

Bankruptcy

ing by residents, which resulted in less ability for businesses to hire and grow.

In San Bernardino there are 55,000 taxable parcels and of those are residential parcels which equals a high demand on services but only 10,000 of them are taxable.

A common theme that emerged was that the economic decline was like a domino effect with one factor impacting another which impacted another and so forth.

Another factor that contributed to this crisis was the fact that there was no connection between audits

and the budget meaning that audits revealed certain issues but these issues never came into play when budgeting.

The end result of these and other factors is that today, there is very little discretionary funding to meet needs.

Bush also added that rather than focusing on "sustainability" the city should focus on resiliency, a word choice that Mayor Pat Morris firmly defended as he made comments a little later on.

City Attorney Jim Penman addressed the legal aspects of filing for bankruptcy. In a very condensed nutshell, the city must present the municipal bankruptcy court

with a plan to resolve their situation and the court either approves or denies it.

Municipal bankruptcy, also known as Chapter 9 bankruptcy, is done as a means of the city reorganizing its structure rather than total liquidation.

That means the city has to present a plan to come out of what is called a "structural deficit".

"The courts will not encroach a plan on us," Morris said. "We must present them with a plan."

You may visit the city's website at sbcity.org for information on how to view a recording of the entire meeting.



IECN PHOTO CYNTHIA MENDOZA

San Bernardino resident **Kathy Mallon** gives Fox 11 news her input on the city's impending bankruptcy. During her public comments, Mallon told the council to carefully watch where and how each and every penny is spent.

Valdivia

over graffiti. Valdivia has also taken it upon himself to seek out potholes, broken lights and signs and reported them via an iPhone application that allows anyone to report such matters to city staff to take care of.

Valdivia added that he and a volunteer council aid have gone out and about late at night searching out problems and reporting them via the app. Valdivia says he has filed hundreds of reports and that even when he's out and about on his own time such as having dinner with his family, he's always looking for and reporting issues.

He says what he does now as a councilperson is no different than what he was doing before as a resident.

Valdivia has also engaged in voter outreach via cold calling residents and door knocking at homes and businesses to find out what

their concerns and priorities are. "I've been busy being active in my ward," Valdivia says. "I'm here to make sure residents' voices are heard at city hall and that they have basic services. That's the bottom line."

Along the same lines, Valdivia says that what residents most want are simply basic services and safety.

As far as public safety, Valdivia says he addresses this issue by asking, "What is city government for? What is our reason for being?"

"At the core, it's making sure we have a safe community," he said. "It's fundamental in making sure our residents are accommodated with safety."

But in light of the city's recent decision to move forward with bankruptcy proceedings in order to restructure the organization due to a severe cash flow deficit, the future of even basic services may be

at risk. Valdivia was also asked why he chose to abstain from voting on the matter.

"Residents have been hoodwinked for many years," he said about the city's financial situation. "They have been misled. I voted not to support bankruptcy or the other plan. That doesn't solve problems."

Valdivia emphasized that his number one priority remains being accessible to residents, being a voice for them at city hall and focusing on providing basic services. "That's the bottom line," he says. "I'm in touch with the pulse of the people."

Councilman John Valdivia will be hosting his first town hall meeting on Tuesday, July 17 at Telacu Buena Vista located at 365 Commercial Road at 6:30 p.m.

For more information call (909) 384-5333.



IECN PHOTOS CYNTHIA MENDOZA

Above: Consultant **Michael Bush** said there was no connection between audits and the budget meaning that audits revealed certain issues but these issues never came into play when budgeting.

Below: CSUSB professor **Dr. Milton Clark** from the San Bernardino City Library board of trustees requested that valuable city services such as libraries not be cut in light of the city's severe cash flow problem.



Magician

Branch Library, located at 108 E. Marshall Blvd., on Monday, July 16, at 6:00 p.m., and at the Feldheim Central Library, located at 555 W. Sixth Street, on Wednesday, July 18, also at 6:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the Friends of the San Bernardino Public Library, the summer reading game began on June 2nd and will run through July 28. There is a reading game for children, for teens, and for adults, with a grand prize to be awarded at the completion of the program.

For more information, contact Linda Adams at 909-381-8238, or adams.lin@sbpl.org.



Above: The floors at Lytle Creek Park Community Center recently got a waxing overhaul, something Councilman John Valdivia said hadn't happened in many years. Providing basic public safety, street and park services are what Valdivia says he is most passionate about and dedicated to providing.



IECN PHOTOS COURTESY SB COUNCIL OFFICE

Right: Councilman **John Valdivia**, left and Parks and Recreation Director **Kevin Hawkins** chat during the Tuesday, July 10 special meeting to address the city's severe cash flow problem. Providing basic services, including good, well maintained park services, is one of the things most Valdivia is most dedicated to.