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CITY COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING

Wednesday, October 5, 1960
Council Chambers, 7:00 P.M.

Council reconvened from the meeting of October 4, 1960. Present on roll call 5; Easterday, Olson, Porter, Price and Mayor Hanson. Absent on roll call 4; Bott, Cvitanich, Murtland and Steele. Mr. Cvitanich and Mr. Steele coming in at 7:17 P.M. Mr. Bott coming in at 8:00 P.M.

Mr. Harry Manning, City Employees' Retirement Board member, said the budget of the retirement system is supported entirely from the earnings of the retirement system, and it should present no money raising problem to the City as a whole. The Preliminary Salary Recommendations for 1961 provide for an increase for the Retirement System Manager from Range Number 26 to Range Number 26.5. He asked that the salary range be raised from Range 26 to Range 27. He felt that the above adjustment should be made to keep the position from being de-graded.

He added that in 1957 the Retirement System Manager was one of the 8 positions in Range 23. Since then the positions have drifted a considerable distance apart. To date, he added, it is the only classification in that Range which will have received an increase of 3 1/2 ranges as proposed for 1961. All of the others have received from 4 Ranges to 5 1/2 Ranges as proposed, since 1957. Therefore, he felt this adjustment should be made to keep the position of Retirement System Manager comparable with the other similar positions.

Mr. Gaisford said it was the feeling of Mr. Lemley and Mr. Bernard, members of the retirement system and himself, that they are in complete agreement that the Salary Range of Retirement System Manager should be followed as recommended to the City Council, that the increase of one range to 26.5 be made instead of the two range step requested by Mr. Manning.

Mr. Cvitanich and Mr. Steele coming in at this time.

Mr. Rowlands explained that the (27) Salary Range is provided in the recommended ranges and the rates are contingent upon the availability of Additional Funds requested of the State, and would go into effect about July of 1961 if this money is received.

After further discussion, it was moved by Mr. Steele that the Budget be amended to provide for the requested adjustment in the Retirement System Manager position from Range 26 to Range 27, as of January 1, 1961. Seconded by Mr. Easterday. Voice vote resulted as follows: Ayes 7; Nays 0; Absent 2, Bott and Murtland. Motion carried.

Mr. Ralph Williams, Vice-President of the Park Board, spoke in reference to the Park Board budget. He said he did not know how the Parks will be able to operate with the \$20,000 cut from their budget.

Mr. Easterday suggested that the Park Board spend about \$15,000 of their special millage, which was approved in September, for paving a portion of the Cheney Stadium north parking lot which is owned by the Parks, and then deed the parking area to the City. If this were done, he said, it would ease the City's budget and they could allow them the \$20,000.

Mr. Williams said in light of the original agreement on the ball park property, this would not be fair.

Mayor Hanson remarked that one of the agreements, when the initial proposition was presented to the Park Board, was that the City would take care of the surfacing of that area.

Mr. Omar Bratrud, Park Board member, explained that the Park Board had asked the Council for \$35,000 more than they received last year, and had planned to use the entire amount for wage increases to park employees.

He said the Park District's budget will be \$25,000 in the red this year, as it has been a very poor year for fishing at Point Defiance, and also that the month of August was colder than expected. These two factors lowered the Park's

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revenues. He said this will have to be made up next year by cutting the Park program somewhere. In addition to that, due to the fact that the revenues were not sufficient this year, the Board has already cut the anticipated revenues for 1961 so they are actually some \$32,000 shorter in anticipated revenues for 1961 than they were for 1960. When the Park Board asked for \$35,000, earmarked for labor, there is in the small Park District budget, the gigantic problem of picking up \$25,000 plus \$32,000. The Park program must be shrunk then by some \$57,000 if the budget is to balance for the year 1961.

Mr. Steele said there is no question that the Park employees have been the poorest paid employees and felt they should be put on an equal footing with other employees. As this \$35,000 request is basically for the increase for salaries, he felt that the City should find some area out of which this request can be met.

Mr. Batt coming in at this time.

Mrs. Price moved that the Council grant the additional sum of \$20,000 to the Park Board for the increase of employee salaries. Seconded by Mr. Steele. Voice vote was taken on the motion resulting as follows: Ayes 8; Nays 0; Absent 1, Murtland. Motion carried.

The Park Board members present thanked the Council members for their action.

Mr. Bratrud said that the Park Board will submit a budget next year in the exact manner as the other departments submit their budgets, in order that it be included in the preliminary budget form.

Mayor Hanson said the next item on the agenda is the Library Budget.

Mr. Gaisford, Finance Director, outlined the changes made in the preliminary Library budget as follows:

Non-resident Fees - increased from \$6,000 to 12,000

Fines and Penalties - increased from \$26,700 to \$35,000.

Town of Fircrest - remains unchanged at \$600

Miscellaneous - remains unchanged at \$800

Unexpended Balances - increased to \$15,000

Transfer from General Fund - decreased from \$559,734 to \$510,434.

This change, from \$593,834 to \$573,834, results in a decrease of \$20,000 in the Library Budget.

Mr. Gaisford pointed out, however, that if the anticipated library revenues fall short, the City's General Fund will have to make up the balance, since the City is approving the total Library Budget.

Mr. LeVeque, Library Board member, indicated they will follow the Council's suggestion to boost annual non-resident fees from \$2 to \$5. However, they are skeptical of the anticipated figure of \$35,000 from fines and penalties. He said, Mr. Ibbotson, Librarian, has estimated that there will be approximately \$26,500 from this source. It was emphasized again that the City will be assuming the risk of error in the figure of \$35,000.

Mr. Mocerl, Library Board member, said if the figure of \$573,834 is approved, it has been ascertained through informal discussion with Mr. Ibbotson that he thinks the Library can run almost on the same basis as last year. There will be some cuts in services but no major cuts would be necessary. It may mean the Library's book fund will suffer, and restrictions in hours may result, he added.

Mayor Hanson pointed out that the Library is receiving an increase of \$39,000 over what was given to them last year.

Mr. Easterday moved that the Library Fund in the total of \$573,834 be approved. Seconded by Mr. Steele. Voice vote resulted as follows: Ayes 8; Nays 0; Absent 1, Murtland. Motion carried.

Mr Steve Stelmec, National Representative of the Technical Engineers and Architects Union, spoke at this time and requested that the Engineer personnel in the Public Works and Public Utilities be granted a (2) step increase. He said there is justification in this request. Tacoma has never let the field in wages for engineers. Neither has Seattle. However, the State Highway Department pays the highest wages in the State and this is the basis of comparison being used.

Mr. Stelmec pointed out the skills and education required of those persons classified under the Engineering and Technical category. He said this in itself was a justification for a (2) step increase. The wages now paid these men do not compare with the wages paid by the State Highway Department nor by private industry.

Mr. Easterday asked Mr. Rowlands if it were not true that these salary increases for Sewer Engineer would be paid out of the Bond Issue and not out of the General Fund.

Mr. Rowlands said that was correct - any project financed by Bond Issues the persons working on those projects are paid out of the bond funds.

Mr. Easterday then asked to what extent would this affect the funds for General Government if the Council were to grant what Mr. Stelmec is asking.

Mr. Rowlands said he would be unable to answer that tonight. A careful analysis of the accounts would have to be made with the engineering staff to find out how much work could be allocated against the bond fund. However, he thought it would be a considerable amount. He said he would have those figures for the Council tomorrow night.

Mr. Stelmec said he would return tomorrow night.

Mayor Hanson left the chair temporarily. Mr. Porter, Deputy Mayor, presided.

Mr. Porter, Deputy Mayor, said that concludes all the hearings set up on the budget this evening, and asked if there were any matters to be taken up at this time.

Mr. Steele moved that Resolution No. 16306, which was postponed at last week's meeting to October 11, 1960, be reconsidered at this time. Seconded by Mrs. Price.

Resolution No. 16306:

Authorizing the employment of consulting engineers for the necessary engineering design for the proposed Tacoma Industrial Airport located on the Peninsula site.

Mr. Cvitanich asked if the hiring of the engineer mentioned in the Resolution was on a time schedule. Mr. Rowlands replied that it would be very helpful if the City could meet this schedule.

Voice vote on the motion to reconsider resulted as follows: Ayes 7; Nays 0; Absent 2, Murtland and Mayor Hanson. Motion carried.

Mr. Steele moved that the Resolution be adopted. Seconded by Mrs. Price.

Mr. Cvitanich said he would in all probability vote for the Resolution; however, he was still basically opposed to the Airport, but because of the time schedule involved he will not oppose it.

Voice vote was then taken on the Resolution resulting as follows:

Ayes 7; Nays; Absent 2, Murtland and Mayor Hanson.

The Resolution was then declared adopted by the Chairman.

Mr. Easterday then moved that the Council be recessed until Thursday evening, October 6, 1960 at 7:00 P.M. Seconded by Mr. Cvitanich. Voice vote resulted as follows: Ayes 7; Nays 0; Absent 2 Murtland and Mayor Hanson.

Meeting recessed at 9:20 P.M.

Attest:

[Signature]

[Signature]
Mayor of the City Council

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