

CITY COUNCIL BUDGET HEARING

Thursday, November 20, 1975 - 7:00 p.m.  
City Council Chambers

Mayor Johnston called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Present on roll call: 8 - Egan, Herrmann, Hudson, Nalley, Nelson, Sonntag, Warnick and Mayor Johnston. Absent: 0 (One Council Vacancy).

On behalf of the Council, Mayor Johnston welcomed the citizens present and urged them to participate in the deliberations of the Council on the proposed 1976 City of Tacoma Budget. He introduced Mr. Erling Mork, City Manager, who reviewed the budget hearing schedule with the Council and the citizens present. He pointed out that tonight Council will hear a preview of the General Government Budget, followed by Friday night, November 21st with specific presentations by the Metropolitan Park Board, Tacoma Public Library, Humane Society, Tacoma/Pierce County Health Department, the Civic Arts Commission, Probationary Services, followed by City Council discussions. He stated the hearings will continue Monday evening, November 24th, with presentations by the Department of Public Utilities and City Employee Union presentations. On Tuesday, November 25th, he said the Council is scheduled to conclude its deliberations following the regular City Council meeting, which begins at 5 p.m.

Mr. Mork briefly reviewed the accomplishments of the various departments during 1975 and some of the goals they hope to achieve during 1976. He stated that the combination of available revenue sharing monies and good budget process resulted in a balanced budget being presented to the Council for 1976. He said, however, that the cost of doing City business is raising at the rate of about 11 percent, while revenues are only approximately six percent. He stated that 1976 is perhaps the last year the City will be able to present such a budget without some major deletions. He noted the 1976 budget presents a present level of service with no major additions projected. The Manager stated that he has instructed his administrative staff to begin consideration of future budget problems that can be anticipated in 1977 and 1978.

Assistant City Manager, Severo Esquivel, reviewed the efforts of the administration's Budget Review Team, stated that one and three-quarters million dollars had been cut from the regular requests submitted by the departments. Included in the cuts, he said, was approximately \$206,000 in equipment rental and/or motor pool charges. He stated, however, that additional funds were provided for certain supplemental programs which have particular significance to the City.

City Finance Director, Earl Mittelstaedt, then presented a review of the detail of City revenues and expenditures.

Mr. Esquivel presented a program comprising the supplemental requests which have been recommended for inclusion in the 1976 budget in the amount of approximately \$356,000. During the discussion, Councilman Sonntag asked the City Manager to prepare appropriate action to reinstate \$190,922 in the supplementals for ten additional police officers, which he proposed would be in addition to the five officers recommended in the supplemental proposals.

No further action was taken by members of the Council on the additional supplemental items.

Mrs. Ruth Kors, Chairman of the Citizens Budget Committee, appeared before the Council and requested that she would rather be heard at the outset of the meeting on Friday, November 21st, to which the Council agreed.

Mr. Frank Russell, 1728 Karl Johan Road, appeared before the Council representing the Citizens Ad Hoc Committee in the "K" Street area. He noted that his Committee has been meeting for approximately four months and was specifically appearing before the Council in support of the additional police officers recommended in the supplemental budget.

Appearing in support of Mr. Russell were fellow Committee members Tracy Barnes, a Metropolitan Park District Commissioner and Mr. Ed McManus, 1938 South Fawcett.

Also speaking was Mr. Ted Amell, who suggested the Council should give considerations to adjusting transit rates, particularly with respect to seniors and handicapped citizens, to cut the City Manager's Budget, and to urge employment of additional police.

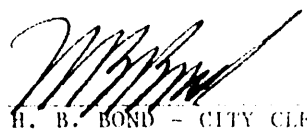
Mr. Robert Ellner also appeared before the Council to suggest the funding of a City position to investigate and to control the possible expulsion of dangerous gases in the community.

There being no further citizens wishing to be heard and no additional items before the Council, Mayor Johnston recessed the meeting at 9:43 p.m. until the following evening, Friday, November 21st, at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. Mayor Johnston then declared the meeting recessed.



GORDON JOHNSTON - MAYOR

ATTEST:



H. B. BOND - CITY CLERK