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BOOKS

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and other budget staff involved in the process."

According to Investopedia.com, the term cook the books is "a buzzword describing fraudulent activities performed by corporations in order to falsify their financial statements. Typically, cooking the books involves augmenting financial data to yield previously non-existent earnings."

"I never had anybody in my office falsify any numbers," Rowlands said. "Nobody on my staff put in any funny figures. I never dictated to put in another however million dollars in sales tax to balance the budget."

Rowlands said he was involved in two budget cycles for the city, the last one being for fiscal year 2005-2006. He said he gave recommendations for the 2006-2007 budget but by the time it was passed he was gone.

Rowlands said he's dealing with the statement by sticking to the advice his mom always

Councilman McCann: The books were cooked

NOT POSSIBLE, SAYS FORMER CITY MGR.

By Tawny Maya McCray
STAFF WRITER

In an interview that ran last week, Chula Vista City Councilman John McCann told a columnist for *voiceofsandiego* he believed the city's budget problems were the result of someone at

City Hall "cooking the books." "I don't know how I can eloquently say this but, off the record, the former city manager was cooking the books," McCann told *voice* columnist and editor Scott Lewis.

Lewis wrote in his column that when he informed McCann that he hadn't agreed to go off the record and was quoting him, McCann said he had to get to a meeting and hung up the phone.

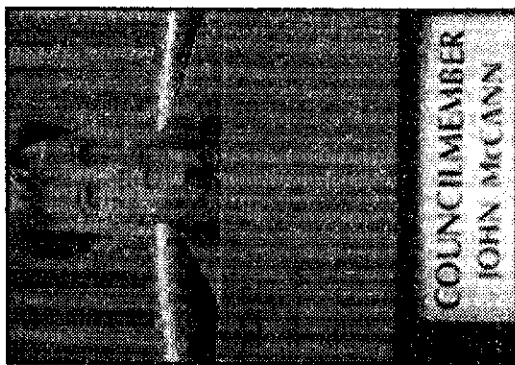
"It's not true, number one," said Dave Rowlands, former city man-

ager of Chula Vista, who answered the question on the chance that McCann was referring to him. "People who know me and people who know McCann know the truth. It's really simple. His allegations are totally false."

And the truth is, according to Rowlands?

"Nobody can 'cook the books,'" he said. "You have an independent audit and a finance director

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In an interview with *voiceofsandiego*, Chula Vista Councilman John McCann claimed that a former city manager "cooked the books." Though he was not named directly by McCann, former city manager Dave Rowlands said it's impossible for any sort of accounting chicanery to occur.

gave to him.

"Consider the source and then just ignore it," he said. "McCann has mistaken facts a couple of times."

McCann did not return phone calls seeking comment.

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