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## CITY COUNCIL BUDGET HEARING

Friday, October 6, 1961  
City Council Chambers, 7:00 P. M.

Present on roll call: 9, Bott, Cvitanich, Easterday, Murtland, Olson, Porter, Price, Steels and Mayor Hanson. Absent 0.

Mr. John Smith of the Firemen's Union was present and again asked the Council to consider, if at all possible, allowing the 6 Chief Aides a \$10 raise. He also asked that the Council consider the shorter hours desired by the firemen.

Mayor Hanson thanked Mr. Smith for appearing.

Mayor Hanson said he thought before taking up any specific item, the Council should refer to the motion that is before the body from the meeting of last evening. The primary motion was to grant a full range or 4 1/2 % increase to all classified personnel. The amendment was to grant this increase to all City personnel. Voice vote was taken on the amendment. The amendment carried.

Mayor Hanson said the motion as amended will apply to the full range increase to all City personnel. He added, there are a number of additional positions that vary from that general increase contained in the material dated October 6, 1961 "Revised Salary Recommendations for 1962." The Council has reviewed in detail all of the positions contained in this data. There is one area he believed should be given attention tonight, that was in reference to the Planning Department. He asked for a motion to amend the main motion to include the additional increases as indicated in this revised salary recommendations with the exception of the Planning Department.

Mr. Steele moved to amend the motion to include that the Planning Dept. be increased 1 1/2 range and such other individual adjustments that have been made and recorded in the memorandum of October 6th, 1961. Seconded by Mr. Cvitanich.

Mr. Murtland said, as he understands this, the motion is that the budget is to be adopted as presented this evening with the exception that some of the personnel in the Planning Department be reduced 1/2 step from what is proposed. He said he would like to speak against this amendment. He said he has been stating right along that he did not see how the City can afford this type of increase. However, he added, last night when the motion was made of a one range increase to all classified employees the motion was amended to include all employees, he could see that the one range increase was inevitable. He did feel now to give one and a half step in addition to the one range which will be voted on soon, would not be right. Mr. Murtland stated he did not believe the City had the money and it would be depleting the budget in other fields which would be very serious. Last evening there were only 3 adjustments that he felt were justifiable.- Position 54 and 57 and also the 3 cents additional for the bus drivers. Except for those (3) categories, he felt there should be no

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exception to the one range increase to all city employees.

Mr. Easterday said he had proposed previously in all sincerity of granting a flat increase across the board. Inasmuch as it did not meet with the approval of the Council, he would support and vote to increase the employees salaries one range as determined by the majority of the Council.

Mr. Steele called attention to the fact that the Revised Salary Recommendations date October 6, 1961 does not include the additional 3 cents for the bus operators. Therefore, Mr. Steele moved to add to his proposed amendment, which was to grant a full step increase to all employees, that the additional 3 cent increase be granted to the bus drivers. Seconded by Cvitanich.

Mayor Hanson explained that the amendment before the Council is to include those additions as indicated in the Revised Salary Recommendations and also grant an additional 1 1/2 range increase to the planning area and the 3 cents to the Transit drivers.

Mr. Bott said he advocated the one range increase for all personnel and he did so, fully aware that it would increase the upper echelon considerably more to which there have been objections. He was of the opinion, as are some of the other Council members, that these positions should be equated, particularly the planning positions to bring them up to a comparable level elsewhere. He felt this is a never ending cycle and that all of the appointive offices should be removed from the classified service and that they can be negotiated upon at a later date. With that thought in mind, he added, he approves the motion.

Mr. Porter indicated that the final result here is not what he had desired. Some of the raises are higher than he thought, and some should have been higher. He thought this is a good example of the democratic process of legislation, where you compromise to achieve the best results possible, so he will vote for the motion.

Roll call was then taken on the amendment resulting as follows:

Ayes 8; Nays 1, Murland; Absent 0. Motion carried.

Mayor Hanson said in order to bring together all matters concerning wages in the one final motion and give discussion to the clothing allowance for the 9 non-uniformed Fire personnel, a motion would be in order to extend these benefits to this personnel.

Mr. Easterday moved that the 9 non-uniformed Fire personnel be granted the clothing allowance. Seconded by Mr. Cvitanich. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Mr. Ketter, of the Joint Labor Committee, spoke on behalf of the Battalion Chief Aides and stressed the importance of granting them an additional \$10. He asked the Council to seriously consider this increase.

The request was discussed. It was moved by Mr. Steele to amend the original motion by changing the second paragraph on page 12 of the Revised Salary Recommendations dated October 6th, 1961 in the following manner: after the words "aerial trucks" strike "and as", place a comma, use the word "Millerman" and then add the language "and as Chief's Aides" so that the paragraph will read "Firefighters when assigned to drive hose wagons,

pumpers, aerial trucks, tillerman and Chief's Aide shall be paid \$5 additional compensation for each pay period." Seconded by Mr. Porter. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Mayor Hanson said the original motion as amended is now before the Council.

Mr. Murtland said in order to get the one range increase which is proper, perhaps after discussions held at various meetings, to make the vote unanimous, he will vote for the increase although his feeling is still the same as he has indicated and wished they could have seen their way clear to have held it at no more than a one range increase for some categories.

Voice vote was then taken on the motion as amended to grant the full range increase to all employees with the exception of granting an additional 1/2 range increase for some personnel in the Planning Dept., an additional 3 cents to the Transit Drivers, clothing allowance to be granted to nine non-uniformed Fire personnel and an/ additional \$10 to the Chief's Aides. Motion carried.

Mayor Hanson then referred to the Revised - Proposed Changes in the Preliminary Budget - 1962, dated October 6, 1961. He asked Mr. Rowlands City Manager, to give an explanation as to the type of action that would be necessary to include these additions.

Mr. Rowlands said under the item "Additions" \$9,000 more has been placed in category (1) - Salary increases. The other items are :

**I. ADDITIONS**

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Salary increased based on survey and on available funds approximately \$9,000 more has been placed in this category. | \$308,557 |
| 2. Increase Independent Audit   | 5,000     |
| 3. Increase Travel Expense--Private Vehicles  | 3,000     |
| 4. Increase Street Lighting   | 51,000    |
| 5. Increase Planning Department (Eng. Aide II)  | 2,300     |
| 6. Recorder and Transcriber for City Council  | 790       |
| 7. Public Address System for Council Chamber  | 500       |
| 8. Maintenance & Operation costs for Public Safety Bldg. - Allied Arts  | 3,000     |
| 9. General Fund share of Salary Survey costs  | 5,000     |
| 10. Clothing Allowance in lieu of a uniform allowance<br>The Council has already taken action on this, he said.         | 3,550     |
| 11. Renovate Police Radio Maintenance Shop  | 1,200     |
| 12. Two additional holidays for Transit Employees   | 6,500     |
| 13. Salary increase for Transit bus operators- 3 cents per hour<br>The Council has also taken action on this, he said.  | 9,000     |

Mr. Bott said he still took exception to the item \$51,000 for the increase in street lighting as he believed if Tacoma were going to be the Electric City, it should light all of our streets with very little cost to the City of Tacoma.

Mayor Hanson said he is inclined to agree that it is an unfortunate situation when it gets to the point that the City must resist further street lighting improvements because it's doubling, in the rate to the City. He said this figure has been agreed upon according to the present available survey and additional attention can be given this matter in the hopes that it might be reduced.

Mr. Rowlands asked Mr. Bixel if there were any additional items to be added to this list.

Mr. Bixel said there are a few other items that have been discussed by the Council. 1. Continuation of the Health & Accident Policy and accruing only of sick leave for the Transit employees. 2. That the City pay 30 cents for extended coverage for Transit employees for Pierce County Medical. 3. Another item that should be included in the provision for budgeting is an increase of 15 cents for the Traffic & Fire Alarm Electricians, 12 cents for the helpers and 17 cents for the Foreman. This was discussed from the standpoint of the April 1st negotiations when the linemen and the electrical utility men were raised.

Mr. Rowlands said he thought that completed the list.

Mr. Steele moved the adopting of these additional items as stated by Mr. Bixel and as shown on the Revised proposed changes in the preliminary budget dated October 6th, numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12. Seconded by Mr. Cvitanich.

Mayor Hanson said before taking further action on the proposed changes he thought that a separate action by way of a motion should be presented to the Council with reference to their preliminary and tentative discussions which has resulted in somewhat of a concensus with reference to increase in pay for the Mayor and Council.

Mr. Bott moved to increase the Councilmen's salaries to \$400 a month or \$4800 a year and the Mayor to \$12,000 a year. Seconded by Mr. Cvitanich.

Mr. Murtland said he would like to speak against the motion as he thinks the increase for the Councilmen's salary is excessive. He said having been on the Council for a number of months, he feels the amount that was originally determined by the Charter is not sufficient for the time involved and the responsibility that it places upon the individual, but again, he does not believe that it was ever intended that it would ever be commensurate with either the hours put in or the responsibility. The sum of \$400 suggested is approximately 4 times the amount now received which would be excessive. He thought doubling the present amount might be more in line.

Mr. Bott said having made that motion, he would like to speak on the matter. First of all, he said, the Mayor's salary is \$500 a month and is a part time job, although many people are under the impression it is a full time job. It is far from being a part time job and is rather an all time consuming job. The Mayor is required at times to be at three places at every

hour of the day and the demand on his time is so great that he cannot conduct his own business as he should. He thought this was an insult to the integrity of the people. He said he had no argument with Mr. Murtland's opinion in regard to the Councilmen's salary. He knew that none of the Councilmen ran for the position for the amount of money it paid, which is \$25.00 a meeting or \$1200 a year. The position is also time consuming on the part of the Council. He felt every member is conscientious in doing a good job. He really did not think that \$400 a month for a person that is administrating our City Government is exorbitant. He said he will not benefit from this or will anyone else on the Council unless they are re-elected.

Mr. Steele moved to amend the motion so that the Council salary would be fixed at \$200 a month. Seconded by Mr. Murtland.

Mr. Bott said he objected to this motion, as he knew each Councilman knew the value of his own time.

Mr. Murtland said as far as time involved is concerned, in his particular practice, his time, away from the office was certainly as important as any person's time. Again, on the basis stated previously, he did not think that this was, or should ever be considered as the kind of position commensurate with either the hours put in or the responsibility. He added, there are certain Boards, Commissions and certain other bodies who meet that receive no compensation. It cannot be said that they are not worth anything because they do not receive any compensation.

Mr. Bott said the point he was trying to make was, he did not feel that \$25 a meeting compensates for their out-of-pocket expense. There is a difference between this position and some of the appointive ones. Appointive positions are just that, they are appointive positions on Boards. The position of Councilman--he imagined that a fair amount of money was spent in campaigning for this position and was at the Councilman's expense--because he felt he was the best man for the position. Therefore, not being people of great means, they have to find some way of meeting those expenses, he added.

Mr. Kettler, representative of the Civil Service League, said he was happy to see the Council consider a raise in the Councilman's salary as he thought they should be paid for numerous hours they spend serving the public. He thought the \$400 a month salary was justified.

Mrs. Olson said no one who is presently serving on the Council will benefit from this increase unless they are re-elected by the people because no legislative body can vote themselves a salary increase and then benefit from it until the position is filled again, either by their own election or by election of someone else. From the standpoint of the Citizens of Tacoma, she thought if the individual Council members aren't worth \$400 a month, then the people of Tacoma are being cheated and robbed and she thought they should elect somebody to fill those positions who is worth that amount, because this is a very important job.

Mayor Hanson said the foundation of government starts with elected officials. He did not think they should be apologetic about paying at least to some extent for the time involved in an office. He felt that the \$400 a month for Council members was modest compared to the amount of time

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expended and he certainly will verify the fact that the Mayor's job can be nothing other than an absolutely full-time job. He thought that a City should not be required to seek its office holders, from only that strata of the community that can afford to donate unlimited amount of time. The pay should be such that all economic strata, will have at least an opportunity to serve if elected. For that reason he thought the Council's salary should be \$400 and he would vote against the amendment.

Mr. Steele said he would be in favor of the \$12,000 a year increase for the Mayor, but he thought that \$400 a month for Council members was a little too high for the tax payers. He said as far as the time element is concerned, it has been his observation that the Council probably spends 5 or 6 times the amount of time necessary to get their job done, and frequently they do not get the job done. Perhaps, it would not be necessary to spend all the time that is spent to accomplish the same thing. For that reason he felt that \$200 a month would be adequate.

Voice vote was taken on the amendment for \$200. Motion failed.

Voice vote was then taken on the original motion to grant \$400 a month to the Councilmen and \$12,000 a year to the Mayor. Motion carried.

Voice vote was then taken on Mr. Steele's motion to adopt the additional items as stated previously by Mr. Bixel relating to 30¢ extended coverage for Transit employees and for Pierce County Medical, the continuation of Health and Accident Policy and accruing only of sick leave for Transit Employees; 15¢, 12¢, and 17¢ for the Traffic & Fire Electricians, helpers and Foreman and numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12 on the Revised Proposed Changes in the Preliminary budget dated October 6th. Motion carried.

Mayor Hanson said the Council now has before them Addition II -- Possible Sources for Balancing Additions. --this is in addition to the sources of revenue indicated in the preliminary budget. He asked if action on these items at this time would do any more than indicate an intention to raise the funds, and an indication of a possible source.

Mr. Rowlands said it was his understanding that any action taken tonight on the matter will indicate at least tentatively that the monies will be available in the budget but if the Council determines that other sources of revenues can be tapped to meet the expenditures, that can be accomplished also.

Mayor Hanson said he was particularly concerned about item 3b which is in reference to Pacific Telephone and Telegraph-the tax raise, from 8% to 9%. He said since proper notice has not been given to the parties involved, he would like to make it clear that the Council is not taking favorable action on imposing such a tax tonight. The Council is only indicating a contemplated source for this revenue and is not precluding further consideration as far as that source is concerned.

Mr. Steele then moved that the Council adopt as a proposed possible source of revenue for balancing, the additions voted, the items listed on the memorandum entitled "Proposed Changes in the Preliminary Budget dated October 6, 1961:

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1. Increase General Property Taxes		\$ 7,372
2. Increase Fines & Forfeitures		40,000
3. Increase Occupation (Business) Tax		119,000
a. Washington Natural Gas from 3% to 6%	\$54,000	
b. Pacific Telephone & Telegraph from 8% to 9%	65,000	
4. Increase Franchise--Use of Streets		
a. Consumers Central Heating from 4% to 5%		5,000
5. Increase Sale of equipment and property		5,000
6. Increase Belt Line Gross Earnings Tax from 5% to 8%		14,300
7. Increase Interdepartmental Services		13,420
8. Library Revenue		37,707
a. Decrease Transfer from General Fund		
9. Employees' Retirement System		54,891
a. Decrease City's Contribution		
10. Decrease Election Expense		8,000
11. Police:		
a. Delete (1) one patrolman		5,161
12. Non-Departmental Expenditures		89,546
a. Delete Contingency	\$56,379	
b. Decrease Equipment Fund "B"	33,167	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 399,397</b>

and also a possibility of an increase to the fuel dealers from 1/10th of 1% to 1%. He moved that the Council adopt those as potential possible sources for balancing the additions. Seconded by Mrs. Price.

Mr. Bott said he would like to amend Mr. Steele's motion to delete that last item regarding the Fuel dealers as that is not actually included in the list. It is simply mentioned as a proposal. Seconded by Mr. Cvitanich. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Voice vote was then taken on Mr. Steele's motion as amended. Motion carried.

Mr. Staton Warburton, Director of the Pierce County Taxation Bureau, said he was speaking as a private taxpayer and not as a representative of the Bureau. He cited figures to show that the City of Tacoma last year not only spent more per capita than Spokane or Seattle but more than the City made.

He said in his opinion the Council was faced with an almost impossible budget and that as far as the Budget is concerned, the thought the budget was too tight and would be unable to handle a catastrophe or a very heavy snowfall. He asked the Council to say "no" more often in future budgets. He urged the Council to try the running audit specified in the Charter with the hopes it might help them to live within this tight budget they are adopting.

Mr. Hanson thanked Mr. Warburton for his presentation. Mayor Hanson noted the great bulk of city spending is in the field of salaries and wages,

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He said from the standpoint of Capital Improvement Programs upon which Tacoma has just embarked, there is a great deal of difference in terms of Tacoma's present approach to existing problems than either Seattle or Spokane. He added that the Council has had to say "no" to hundreds of thousands of dollars in requests already during this budget time.

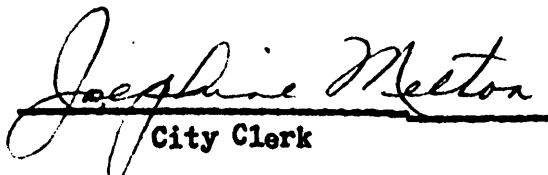
Mrs. Price said at this time she would move that the 1962 annual budget of the City of Tacoma consisting of all the figures set forth in the Preliminary Budget as amended, changed and revised by the City Council during the regular budget hearings be approved and adopted and that the action of the City Council in adopting the budget be confirmed by the enactment of Ordinance No. 16903, the first reading which will be presented on October 10th and the second reading and passage thereof on October 17th. Seconded by Mr. Steels. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Mr. Ketler thanked the Council and the Staff for their consideration given to all of their requests.

Mayor Hanson thanked Mr. Ketler for the very fine understanding and cooperative approach given on the hearings during budget discussions.

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon motion duly seconded and passed the meeting adjourned at 8:50 P. M.

  
Mayor of the City Council

Attest:   
City Clerk