

CITY COUNCIL BUDGET HEARING

Monday, Oct. 14th, 1968
City Council Chambers

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rasmussen at 7:00 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 Thursday, October 10th, 1968.

Mr. Charles Marsh, 1226 No. J. St. representing the Tacoma Police Union, Local #224, quoted recommendations from the U. S. Congress and President Johnson. He noted that adequate and competitive salaries must be given the policemen so that law and order issues may be resolved. He pointed out the cities in the State of Washington that have a longevity plan for policemen as well as higher salaries. He urged the Council to grant the requests that have been made during these ougdet hearings.

Mr. John Willis, 815 So. 70th, representing Firefighters Local No. 31, was again present, urging the Council to consider all the fringe benefits the Union had proposed at the meeting of Oct. 10th and in the event any help is received from the Legislature in 1969, that it be added to the fringe benefits already tentatively agreed upon.

Mr. Morris Cowling representing the Refuse employees, explained that the employees in the Refuse Dept. did not feel that their requests had been fairly met as the salary adjustments made are not acceptable. They are proposing that the hourly rate of \$3.70 and \$3.88 per hour be increase to \$4.05 and \$4.10 per hour.

Mr. Homer Covington, Executive Secretary of the Pierce County Buildings Trade Council, felt there were some inequities in the classifications of the carpenters and painters proposal of \$4.17 per hour which is too low. The equipment operators are also under paid in comparison to the outside salaries, he added.

Mr. Art Rand, representing the Automotive Machinists Local No. 1152 stated there was no indication what the recent proposed salaries would be for the year 1969 on the notification that he received. The first proposal from the City was an offer of 5% across the board for all classifications for mechanics. The Union's request was a 10%, equal pay for the mechanics working on heavy equipment as they are normally paid more than operators of light equipment. The other request was a 10% differential pay for swing shift workers.

After some discussion, Dr. Herrmann moved to recess the meeting for forty-five minutes to discuss some of the requests made. Seconded by Mr. Bott. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

The Council reconvened at 10:30 P. M.

Mayor Rasmussen announced that the City Council have reached an agreement on certain wages. He asked Mr. Hamilton, Acting City Attorney, to give an opinion on his research, whether or not two of the Council members could vote on the budget due to a conflict of interest.

Mr. Robert Hamilton, Acting City Attorney, explained that Mr. Zatkovich should not be disqualified from voting on the budget even though, as a retired police officer on pension, he will share in the Police Dept. pay increase. However, he added, Mr. Zatkovich should not vote when a specific compensation

ordinance comes before the Council. This would also apply to Dr. Herrmann even though he will soon become the Director of P. C. M. B. which covers employees, that he may vote on the ordinance, but not in the instance when the medical health contract comes before the Council.

Mayor Rasmussen announced that the City Council has agreed that wage adjustments to correct inequities in a variety of positions were approved by the Council and this would be an increase of 7 1/2% with the exception of Classes 1001, 1002, 1005 and 1006, relative to classification of City Attorney, Chief Assistant Attorney, and Assistant I & II. In addition a compromise salary increase for firemen and policemen at \$790, \$890, \$990 and \$1090 per month. In addition the work hours for firemen be reduced two hours by July 1st, 1969. This would also be contingent upon the City receiving the same amount of special aid from the State as was allocated for 1968.

Mayor Rasmussen continued, the Council also agreed that employees should be given \$60,000 from General Government and the Utilities Dept. for fringe benefits. Also a recommendation that if additional money becomes available that these fringe benefits be increased.

Mr. Bill Hull, representing the Transit System employees, stated they had negotiated faithfully with the City staff. The City staff made their proposals and consequently the Transit employees made a counter proposal and asked that it be discussed with the City Council. They feel that bus drivers and transit employees of the City of Tacoma are underpaid. The Union's first recommendation was for a 5% increase, the Council recommended a 6% increase, however, they felt that their recent proposal for an 8% increase and two fringe benefits would place them somewhere in the area of the Seattle pay scale. He hoped that another meeting could be arranged for further negotiations.

Mr. Charles Marsh asked that the police matrons' salaries be increased from the proposed 6% which would bring them up to a par with other members of the Department.

Mr. Homer Covington, Secretary of the Building Trades Council, was not in favor of a percentage raise and he hoped that next year an across the board raise could be accomplished.

Mr. Cowling, representing the Refuse employees, stated they would take every legal means to see that their wages are increased to equal status and fringe benefits of the surrounding area.

Mayor Rasmussen said the Library Board was present this evening and he asked for a motion to approve their budget.

Mr. Cvitanich moved that the Library budget be approved. Seconded by Mrs. Banfield.

Dr. Herrmann inquired what the approximate figure would be since the Council had compromised on salaries.

Mr. Peter Harvey, Assistant to the City Manager, explained that the Library's budget was out of balance approximately \$280,000.

Mr. Valen Honeywell, Chairman of the Library Board asked that the additional \$88,000 requested by the Library Board for 1969 be approved.

Mr. Finnigan felt a 10% increase for the Library employees was out of line compared to 7 1/2% for other employees.

Mr. Johnson moved to reduce the Library Budget of \$921,489 by \$20,000. Seconded by Mr. Finnigan.

Mayor Rasmussen felt the Library budget should be increased as Tacoma is a growing, dynamic community.

Roll call was taken on Mr. Johnson's motion to cut the Library budget by \$20,000. Ayes 4: Bott, Finnigan, Herrmann, and Johnson. Nays 4: Banfield, Cvitanich, Zatkovich and Mayor Rasmussen. Absent 1: Murtland. Motion Lost.

Roll call was taken on Mr. Cvitanich's motion that the Library budget be approved, resulting as follows: Ayes 5: Banfield, Bott, Cvitanich, Zatkovich and Mayor Rasmussen. Nays 3: Finnigan, Herrmann, and Johnson. Absent 1: Murtland. Motion carried.

Mayor Rasmussen entertained a motion to approve the Park Board budget.

Mrs. Banfield moved that the Park Board budget be approved. Seconded by Mr. Cvitanich.

Mr. Rowlands, City Manager, explained that the State of Washington provided the cities, including Tacoma, some financial relief in 1968, that the total was inadequate to meet the serious and far reaching problems created by the changing society in which we live today. He hoped that members of the Legislature in 1969 will make every attempt to at least double the monies to be made available for city purposes in 1969-1971 biennium.

Mr. Rowlands added, the Park Board is asking for \$102,000 over and above the 1968 appropriation.

Mr. Johnson felt this request was too high.

Mrs. Banfield asked if Mr. Rowlands had called a member of the Park Board relative to the budget increase.

Mr. Rowlands explained he had talked to Mr. Bartrud, and the discussion was, if the Council granted the full request of the Board, he hoped that the Board would provide \$7,000 for Cheney Stadium maintenance and give special consideration to needs in Lincoln Heights, Hilltop and other needy areas.

Roll call was taken on the motion to approve the Park Board budget. Ayes 5: Banfield, Bott, Cvitanich, Zatkovich and Mayor Rasmussen. Nays 3: Finnigan, Herrmann and Johnson. Absent 1: Murtland. Motion carried.

Dr. Herrmann moved that \$14,000 be allotted to the Community Mental Health Clinic of Tacoma-Pierce County. Seconded by Mr. Zatkovich.

Mr. Hamilton, Acting City Attorney, stated he had reservations about such an appropriation being made due to the fact that the entire program of Community Mental Health is oriented from the County level.

Mayor Rasmussen explained that Dr. McNutt, Director of the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept., had stated, he hoped if any money was appropriated that it would be allocated to the City Health Clinic rather than to an outside clinic.

Voice vote was taken on Dr. Herrmann's motion. Motion Lost.

Mayor Rasmussen said, it is the recommendation of the City Council to supply the meter readers with uniforms and a uniform allowance.

Mayor Rasmussen moved that the amount allowed for association dues be reduced by \$10,000. No second.

Dr. Herrmann felt the dues that are allotted for the association are well spent as the information that is disseminated at the meetings held, is of great benefit to the City.

Mayor Rasmussen felt the budget could not be adopted at this time until the figures in the Preliminary budget have been changed as recommended by the Council.

Mr. Gaisford, Director of Finance, explained, it would be an impossibility to supply the Council with the exact figures at this particular time because it would be a calculated risk, stating that the salaries are increased 'X' number of dollars. He added, on this final day for the hearing of the budget, the Council does nothing more than to move that the Preliminary budget submitted on a specific date with the following changes, revisions and amendments be adopted. Then the Council requests that an ordinance be brought in for first reading at the next regular Council meeting. The ordinance is read by title at that time and it gives the staff at least one week to prepare all necessary changes within the salary structure and other changes recommended by the City Council.

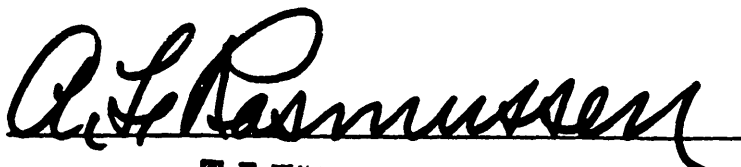
Mr. Rowlands, City Manager, felt there was no reason that the Preliminary budget could not be adopted this evening.

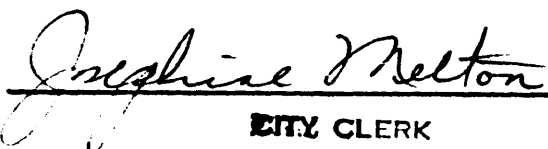
Mayor Rasmussen stated that he did not wish to vote on a budget without the exact figures before him.

Mr. Johnson moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Dr. Herrmann. Roll call was taken, resulting as follows: Ayes 4: Bott, Herrmann, Johnson, and Zatkovich. Nays 3: Banfield, Cvitanich and Mayor Rasmussen. Absent 2: Finnigan and Murtland. Motion carried.

Mayor Rasmussen announced the hearing will be continued until the next Council meeting.

The Budget hearing was recessed at 12:15 A. M.


E. L. RASMUSSEN, MAYOR

IN TEST: 
CITY CLERK