

CITY COUNCIL BUDGET HEARING

Friday, November 21, 1975 - 7:00 p.m.  
City Council Chambers

Mayor Johnston called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

Present on roll call: 5 - Egan, Hudson, Nelson, Warnick and Mayor Johnston.  
Absent: 3 - Herrmann, Nalley and Sonntag. (One Council Vacancy)

Mayor Johnston related that Councilman Sonntag called in ill and unable to attend tonight's meeting. He made a motion to excuse Councilman Sonntag. Seconded by Councilman Hudson. Voice vote was taken and carried.

Mrs. Ruth Kors, Chairman of the Citizens Budget Committee, made a presentation before the Council, submitting additional recommendations and comments to the report to the Council. Mrs. Kors comments included remarks concerning the City's Minimum Housing Code, Public Information Program, the Youth Program within the Tacoma Police Department, an additional project by Public Works involving site distance problems and a recommendation relating to the feasibility of the City's street oil mat program.

Mrs. Kors, speaking on behalf of the Committee, thanked the Council for establishing the Committee and the opportunity to serve the City.

Dr. Herrmann arrived at 7:20 p.m.

Councilman Nalley arrived at 7:26 p.m.

Mayor Johnston then called upon the Metropolitan Park District Chairman, Fletcher Jenkins, who briefly reviewed the District's budget and the need for additional monies over what was recommended in the Preliminary Budget.

Board member, Dr. Ernest Carlson, stated the Preliminary Budget was a "bare bones" budget and stressed the need for additional master planning for Point Defiance Park. Another Board member, Mrs. Lorraine Babbit, asked for additional consideration by the Council for additional funding.

Park Superintendent, William Glundberg, stated that the Park District could maintain its present level of service with the budget recommended by the administration. He noted that most cities devote ten to fifteen percent of their budget for parks.

Mayor Johnston then recognized Dr. Ron Magnum and Mr. Kowasaki, members of the Tacoma Library Board, who in turn introduced Library Director, Kevin Hegarty. Mr. Hegarty then utilized a series of charts to point out to the Council that the Library System plans to stay within its budget and will expand services during 1976. He said the library will increase its hours by 40 percent, to a total of 462 hours, which will be accomplished by a massive reorganization within the system. However, he asked for additional consideration by the Council of some \$219,044 in the supplemental budget for use by the libraries in 1976.

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Mayor Johnston then recognized Mr. Jack Reidinger of the Tacoma/Pierce County Humane Society, who stated that the Society could live within the budget proposed by the administration during 1976.

Mrs. Lucille of 1235 South Grant, asked about the problems of enforcement of the leash law for dogs running in a neighborhood. Mayor Johnston directed her to get in contact with the Society for resolving her problems.

Mr. Archie Fiddler, Director of the Society, in response to a question by Dr. Herrmann, said the national budget average for dog control by cities is \$1.40 per capita, which is substantially more than the City of Tacoma pays.

Mr. Herb Kuzniczci, Budget Director for the Tacoma/Pierce County Health Department, presented a review of the Health Department Budget.

Mrs. Ellida Kirk, President of the Tacoma/Pierce County Civic Arts Commission, presented a review of the Commission's accomplishments during 1975. She stated that the Commission is asking for the same amount for its regular budget during 1976 but made a strong plea for additional funding to provide for continuing the salaries for the positions of Cultural Arts Coordinator and Art Commission Secretary, which were funded under CETA during 1975. She asked the Council for 50 percent of the salaries for the two positions, stating that it is hoped the County will pick up the remaining 50 percent. This would amount to an additional \$12,500 for the City and \$12,500 for the County. In response to a question by Councilman Warnick, Mrs. Kirk said the national average for cities in budget preparation is \$10 per capita, while the City of Tacoma spends approximately 10 cents per capita.

Mayor Johnston then recognized Mr. Court Fawver, Director of the Municipal Court Department, who made a special request on behalf of the Court for probationary services. Mr. Fawver requested an additional \$25,000 for probationary services that are provided for defendants in misdemeanor and traffic cases. He stated that the service, funded partially in 1975, is required by the Court. The City of Tacoma Municipal Court contracts with the Pierce County District Court Probation Service to provide these services.

Speaking in support of the request were Mr. Gale Francen, Director of the Pierce County Probation Services and Municipal Judge, Erling Tollefson. Mr. Fawver noted that the national average for the cost of probationary services is \$380 per person in the State, \$475 per person in the County and \$63 per person in the City of Tacoma.

The following citizens also appeared before the Council to speak:

Mr. Val Cramer, member of the Board of Tacoma Opera Society, spoke in support of the Civic Arts Commission.

Mrs. Betty Fukuyama, President of the Washington State Poets' Association, spoke in support of the Civic Arts Commission.

Mr. Robert Gallacci, 1415 South 9th, spoke in support of the Metropolitan Park District urging special consideration for a swimming pool in the downtown and/or central area.

There being no further comments from the audience or members of the Council, Mayor Johnston recessed the meeting at 9:51 p.m. until Monday, November 24th at 7 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
H. B. BOND-CITY CLERK

  
GORDON JOHNSTON - MAYOR