintained by one full time man, with complementary assistance by the Public Works Department when needed. During the summer months lifeguard protection is provided. The City is fortunate in having a children's playground, completely equipped, donated by Mrs. Sandra M. Widener, making our beach area unique in relation to the others in and around the area. We also provide sheltered picnic tables which are utilized the year around by many of our local residents as well as outside people enjoying the facilities offered by Gulfport's beach area. Adequate free parking is also provided at the west end of the beach, which is another unique factor in the waterfront area.

At the present time the City of Gulfport officials are concerned with and are studying means of improving the beach and particularly the problem of erosion we have been experiencing during the past few years. Because the beach area, along with the Casino, is one of the major assets of the City, we sincerely believe that within the next few years major improvements will be forthcoming on this development.

Included as part of and included with the beach is the maintenance of parks. The City of Gulfport does not have a parks department. The account for maintaining Hoyt Field and various small parks we have in the City is included in the operation of the beach. The same man employed for beach operation is also employed for maintenance of the various parks.

Beaches, Parks and Playground Budget

	1956-57		1957-58
	Budget	Expended	Budget
Salaries	\$3,533	\$3,533	\$3,966
Maintenance	1,502	1,404	1,500
Capital Outlay	590	590	500
Other	80	78	93
Total.....	\$5,705	\$5,605	\$6,059

GULFPORT YACHT BASIN

Mark Elliot, Harbor Master

The Gulfport Yacht Basin represents another asset to the City of Gulfport of the same nature as the Casino.

With the increased enthusiasm of the boating public, Gulfport is hardpressed to provide adequate space for boat slips to meet the demand of our citizens and of our vacationers. There is not a single day that goes by that we do not turn down requests for additional space at the basin.

The potential for the City of Gulfport to utilize this area as an income producer to support worthwhile projects throughout the City has only been scratched. For this reason it has been recommended by the Planning and Zoning Board of the City that we make necessary improvements to bring this basin up to a standard befitting the City and to provide needed income for the support of other City functions. At the present time approximately one-third of the basin is leased to persons holding leases affiliated with the boat building or the fishing industries. These leases bring in a total of \$1451 a year.

Rental of boat spaces in the balance of the basin brings in a total of \$6096 a year. Gasoline and oil sales bring in an additional \$1500 a year. Total expenses for operating the Yacht Basin this past year were \$4433. The total income was \$9806, making net profit to the City of Gulfport of \$5373.

COMMUNITY HALL

The Gulfport Community Hall is maintained on a nonprofit basis as a meeting place for all types of organizations and clubs from within and from without the City.

The City Council recently studied the rates charged for this very valuable community service. The present rates were originally adopted in 1952. The Council decided against raising rates and voted to eliminate the free use of the Hall.

This past year there have been 339 meetings in the Community Hall, averaging slightly less than one per day the year around; 279 of these meetings were local organizations, broken down into 60 morning meetings, 85 afternoon meetings and 134 evening meetings. There were 26 out-of-town organizations meeting, 3 of them in the morning, 11 in the afternoon and 12 evening meetings.

During this same year there were 34 meetings held by organizations which received the use of the hall at no charge. The present rate schedule for the use of the Gulfport Community Hall is as follows:

	Local Organizations	Out-of-Town Organizations
Morning	\$1.00	\$2.00
Afternoon	1.50	3.00
Evening	2.50	10.00

Total income realized for the 1956-57 was \$601. Total expense for the year, \$2449. This has resulted in a net loss of \$1848 for the year's operation of the Community Hall. However, this loss would be offset somewhat by the janitor charge, which had been overcharged against this project, reducing it by \$832, or an actual net loss of \$1016. The 1957-58 budget draws the income in line with expenses more closely.

PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD

It has been said that "planning is a program by which a municipality utilizes all its natural resources and that proper municipal planning includes the task of determining the direction in which a community is headed, and, finally, deciding which direction it should take in the future."

The Gulfport planning board is a commission made up of five members appointed by the City Council. The powers and duties of the planning board are to make, amend and add to a master plan for the physical development of our City. They exercise control over the subdividing and platting of land within the City. They draft for the Council an official map of the City and recommend or disapprove proposed changes in the map. The planning board is also empowered to make recommendations to the City Council for changes in the zoning plan and to approve or disapprove requests for changes. The board meets once a month on Thursday of the week following the first Council meeting of the month. If need requires, they also meet on the fourth Thursday of the month, following the second Council meeting of the month by one week.

The planning board of the City of Gulfport has made many specific recommendations during the past year, including improvements to our building code, adoption of a new fire code, raising of the minimum floor areas in all zones of the City, and suggestions and changes in the zoning act. They have accepted and rejected many plans for changing zoning in specific areas of the City. They have prepared and approved for the City a capital program for the next five years:

(1) Sidewalks on our heavily traveled streets adjacent to business sections.

(2) An incinerator for the disposal of garbage and trash. They have requested the City Council to have an engineering study made for this purpose, which has been started. The City Council has authorized and employed the firm of Russell and Axon to make this study during this year.

(3) The development of the waterfront, both the beach area and the Yacht Basin.

(4) The continued improvement of street lighting throughout the City. Gulfport Boulevard, 49th Street and Beach Boulevard have been listed as priority projects. The City Council has already authorized new lighting on Gulfport Boulevard from 49th Street to 64th Street.

(5) The development of parks and playgrounds in the City. They have recommended that the City employ a landscape architect, who will design plans covering the vacant City property for its use as parks and playgrounds.

(6) The suggestion that Gulfport should seriously consider replacement of its present library facilities with a modern new building, providing adequate parking adjacent.

All of these programs were overwhelmingly and unanimously approved by all members of the Planning Board of the City of Gulfport and were transmitted to the Gulfport City Council.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Zoning Board of Appeals of the City of Gulfport consists of five members appointed by the City Council. All members on this board, as well as the Planning and Zoning Board, serve without pay. All meetings of the board are open to the public. However, notice of these meetings is not required by law.

The Board has the power to hear and determine appeals from refusals of building permits by the Building Inspector to individuals seeking such permits and is empowered to permit exceptions or variances of the zoning regulations.

During the past year the Zoning Board of Appeals has considered 40 requests for variances. The following is a breakdown of the nature of the requests that were approved or disapproved.

1. Seventeen requests to build Florida rooms, carports, porches or garage units, under conditions subject to the zoning restrictions.
2. Five requests for variances on porch enclosures with screens or jalousies and front yard setbacks.
3. One request for variance on an underground storage tank.
4. One request for conversion of a garage to a living area.
5. Two notices to complete partially finished buildings.
6. One occupational variance to the zoning ordinance.
7. Five requests for setback variances — rear, front and side yards.
8. One request for variance on the required square foot area of a lot.
9. One request on variance to the Building Code.
10. Six disapprovals on setback requirements.

This gives a general picture of the work of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Its prime function is to protect the public interest and yet to realize that certain laws and ordinances can impose an undue hardship and burden on an individual. The purpose of this board is to recognize these factors and to make the adjustments that are fair and equitable, not injuring any individuals. This is not a duty to grant exception in all cases, but to measure all the factors, using good judgment in each case. The Zoning Board of Appeals for the City of Gulfport, we believe, has done this. We should all be proud of their excellent work and of their careful consideration of the well being of the City and of the individuals within the City.

CITY OF GULFPORT, FLORIDA
GENERAL FUND — BALANCE SHEET
JULY 31, 1957

Assets		
Petty Cash	\$ 900.00	\$
Gulf Beach Bank	99,053.81	99,953.81
Gulf Beach Bank, Special Time Acct.....		125,000.00
Misc. Accounts Receivable	6,460.63	
Water & Garbage Accts. Rec.	3,527.05	
Liens Receivable	10,959.68	
	20,947.36	
Less Reserve	634.00	20,313.36
Deferred Expense		698.36
Inventory Water Materials	11,189.21	
Less Reserve	11,189.21	
Assigned Liens Receivable	467.85	
Less Reserve	467.85	
Est. Rec. on Charges to Property Owners for Paving.....		18,033.13
Dual Parking Meters		2,924.88
Inventory - Gasoline & Oil, Clam Bayou.....		150.52
		<u>\$267,074.06</u>

Liabilities		
Appearance Bonds	\$ 25.00	\$
Water Deposits	2,417.39	
Due Blue Cross	123.06	
Payroll Taxes Withheld	960.80	
Social Security Taxes Payable	482.04	
Escrow Liability	111.83	

Sales Tax Payable	2.20	
Due Firemen's Pension Fund	848.40	
Reserve for Encumbrances - Prior Year.....	19,698.43	
Accounts Payable	30,475.75	
Due Dual Parking Meter Co.	2,924.88	
Lot Clearing Commitment — 65.93		
Less Contra 51.28.....	14.65	58,084.43
Est. Deferred Revenue - Paving in Progress....	18,033.13	
Deferred Real Estate Taxes	11,250.00	
Deferred Revenue - Liens Receivable	10,959.68	
Provision for Replacement - Water System....	12,000.00	52,242.81
Surplus		
Free	108,838.82	
Appropriated	47,908.00	156,746.82
		<u>\$267,074.06</u>

SINKING FUND

Assets		
Gulf Beach Bank—Bond Interest Account....	\$ 150.34	\$
Union Trust Co.—Sinking Funds	1,386.30	
Union Trust Co.—Called Bonds	52,380.25	53,916.89
Chemical Corn Exchange Bank, Coupon Acct.		7,683.30
Delinquent Taxes Receivable	91.29	
Reserve for Delinquent Taxes	91.29	\$ 61,600.19

Liabilities		
Bond Coupons Payable	\$ 7,683.30	\$
Due for Retirement of Bonds	52,261.25	
Due for Retirement of Certificates of Indebtedness.....	119.00	
Accrued Collection Expense	212.84	60,276.39
Surplus Account		1,323.80
		<u>\$61,600.19</u>

CAPITAL FUND

Assets	
Amount to be provided for Funded Debt.....	\$262,250.00
Liabilities	
Bonds Payable	\$262,250.00

CITY OF GULFPORT — GENERAL FUND

Summary of 1957-58 Revenue Budget

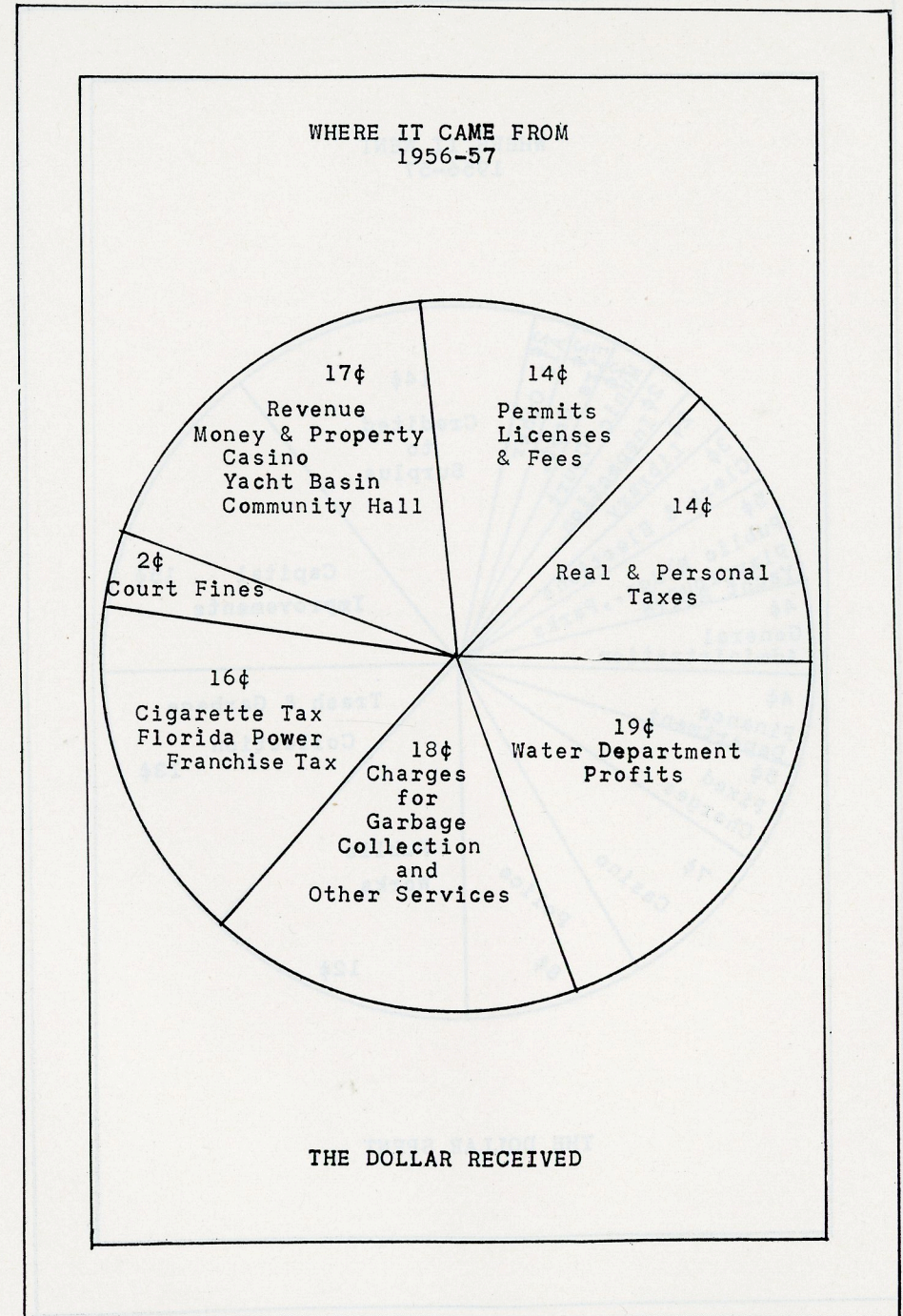
	1956-57	1957-58
	Budget	Realized Anticipated
100 General Property Taxes.....	\$ 43,000	44,000 46,500
200 Permits, Licenses, Fees.....	32,960	43,830 50,860
300 Police Court	3,000	5,400 5,000
400 Revenue from Money & Property....	48,941	53,478 52,580
500 Revenue from Other Agencies	32,600	50,500 48,500
600 Service Charges	48,900	60,950 72,850
Total	209,401	258,158 276,290
Appropriated Surplus	33,195	33,195 47,908
Transfer from Water Department	36,857	52,407 36,987
GRAND TOTAL.....	279,453	343,760 361,185

CITY OF GULFPORT — GENERAL FUND

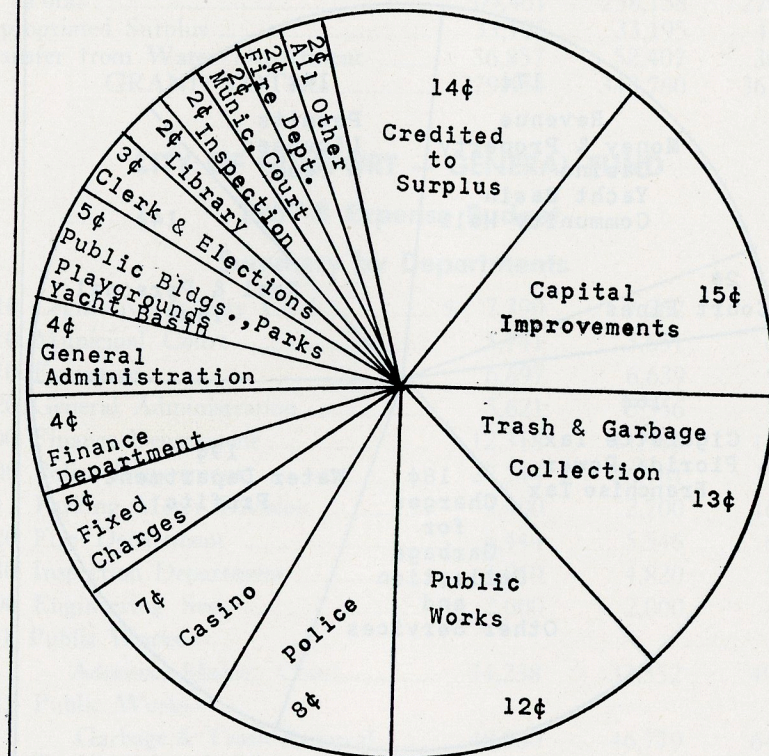
1957-8 Expense Budget

Summary by Departments

110 Legislative & City Clerk.....	\$ 7,390	7,262	9,660
210 Municipal Court	5,741	5,651	6,380
310 Executive	6,697	6,639	9,086
320 General Administration	5,621	5,556	7,147
400 Finance Department	12,318	11,933	13,997
900 Police Department	27,744	26,961	35,766
911 Parking Meter Division	3,400	2,700	16,866
920 Fire Department	6,444	5,546	6,150
930 Inspection Department	4,810	4,820	5,275
1000 Engineering Svc.	2,000	2,000	4,000
1101 Public Works—			
Admins., Maint., Const.....	34,238	33,552	49,066
1012 Public Works—			
Garbage & Trash Removal.....	48,930	46,779	64,368
1014 Traffic Signs & Maint.....	1,200	1,200	1,200
1015 Material Costs—Other Svc.	2,500	2,500	3,500
1011 Clam Bayou	4,971	4,940	4,671
1102 Community Hall	2,750	2,270	1,276
1103 Beaches, Parks & Playgrounds	5,705	5,767	6,059
1105 Casino	23,238	22,943	23,212
1106 Library	8,146	8,038	8,867
1310 Elections	1,310	1,027	2,420
1400 Fixed Charges	16,800	16,275	19,450
2500 Capital Improvements	47,200	43,350	52,250
2801 Reserve for Contingencies	300	5	10,519
GRAND TOTAL.....	279,453	267,714	361,185



WHERE IT WENT
1956-57



THE DOLLAR SPENT

WHERE IT WENT 1955-57



THE DALLAS STREET

PRINTING BY
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