

COUNCIL CHAMBER, 4:00 P. M.

Thursday, October 10, 1957

Council reconvened. Present on roll call: Battin, Bratrud, Goering, Humiston, Perdue, ^{Stojack and} Mayor Anderson. Mr. Tollefson took his seat at 5:00 P. M. Mr. Jensen at 5:50 P. M. Mayor Anderson left the meeting at 4:15 P. M., returning at 5:50 P. M. Dr. Battin presided during the absence of Mayor Anderson. Mr. Stojack left the meeting at 4:30 P. M. Absent 0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

This is the date to which the hearing on the Preliminary Budget was continued. 425-

Dr. Battin reported on the meeting relative to Fire Alarm Dispatchers that was held at 1:30 P. M. today, which was attended by Randy Green of the Electrical Workers, the City Manager, Fire Chief and himself. Dr. Battin reported that at the outcome of this meeting, it was agreed that provision be made in the Budget to take care of this increased demand in case a favorable decision was made at a later date and that it be made retroactive. 43-

Mayor Anderson announced that the first item to be considered was the adjustment of salaries for nurses which had been requested by Mrs. Geraldine Fletcher of the Washington State Nurses Association. Mrs. Fletcher spoke on behalf of this request, and said Council has not given consideration to the reclassification of nurses. This group feels they have been improperly classified for a number of years. There is a large differential in the salaries paid Public Health Nurses and School Nurses, she claimed. A Public Health Nurse has to use her own initiative a great deal more than a School Nurse who is under constant supervision, yet her salary is lower than that of a school nurse, she added. Mr. Rowlands explained that Tacoma is now paying the highest salary for Public Health Nurses in the State and in 1958 will be paying \$25.00 more per month than the City of Seattle. A one range increase has been recommended next year, making the range from \$360 to \$420, Mr. Rowlands stated.

Mayor Anderson thanked Mrs. Fletcher for appearing before the Council.

Mr. D. H. Ketler, Secretary of the Joint Labor Committee was the next speaker. Mr. Ketler said his group felt that their original request for wage increases of 20¢ per hour or \$35.00 per month was proper, but appreciated the increase of 10¢ per hour or \$20.00 a month which was granted; that 3 1/2 years is a little too long for an employee to go through the salary range program, and that three years would be more agreeable, Mr. Ketler said. They are pleased with the fact that it is definitely established that an employee will arrive at the top of the range in a certain length of time, but would like to have further consideration given to this matter with the view in mind of fixing this time limit at 3 years, he said.

The understanding that the Firemen and Policemen will receive two more Holidays in 1958 was agreeable, but felt this is still not in line with the practice in other cities, and that these employees should receive more consideration and be given the same holidays as other City employees, and also that an employee working on a holiday should receive 2-1/2 days pay. In the negotiations this year they believe they have come to some understandings that will help them in the future solutions of salary problems and appreciate having a part in the meetings, Mr. Ketler stated.

Mayor Anderson left the meeting at this time (4:15 P. M.) and Dr. Battin assumed the Chair.

Mr. Frank Puz, Business Agent for Cascade Lodge of Machinists, read a

letter he had sent to City Manager Rowlands, calling attention to the fact the other eight trades have received a minimum raise of 10¢ per hour, while the proposed increase for machinists is 5¢ per hour, which he believes is out of line with the general increase. The letter concluded with the request that consideration be given to the facts set forth and that City machinists be given the same consideration in wage increases that has been given to other trades. Mr. Puz compared machinists wages on outside industries with that paid city machinists, and said the salary survey figures used by the City were not true, as only the median figure was used and not the premium pay rate. Mr. Rowlands called upon Stanley Bixel, Director of Personnel, who explained in detail for Council information the manner in which the pay figure for City machinists had been arrived at, and also named the firms in Tacoma, which had been contacted in order to obtain the survey figures.

Attorney Hugo Metzler, Jr., representing the Retail Trade Bureau protested against a 25% increase in garbage collection rates for Commercial service. He claimed that the sales volume of business houses is down, and all operational costs have increased. Mr. Metzler referred to page XVII of the Budget which gave the estimated revenues from Commercial services in 1957 as \$249,000, and in 1958 as \$255,000, which is only a 2 1/2% increase, while the actual proposed increase is 25%, and said he did not feel this increase was fair. It was pointed out that the estimated rate increase amounts to \$160,000, and this is listed as the last item in the Garbage and Refuse Division Budget. Cy Stevens of the Bon Marche; D. H. Hoge, Manager of S. H. Kress Co.; L. H. Seabeck, Manager of F. W. Woolworth & Co.; Mr. Curran of Rhodes Brothers and Walter M. Arnold, Manager of Metropolitan Stores all protested the proposed increase in Garbage collection rates. These gentlemen all told substantially the same story of decreased volume in business and continually mounting charges for garbage service. They are being charged more for garbage collection in Tacoma than stores in other cities, with a greater volume of business, are charged for this same service. Several said these increased costs were forcing them to look into other methods of garbage disposal, such as incinerators. Mr. Curran said their store in Portland uses an incinerator and their garbage service costs them 75% less than Rhodes Brothers pays in Tacoma. Mr. Metzler stated they have not had very much time to study this problem, and they would like to request that final consideration by the Council be deferred to allow them additional time to present more statistics. Mr. Metzler also said it was his belief that the budget revenues could not be legally raised after the estimated preliminary budget was presented, but it must be adopted as is. Attorney Hamilton advised that the only limitation he was aware of was that the City was not permitted to levy additional tax funds over and above those reported to them by the County Auditor but there is no prohibition against increasing or decreasing departmental budgets. Mr. Rowlands clarified this point by calling attention to the fact that the \$160,000 estimated increase in Garbage revenues is included in the budget. Mr. Rowlands said an ordinance will have to be passed in order to put the increase into effect.

Mr. Perdue asked if the dry garbage, which is 90% cardboard, is being sold. Mr. Staman replied that usable paper is sold and some money comes in from this source amounting to several thousand dollars a year.

Dr. Battin thanked the delegation for presenting their information to Council.

The next item considered was B and O. Tax on Contractors. Mr. Rowlands explained that there may be a possible fluctuation in income from B & O tax on Contractors next year. There is a case filed by Ketner Brothers pending, which involves assessment of B and O Tax on contractors for work performed outside the City Limits, he stated. It has been the City's practice up until now to charge B and O tax on jobs outside the City Limits, and they have included this in the 1958 Budget, which amounts to about \$15,000. They do not know what the outcome of this case will be and probably will not know for two or three months, he stated. If it is agreeable with Council he would like to delay bringing in any amendments to the B and O tax ordinance until a determination has been made of this case, Mr. Rowlands added.

Mr. Rowlands advised that all proposed changes in the Preliminary Budget including salary changes are reflected in the proposed budget ordinance. The proper legal action would probably be to review the changes quickly and approve them by motion and then adopt the Ordinance. Various changes, adjustments, deletions, etc; previously made by Council are included in the budget and any other changes should be made now. He advised that the salary increase for "Fire Alarm Dispatchers" amounting to \$1,500. which Dr. Battin reported on earlier in the meeting, should be included in the budget. Previously one rate increase had been recommended for this group, but Local 483 has presented information and has requested these employees be raised to \$480.00 instead of the \$460.00 which they feel is adequate. Mr. Rowlands explained. If, after a thorough investigation, the information submitted by the Union justifies an increase, the money would have to be in the budget, Mr. Rowlands stated.

Money is available to take care of increases for five Fire Alarm Dispatchers I and one Fire Alarm Dispatcher II in "overtime pay for outside electricians" so it will not be necessary to pick up any additional revenue to take care of this, Mr. Rowlands stated.

It was moved by Dr. Humiston to transfer \$1500.00 from 'Overtime pay for outside electrical crews' to salaries - Fire Alarm Dispatchers I and II. Motion seconded by Mrs. Goering and carried on roll call. Ayes 6; Nays 0; Absent 3, Anderson, Jensen, Stojack.

Mr. Rowlands asked if there were any other changes. Mr. Gaisford advised they have checked and rechecked the budget throughout and have found it to be in balance.

Dr. Battin called attention to the "Proposed Changes in Preliminary Budget 1958", consisting of four typewritten pages, a copy of which had been furnished each member of the Council today, and said that a motion was now in order to adopt these changes.

It was moved by Mr. Perdue, seconded by Mr. Bratrud, that the "Proposed Changes in Preliminary Budget 1958" be adopted. Motion carried: Ayes 6; Nays 0; Absent 3; Anderson, Jensen and Stojack.

Dr. Battin advised that Ordinance No. 15958 includes all these changes, plus \$1500 for Fire Alarm Dispatchers, which had been approved by a previous motion, and it was now proper to pass this ordinance.

Ordinance No. 15958

Adopting the Annual Budget of the City of Tacoma for the fiscal year 1958. ³²⁵
ad by title. ₄₁₃

Mrs. Goering said she was compelled to vote against the ordinance and asked for an opportunity to explain her reason for this action. She said that the action Council took at last night's meeting in not approving the agreement with the Park Board and denying the recommendation of the City Finance Officer, Executive Administrator, and the firm we paid a fee to go into this problem and study it and make recommendations, were the reasons for her action. If the Council passes this budget, we turn over

440 OCT 10 1957

thousands of dollars to an independent group without any control, and she felt it would be a breach of faith and she would not be carrying out the responsibility of her office, Mrs. Goering said. As a matter of principle she is compelled to vote against the ordinance, Mrs. Goering stated.

Dr. Battin pointed out that if Mrs. Goering votes "No" it will kill the budget. Mrs. Goering replied it was not her responsibility that three people are not here to vote, and she did not consider this a sufficient reason to compromise her principles.

Dr. Battin said if the Council went through with the vote under these circumstances it would kill the budget, so the only alternative he could see was to continue the matter until tomorrow night at 7:30 P. M.

Dr. Battin said there were some other matters to be considered at this time and if Mayor Anderson returned in time, the Council can vote on the ordinance later in the meeting, since the ordinance requires six votes for approval.

Mr. Rowlands advised the Council members that they were due at the Banquet of the Association of Washington Cities at the "Top of the Ocean" at 6:30 tonight.

At this time Mayor Anderson and Mr. Jensen arrived at the Council Chambers.

Accordingly Roll was called on Ordinance No. 15958- adopting the 1958 Budget- which was passed.

Roll Call: Yeas 7. Nays 1; Mrs. Goering; Absent 1, Stojack.

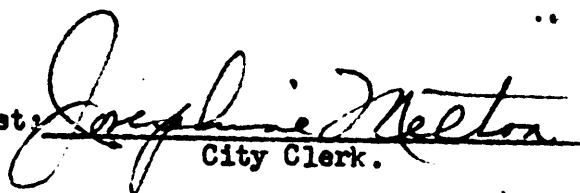
Ordinance No. 15959


Fixing the amount of tax levies necessary for the City of Tacoma for the year 1958. Read by title and passed.

Roll Call: Ayes 7; Nays 1, Goering; Absent 1, Stojack.

Upon motion, duly seconded and carried, Council then adjourned at 6:00 P. M.

Attest:


City Clerk.


President of City Council.