

CITY COUNCIL BUDGET HEARING

Wednesday, October 9th, 1968  
City Council Chambers

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rasmussen at 4 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 Tuesday, October 8th, 1968.

Mrs. Banfield remarked that the City Manager's salary was out of proportion to salaries paid to manager's in other cities with the same population as Tacoma.

Mrs. Banfield then moved that the City Manager's salary be reduced to \$24,000 a year. Seconded by Mr. Cvitanich.

Mr. Cvitanich explained that the City Manager has had a 73.8% increase in salary within the last ten years. He asked how much the City absorbs relative to dollar value in fringe benefits for the City Manager's position.

Mr. Rowlands, City Manager, explained that he and the Public Utilities Director's positions as compared to all city employees' fringe benefits amounts to approximately 25%.

Mr. Cvitanich felt it was wrong for the upper echelon positions to be on a percent increase.

Mr. Zatkovich said he had suggested an across-the-board increase because he felt a re-evaluation should be in order.

Mr. Cvitanich thought the salaries of the City Manager and the Director of Utilities should be a matter of negotiations between the Council and the Utility Board.

Roll call was taken on the motion to reduce the City Manager's salary to \$24,100 a year. Ayes 3: Banfield, Cvitanich and Mayor Rasmussen. Nays 5: Bott, Finnigan, Herrmann, Johnson and Zatkovich. Absent 1: Murtland. Motion Lost.

Mr. Cvitanich requested that Mr. Bixel, Personnel Director, compare salaries from 1956 to 1968 for police patrolmen as well as all city employees.

Mr. Bixel explained that from 1956 to 1968 patrolman's salaries had raised approximately 85%. Other salaries have raised by approximately 70.6%.

Mr. Cvitanich moved that the Chief Administrative officer of the City of Tacoma be removed from the classified pay plan and that the City Council negotiate for the salary increase. Seconded by Mrs. Banfield.

Roll call was taken on the motion to eliminate the Chief Administrative officer of the City from the classified pay plan, resulting as follows: Ayes 4: Banfield, Cvitanich, Zatkovich and Mayor Rasmussen. Nays 4: Bott, Finnigan, Herrmann and Johnson. Absent 1: Murtland. Motion Lost.

Mrs. Banfield requested the dollar amount spent for the hiring of consulting attorneys under the Municipal Court's budget be listed.

Mr. Rowlands, City Manager, explained that Pro-Tem Judges are provided to replace the regular judges during the time of their vacations or illnesses and this is budgeted under Municipal Court in the amount of \$2500 for 1969.

Mayor Rasmussen asked how much research has been done in regard to combining the Model Cities Program, Urban Renewal Dept. and the Comprehensive Survey under the Planning Commission and Planning Department.

Mr. Rowlands, City Manager, explained the staff feels that there is no useful purpose in combining these various programs under one department as there is a change of ideas and opinions as it is set up at the present time. He also felt there would be no monetary savings in such an arrangement.

Mayor Rasmussen pointed out, at the present time there are three programs, each with a set of files and instructions for the same purpose. He felt there was a great deal of confusion and duplication of effort and a great cost to the taxpayers. He asked that the staff make a study for the Council of combining these departments, Model Cities, Urban Renewal and the Comprehensive Survey, to determine if there would be a possible savings and improvement in efficiency.

Mr. Rowlands explained that the first objective of the CRP Program is to obtain data for the I B M computers. Then the City moves into its computer program, as funds become available, all the facts obtained will be cataloged so that any department can make use of this data.

Mr. Rowlands continued, a study was made a couple of years ago relative to combining Urban Renewal Planning and Building Inspection of the Public Works Dept. It was found it would not be feasible in savings or organization.

Mr. Cvitanich felt that the Urban Renewal Dept. should be placed under the Planning Commission as their goals are the same.

Mr. Cvitanich continued, that the Planning Commission should be made up of specialists in their particular fields relative to planning in the City.

Mr. Johnson felt there was a distinction between the two departments because the Urban Renewal Dept. has a primary function of administering one or two specific projects that have been approved by the Council; whereas the Planning Commission has the over-all planning, although they are presently bogged down with so much rezoning that there isn't the time for too much planning.

Mr. Cvitanich felt this was an administrative internal matter and he felt a savings would be made because of the duplication in many areas of each of the departments.

Mayor Rasmussen stated there has been a recommendation from the Civil Service Commission that more employees be hired for the Personnel Dept.

Mr. Bixel, Director of Personnel, explained there are three and one-quarter additional employees in the preliminary budget who will be utilized in the area of the civil service aspects of the recruitment and examination division.

Mr. Rowlands explained that an adjustment should be made on Page 53, under Contractual Services, item 62017--Training. This item should be reduced to \$20,000 instead of \$24,445 for estimated requirement for 1969. Another adjustment on Page 56, under Trainee Corps, the figure of \$80,000 should be changed to \$70,000. He hoped by the middle of 1969 this activity could be raised again.

Mrs. Banfield moved that on Page 53, under Personnel Contractual Service, Item 62017 under estimated requirement for 1969 in the amount of \$24,445, be changed to \$20,000; and on Page 56, the figure of \$80,000 be changed to \$70,000. Seconded by Mr. Cvitanich. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Mayor Rasmussen asked Mr. Rowlands if a survey has ever been made relative to determining what benefit is derived in taking out memberships in the various associations.

Mr. Rowlands explained this had been discussed with the department directors during the budget preparation and they felt that the association dues that are in the 1969 budget are justified. It is extremely important to keep up with the latest developments in each particular category.

Mr. Artie F. Rand, Automotive Machinists business representative for Local 1152, explained their union does not agree to the propositions proposed by Management.

Mr. Rowlands, City Manager, said he hoped before tomorrow night a meeting can be held with the Council in regard to Mr. Raud's proposals, and Mr. Raud can be informed of the final recommendations.

Mayor Rasmussen stated he had a request from the Tacoma Community Mental Health Clinic for their representatives to speak before the Council. He suggested they be allowed to speak at this time.

Mr. Mark Livengood, 6727 Lake Ave., S. W., Chief Social Worker and Administrator of the Community Clinic, explained the work and aims of the clinic and read the recommendations made by the Governor's Commission on Mental Health and Mental Retardation. He noted it was the strong belief among the members of the Tacoma Mental Health Clinic to try to meet the goals of the Governor's Commission by establishing an agency governed by a board.

Letters from several organizations were read endorsing such a plan and urging the City to place an amount in its budget to support such a plan, and also that such moneys not be channeled through the Health Dept.

Mr. Hamilton, Acting City Attorney, explained this is basically a County function and the statutes provide that the Clinic is supported, either through the State itself or from County Funds or any such donations from private funds that may be collected. He did not feel this would involve any municipality funds.

Dr. Herrmann felt the City should be involved in such a program and if the statutes do not preclude a donation from the City, he would like the Council to consider participating in the program.

Mr. Hamilton explained, there is no question in his mind, if the City wished to take on some mental program in connection with its own County-City Health Dept., it would constitute a proper municipal function. He added, funding of the program is spelled out, it comes from State funds, Federal funds and donations from the County.

Dr. McNutt, Director of the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept., said he would not comment on the program of the Tacoma Community Health Clinic except to say, it is a good program and he was certain the work they do is well received in the community. He added, the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept. does have a mental health clinic which has a good reputation and a good staff and it could be expanded.

Dr. William Fisher asked the Council to support the Tacoma Community Mental Health Clinic.

Mr. Johnson felt this should be a privately operated and funded organization and that the City of Tacoma, as such, should not donate to such a plan.

Mr. Clay Patterson, Pres. of Washington Disabilities, Inc., questioned the Human Relations Commission budget and asked that \$4,802. be allocated to the Washington Disabilities Inc. for a clerk-stenographer for his organization instead of the Human Relations Commission. He felt this public agency no longer serves a purpose.

Mr. Finnigan outlined the organization of the Human Relations Commission, and stated it was organized after a great deal of thought and consideration. He mentioned that the Tacoma Urban Coalition was established as a result of the Human Relations Commission.

Mayor Rasmussen felt, perhaps, that the City could relieve the executive secretary of the Human Relations Commission to work for the Tacoma Urban Coalition. The Human Relations Commission could continue to function by meeting and electing their Chairman and continue their work and a public body on a voluntary basis.

Dr. Herrmann mentioned that the Urban Coalition was formed for the one purpose of obtaining jobs for the minority racial groups. Mr. Hodges, Director of the Human Relations Commission, relationship with the Urban Coalition is very fitting as it coincides with the same problems.

After further discussion, Mr. Cvitanich explained the Human Relations Commission was not constituted for one purpose, there are about six reasons why it came into existence. There was a problem nationwide, and a potential problem in this

community and the ordinance came into being to serve a purpose in the community. As a result of the Human Relations Commission the Urban Coalition was developed. The Open Housing Review Board is on a volunteer basis, as is the Tacoma Urban Coalition.

Mr. Johnson suggested that the Director of the Human Relations Commission be placed on the payroll of the Tacoma Urban Coalition, and that a meeting be held with this group to determine if they are organized to assume the responsibility of paying salaries.

Mr. Finnigan stated, the Human Relations Commission is continually asking for new ideas to help get to the root of the problems involved more rapidly. It is a large field of endeavor and the staff is too small but they are still very anxious to work individually and as a team to solve any problems presented.

Mr. Zatkovich felt the Human Relations Commission had been used as a political football and other boards are made up of volunteer members, and he also felt this commission should be made up of entirely volunteer members. He felt too many agencies have been created and the work is overlapping.

Mr. John Epps, a member of the Human Relations Commission, explained the members of the Council who are most critical of this commission, did not appear at a meeting that was set up to explain the Commission's goals. He felt, perhaps, they would have a different attitude if they had attended. He defended the Commission's place in the community.

Mayor Rasmussen referred to the list of the Association dues proposed for the 1969 budget. He asked if the amount of \$10,510 under the City Council budget included the dues for the Association of Washington Cities.

Mr. Rowlands explained that dues for AWC amount to \$9,300 and it is included in the \$10,510 total.

Mayor Rasmussen asked for a copy of the break down of the budget for AWC.

Mayor Rasmussen asked why the Transit System is requesting \$2,712 for association dues.

Mr. Rowlands explained what benefits are derived for the Transit System in belonging to the Washington Transit Association and the American Transit Association.

Mr. Bott defended the monies paid for association dues by the City and its departments.

Mr. Johnson explained the association dues paid by the City to the Chamber of Commerce and the benefits that are derived.

Mr. Gaisford, Director of Finance, explained that any funds spent for dues to the Chamber of Commerce have been cleared through the State Auditor and have been upheld for twenty-five years.

Mayor Rasmussen asked for a complete listing of the memberships from the City to the Chamber of Commerce and the amounts involved.

Mayor Rasmussen then moved that \$2,510. for association dues under the Transit System budget be deleted. Seconded by Mrs. Banfield. Roll call was taken on the motion, resulting as follows: Ayes 3: Banfield, Cvitanich and Mayor Rasmussen. Nays 5: Bott, Finnigan, Herrmann, Johnson and Zatkovich. Absent 1: Murtland.

Motion Lost.

Mayor Rasmussen asked why all salaries in the department of Urban Renewal were not paid from project funds.

Mr. Rowlands explained that the City's share is determined at the beginning of a project and is a part of the administrative costs involved in the expenditures listed in the project financing plan and is taken from the total funds made available by the City's one-third contribution on a project.

Mr. Cvitanich asked what criteria is established in determining salaries of the Department Directors of the City.

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Mr. Bixel, Director of Personnel, explained that salaries for the Directors are compared to their counterparts throughout the nation and then recommended to the Council for their determination.

Mayor Rasmussen felt that the Urban Renewal Director's salary should not be more than the Director of Personnel or Tax & License.

Mr. Zatkovich moved that the budget increase figure of \$10,898 over 1968 from the Human Relations Budget for the year 1969, but the normal steps be retained for 1969. Seconded by Mr. Cvitanich.

Mr. Rowlands explained that the figures in the 1968 budget were only an estimate since it was the Commission's first budget. The appropriation in the 1968 budget was unrealistically low but the 1969 request represents a more realistic estimate.

Mr. Johnson suggested that the motion be changed to eliminate the proposed Clerk Typist II and the expenses connected with that position.

Mr. Johnson then moved to amend Mr. Zatkovich's motion to change the figure from \$10,888 to \$5,000. Lost for want of a second.

Roll call was taken on the motion by Mr. Zatkovich to delete \$10,888 from the Human Relations budget but retain the normal steps for 1969. Ayes 5: Baufield, Bott, Cvitanich, Zatkovich and Mayor Rasmussen. Nays 3: Finnigan, Herrmann and Johnson. Absent 1: Murtland. Motion carried.

Dr. Herrmann moved that the budget hearing be recessed until 7 P. M., Thursday, October 10th, 1968. Seconded by Mr. Johnson. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

The budget hearing was recessed at 11:30 P. M.



A. L. RASMUSSEN, MAYOR

EST:   
CITY CLERK