

CITY COUNCIL BUDGET HEARING

Thursday, Oct. 10th, 1968
City Council Chambers

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rasmussen at 7 P. M.

Present on roll call 8: Banfield, Bott, Cvitanich, Finnigan, Herrmann, Johnson, Zatkovich and Mayor Rasmussen. Absent 1; Murtland.

Mayor Rasmussen announced this is a continuation of the Budget hearing from Wednesday, October 9th, 1968.

Mayor Rasmussen announced that the persons in the audience who wish to speak on the budget may do so at this time.

Mr. Homer Covington, 808 So. 39th, Executive Secretary of the Pierce County Building Trades Council, stated he did not represent the Joint Labor Lobby, but did represent the majority of the people who work for the City who are affiliated with the Building Trades Council, namely, the carpenters, plumbers, painters, operating engineers, teamsters, electricians and laborers. They have been led to believe in the past number of years that there was going to be a survey made to bring these wages up in comparison to other industries. The proposed 1969 budget does not represent an adequate wage increase for these categories, he added.

Mr. Covington then compared the wages proposed by the City of several categories to outside wages. The City's proposals were from 40 cents to \$1.50 per hour lower than outside wages in various trades. He further added that a special survey had been conducted this year by their organization which had been used in a number of cases to verify that the wages being proposed for these trades in the Tacoma area are extremely low.

Mr. Fred Stewart, 3715 No. 18th, Business Representative for the Painters Union in Tacoma, stated that the pay rate for painters working for the City is \$3.93 and the pay rate for outside employment is \$4.94 per hour. He noted that the 1969 budget proposal for City employment is \$4.17 per hour compared to the outside rate of \$5.21 per hour for 1969. A survey of 198 cities by the Labor Dept., Bureau of Labor Statistics, gives the painters an average scale of \$5.40 per hour. He added, the amount budgeted for 1969 of \$4.17 plus fringe benefits is still far below the average scale.

Mr. Morris Cowling, 4716 So. Fawcett, Business Representative of the Teamsters Local #313, representing the Refuse Division, said they felt the increases proposed in the 1969 budget are inadequate. They have been compared to proposed rates of Seattle which are higher. He urged the Council to increase the proposed hourly wages for both the truck drivers and pick-up men.

Mr. John Willis, 815 So. 70th, Chairman of the Joint Labor Committee and President of Fire Fighters Local No. #31, explained the Federal employees receive twenty-six days vacation for fifteen years of service and also a good percentage of medical coverage is paid by the Government. He noted that the present economic trend demands that a substantial salary increase is needed for the year 1969.

Mr. Willis further stated their Union is requesting a \$100 per month increase for Fire Fighters, Lieutenants, Captains and Battalion Chiefs. Mr. Willis thanked the Council for a gradual reduction of hours per week and hoped this could be continued until the goal of 48 hours is reached. The Union has also requested a longevity program as 400 major cities in the United States are giving longevity pay to the firefighters and the Union is asking for 2, 4 and 8% on 5-10-15 and 20 years of service.

Mr. Marvin Hansen, representing Police Local #224 presented a chart to the Council pointing out the present salary spread between Patrolmen and Sgt's. salary to be \$108.00 between Sgt's. and Lt's. salary \$79.50 and the Lt's. and Captain's salaries, \$130.00. The Union felt the salary spread between Sgt's. and Lt's. salaries would be more equal if increased.

Mr. Hansen noted that the Tacoma Policemen are still below salaries of Renton and Seattle. The Union does not think it is appropriate that some of the positions will be raised to 7.5% and other positions to only 5%. He requested a flat increase rather than a percentage increase.

Mr. Charles Marsh, explained as in prior years the police are requesting longevity pay as they definitely felt this would provide an incentive for men to remain with the department, rather than retiring after 25 years of service.

Mr. Hansen said that the Union has asked for a 15% hourly increase for grave yard shift. They felt this should have been taken care of many years ago as the grave yard shift certainly deserves this differential.

Mr. Joe Zastrow, Business Representative for the Carpenters' Union #470, explained that they felt the wage increase for the carpenters is inadequate and the fringe benefits offered are also inadequate.

Mr. Frank Meisenberg, Business Representative of the Electrical Workers Union #483, explained that the construction electrical workers in his area received a fifty cent increase. They felt that sixty cents per hour should be offered to these workers by the City of Tacoma as well as asking for twenty days vacation after fifteen years service.

Lilly Piva, Business Representative of the County-City Employees Local #120, explained their Union wishes to remind the Council to note the salaries paid to Gardeners which are inadequate, and it is hoped they will receive a substantial increase.

Francis Ash, President of the Tacoma Chapter of the Professional Engineers, explained he was representing the Professional Engineers that are employed by the City. The National Society of Professional Engineering has recommended that all levels of government establish engineering salary scales comparable to those of the private sector of the economy. It is noted the City must raise their salaries as it is not able to recruit the young, new professional engineer. It is recommended that a two and one-half range increase be given to the engineer; a three range increase to the professional engineer; a four range increase for the principal professional engineer, in order to bring these positions to a level comparable to private industry and federal government.

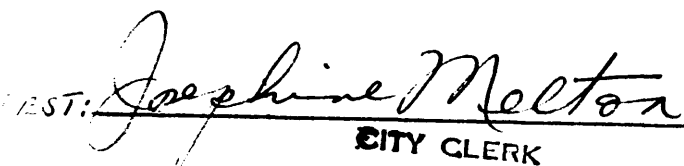
Mr. Johnson explained the program is now in the Council's hands as they have heard from the various union groups. He felt that the Council should obtain additional information that is needed from the staff.

Mr. Johnson moved that the Council recess to the conference room for one-half hour for discussions with the staff. Seconded by Mr. Bott. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Mayor Rasmussen reconvened the Council and explained that no decision has been accomplished, therefore he would move to recess the budget hearing until Monday, Oct. 14th, 1968 at 4 P. M. Seconded by Mr. Finnigan. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

The budget hearing was recessed at 10:30 P. M.


A. E. RASMUSSEN, MAYOR

WES: 
CITY CLERK