

KANSAS CITY AND THE AREA

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Council members deny raise for auditor

By LYNN HORSLEY
The Kansas City Star

Kansas City Auditor Mark Funkhouser and his supporters were stunned this week when the City Council voted 7-5 against giving him a 4 percent raise.

Funkhouser said Friday he was dismayed by the vote, especially since he's never been given any indication that the council had any problem with his performance.

Those voting Thursday for the raise, which would have boosted Funkhouser's salary from \$117,252 to near-



Funkhouser

ly \$122,000, were Mayor Kay Barnes, Mary Williams-Neal, Becky Nace, Evert Asjes and Ed Ford.

Those opposed were Paul Danaher, Jim Rowland, Bonnie Sue Cooper, Troy Nash, Terry Riley, Chuck Eddy and Alvin Brooks. Teresa Loar was absent.

Council members against the raise said it was not appropriate, given the city's sluggish economy and multimillion-dollar budget shortfall.

A majority of the council voted earlier this year in favor of raises averaging 4 percent for most city employees. Only some managers, department directors and assistant directors had their salaries frozen.

Funkhouser, who has been auditor since 1988, said the council's vote would not prompt him to quit his job.

Last year he got a 4 percent raise.

To reach Lynn Horsley, City Hall reporter, call (816) 234-4317 or send e-mail to lhorsley@kcstar.com.