

CITY COUNCIL BUDGET HEARING

Monday, November 24, 1975 - 7:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Deputy Mayor Dr. Arnold Herrmann called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

Present on roll call: 6 - Egan, Herrmann, Rudson, Nalley, Nelson and Sonntag.

Absent: 2 - Warnick and Mayor Johnston. (One Council Vacancy)

Councilman Warnick arrived at 7:10 p.m.

Mayor Johnston arrived at 7:12 p.m.

Mr. Aldo Benedetti, Director of the Department of Public Utilities, addressed the Council and gave a brief summary of the 1976 proposed budget for the Department of Public Utilities. He stated the \$55,000,000 budget includes a 2.4 percent increase over the 1975 budget and reflects a reduction of 32 positions in 1976 over 1975. He stated that his department will increase its productivity to help compensate for the employee reduction.

Following a brief discussion by Council members, the Council then proceeded to hear presentations by City employee union representatives.


Addressing the Council was Mr. Jim Knutson, representing the Tacoma Police Union, who requested that additional monies be available for the Police Department to reinstate cutbacks made because of budget limitations. He stated that the cutbacks in the Police budget had resulted in a decrease of 11 percent in promotional opportunities by Police Officers. He indicated that these monies could be reinstated in effect by not retaining a projected Assistant Public Information Officer and replacing other civilian personnel with commissioned officers. He identified other civilian positions that could be eliminated as the R & D personnel and the Director of Police Services.

Officer Knutson also asked for a consideration of the Chief's current policy with respect to station commanders and the bringing in of lieutenants on an overtime basis. He suggested sergeants should be utilized and promoted temporarily to assume this responsibility, which would be a dollar savings to the department.

No other union representatives appeared to speak before the Council.

Mayor Johnston then called for members of the audience who would like to make presentations before the Council with respect to budget matters. Addressing the Council was Mr. Duane, representing the U.S. Labor Party, who spoke on local and national budget problems and Mr. Leone Johnson, 6202 South Ferdinand, who urged the Council to give consideration to reduction of utility rates for senior citizens and the handicapped.

There being no further business before the Council, Mayor Johnston recessed the Budget Hearing at 8:42 p.m. with the intent to reconvene the following evening at the conclusion of the regular City Council meeting.

ATTEST: 
H. B. BOND - CITY CLERK


GORDON JOHNSTON - MAYOR