

CITY COUNCIL BUDGET HEARING

Wednesday, October 4, 1967
City Council Chambers, 7:30 P. M.

Present on roll call 9: Bott, Cvitanich, Finnigan, Haley, Herrmann, Johnson, Murtland, Price and Mayor Tollefson. Absent 0.

Mayor Tollefson announced that this is the third hearing for the 1968 budget.

Mr. Rowlands explained, since last night's meeting several other meetings were held particularly with Mr. Willis of the Firefighters Local #31. As the result of the negotiations it has been recommended and agreed upon by Mr. Willis that a \$15.00 increase be allowed in the firefighters' service. The \$10 a month that the drivers are now receiving will be eliminated. In addition to the original request for a four hour reduction in the work week of the firemen, it was recommended that a two hour reduction in the work week be approved taking effect on July 1, 1968.

Mr. Rowlands continued, in the Police Dept. budget, all the members of the department will also be receiving a \$15.00 a month increase which will be incorporated in the Compensation and Pay plan.

He added, the Fire and Police clerks are not included in this particular recommendation.

Mr. Willis, representing the Firefighters Local #31, thanked the City Council for considering their requests. He extended their best wishes to Mrs. Price who retires from the Council in November.

Mr. Rowlands stated that on several other occasions the Council has heard from Mr. Willis, representing the Joint-Labor Committee, relative to additional fringe benefit proposals.

Mr. Rowlands explained that Mr. Willis also represents the Joint-Labor Committee and the proposals submitted relative to fringe benefits were agreed upon as follows:

No. 1- a \$5000 life insurance coverage for each employee, whereby the employee would be paying for one half of the premium and the City the other half. This type of policy is not to unusual among governmental agencies.

No. 2- upon separation from the City service, there would be a 10% accrual on sick leave if an employee leaves prior to actual retirement.

No. 3- the City employees be given 10¢ a mile if they used their personal cars for City business or allowed a minimum of \$1.00 a day.

No. 4- the City match a 1% contribution by the City employees to the City retirement system to provide for an escalation for pensioners in the general government.

Mayor Tollefson explained that the 1% is included in the 1968 budget, but if the employees fail to participate by the first of the year, they will miss one year of active participation. He added, the Council felt that the cost of living increases for the retired personnel is a step in the right direction, with the exception of the uniformed personnel who have a different type of retirement system.

Mr. Rowlands stated this concludes the list that was agreed upon with the Joint Labor Committee and recommended to the City Council.

Mr. Marshall of the Police Union, thanked the City Council for the consideration shown and received during the budget hearings.

Mr. Fred Peck, representing Teamsters Local # 313, stated they did receive some consideration from their requests, however, their union felt they should reject the recommendations, and as yet no further meetings have been held with the City. He said he would be willing to meet Thursday for further negotiations.

Mr. Rowlands said if Mr. Peck had indicated that he was still interested in continuing negotiations, the staff would have certainly made themselves available for a meeting.

Mr. Peck stated he had called the Manager's office and the Personnel office Friday afternoon.

Mr. Rowlands felt any adjustments had been made through the Personnel office.

Mayor Tollefson asked Mr. Peck if the area was one in which further information has been made available and if so, would he like to submit it to the Council tonight.

Mr. Peck conceded that the City had granted additional hourly increases in a meeting last week, but said he wanted further opportunity to submit evidence for further raises and fringe benefits.

Mrs. Price stated it had been a rare privilege for her to serve as a member of the City Council and this is the tenth budget hearing that she has attended. She added, all of the requests submitted have not always been granted over the years, but progress has been made.

Mayor Tollefson said if Mr. Peck had additional information for the Council he would ask for a recess so that the Personnel Dept., Mr. Erdahl and Mr. Rowlands will have an opportunity to have further discussions.

Mr. Haley then moved that the Council recess until 9:00 P. M. Seconded by Mr. Murtland. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

The City Council reconvened at 9:15 P. M.

Mr. Rowlands asked Mr. Bixel, Personnel Director to explain what transpired.

Mr. Bixel explained that Mr. Peck represents the laborers, drivers and equipment operators in the general government. He added, upon reviewing the specific union agreement, the City does not fully meet their agreement but it does exceed substantially most of the public agencies relative to pay raises. The City has recommended to the City Council increases from 3 to 5 cents an hour in this area.

Mr. Erdahl explained that he and Mr. Rowlands reviewed the requests the past hour but the information given by Mr. Peck had already been considered.

Mr. Rowlands stated the negotiating team representing management were all in accord and they could not logically make any further recommendation.

Mr. Peck explained that the members of his union disapproved the recommendation made by the City Council. He said his union indicated they would carry its grievances to a mediation service under terms of the new State law. He asked what position the Council would take on this recommendation.

Mayor Tollefson stated the City has never been involved in mediation.

Mr. Peck said he realized that, but there are provisions in the City Charter and State Law providing for emergency appropriations, and he wondered if mediation was to prove that their position was correct, would it then be the feeling of the Council that it was then their responsibility for some adjustment at a later date.

Mayor Tollefson asked Mr. McCormick, City Attorney, what effect it would have on the budget if it were adopted this evening.

Mr. McCormick advised the Council that it should not have any effect at this time, and wait for later developments on the mediation question.

Mayor Tollefson stated Mr. Peck had made his position clear, so the Council is aware of the situation, and when it does come up it will be reviewed.

Mr. Cvitanich asked Mr. Rowlands to explain the salaries of the Metropolitan Park employees, as they have been lower than the salaries for City employees.

Mr. Rowlands explained that each year the Metropolitan Park Board has asked the City Council for an appropriation for that purpose. This Board is a separate

66

lected body and a separate governmental agency. The Board has within its own power to have a millage campaign if it so desires. As far as the money is concerned, the City Council has no control over the way the funds are distributed, as it is entirely up to the Park Board officials. This year the City's contribution is slightly under \$60,000. For many years the Council has tried to approach the 3 mill levy for Parks, however, this year it will be 3 mills plus approximately \$14,000, which is the highest percentage wise that the Park has received for some years. This amounts to about 10% for 1968.

Mayor Tollefson stated the City Council has absorbed the loss the Park Board suffered some years ago and this year it is exceeded somewhat, but it is not possible for the Council to tell them how to operate their classifications.

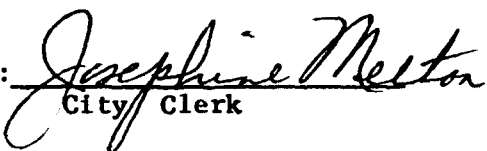
Mr. Haley moved that the preliminary budget of the City of Tacoma as amended by the City Council during the budget hearings be adopted as the final budget of the City of Tacoma for the year 1968 in the sum of \$54,090,237 and that this motion be ratified in a proper ordinance providing for the final adoption of the budget of the City of Tacoma for the year 1968, and to be presented to the Council at its regular Council meeting on the 10th day of October 1967. Seconded by Mr. Finnigan. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Mr. Haley moved that the annual ad valorem tax levies for the year 1968 be fixed in an amount sufficient to raise the estimated expenditures less the estimated revenues from sources other than ad valorem taxation for the general fund and for the payment of principal and interest upon the general bonded indebtedness of the City of Tacoma for the fiscal year 1968. Further, that a proper ordinance fixing said ad valorem tax levies be presented to the Council at the regular Council meeting to be held on the 10th day of October 1967. Seconded by Mr. Finnigan. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Mayor Tollefson thanked the Council and the audience for their kind attention and remarked that the Council appreciated the cooperation that has been given to the City in trying to negotiate the differences with regard to demands and recognizing that the Council has certain limitations in regard to income.

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon motion duly seconded and passed the meeting adjourned at 9:50 P. M.


MAYOR

Attest: 
City Clerk