

Council Chambers, 4:00 P. M.  
Wednesday, October 7th, 1959

Council reconvened for the continuation of the hearing on the 1960 Budget: Present on roll call 8: Anderson, Easterday, Goering, Humiston, Perdue, Porter, Price and Mayor Hanson. Absent 1, Bratrud.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

312  
374  
Mayor Hanson said the matter of the increased pension to those retired employees not covered by Social Security was postponed until this meeting.

Dr. Humiston said at this time he would like to comment on another matter. The Council finds itself faced with a very serious problem regarding the City's fire rating, and after receiving the report anticipated from the Manager, the Council may find it necessary to <sup>be</sup> unmerciful with regard to raises in pay. He felt they should determine their action regarding the Fire Department before taking this step.

Mr. Anderson said he previously voted against this raise as he felt the same as Dr. Humiston, but, in the meantime several older people have talked with him, who in no way would benefit by this, but on the contrary would be paying their share, who were in favor of granting this raise to this small group of pensioners. He would therefore change his vote to a "yes".

Mrs. Goering said she had also spent much time thinking about this but still cannot see, no matter how humanitarian it might be, that it is the fair or right thing to do. The Welfare Program has been set up for those people in need, and she does not feel the Council has the right to use public funds to give a free gift to one certain group of people.

Mr. Perdue said he voted against this the last time. He still feels the principle is wrong but feels that he will now change his vote for several reasons. At the time of the first vote he was also against it because he felt it might set a precedent, but looking over the situation and seeing that the Federal Government has made adjustments in Social Security because of the rising cost of living, he feels that the Council will not again be called upon to make similar adjustments, as this small group of employees is an isolated case and the costs will diminish over the years.

It was then moved by Mr. Anderson to retain in the budget the sum necessary to raise the pensions of those employees retired previously to Social Security. Motion seconded by Mr. Easterday. Motion carried: Ayes 6; Nays 2, Goering and Humiston. Absent 1, Bratrud.

Mr. Anderson said the Association of General Contractors of which he is a member has asked him to mention that they are concerned about the big cut in the budget for L. I. D. participation. He said some of this money comes from the Gas Tax. Several times in the past when the Gas Tax money has been used for construction, and the City has run short, they have asked the State for additional funds. In this particular case when less and less of the gas tax money is used for construction work, it is feared that the opportunity of getting additional funds from the State for new construction would be lost.

Mr. Rowlands explained that if the Council approves all of the L I D's anticipated it would average approximately \$185,000. for the participation.

All that could be allowed for this L I D participation was \$120,000. He said in 1961 the cities are going to attempt to convince the State that 2 1/2 times the amount of money received is needed to take care of all the highway needs, street lighting, storm drainage, maintenance and new construction. There are a number of items in our overall Public Works budget that can not be met by the meager funds being received from the State. This is just one of many items.

Mayor Hanson said he understands this L I D program is not carried on by all cities in the State.

Mr. Rowlands said that was correct. There were many cities who would like to follow this policy, but to his knowledge Tacoma was the only city in the State that is.

Mr. Schuster, Director of Public Works, said the City of Mount Vernon did some of this last year. They appropriated \$30,000 which was used up in one month. Other than that Tacoma is the only other City in the State that participates in the L I D program.

Mayor Hanson said there was no question this was a vital program to the City and he wondered if there was any possible way of increasing the amount budgeted.

Mr. Rowlands said he has directed Mr. Schuster to recheck to ascertain if other programs in the department might be reduced in order to add more to the L I D participation.

Mr. Schuster said they are attempting to do this in the hope of finding even a few thousand dollars.

Mr. Perdue asked if it would be possible to put some millage on the ballot to take care of this and the fire situation, etc., and see what the people want.

Mr. Rowlands said there are two minor adjustments to be made in the schedule of salary ranges. The County Commissioners are planning to increase the Switchboard Operators Code No. 0030 to Range 11. Inasmuch as the City Operators are under County supervision, the City should classify them in the same category.

The other change, Mr. Rowlands continued, is under Code 1103 - Police Court Clerk, which was inadvertently left out last year in the 1/2 step raise category and should be equated with the Clerk Stenographer II which is in Range 13.

Mr. Frank Pub of the Machinists Union, said he would like to discuss the wage increase for the Trade and General Supervision group with a 13¢ raise<sup>which</sup> was given. He is asking that an additional 2 cents be given to the Machinists, which is Code No. 0526. He thought since more skill is required of a machinists and that the gap in salary between the unskilled and the skilled machinist has been reduced he believed they should be given an additional 2¢ increase which would amount to approximately \$41.60 a year.

Mr. Easterday moved that the 2 cent raise be granted. Motion seconded by Mr. Porter:

Discussion by Council resulted in the decision that the going wage was being paid and that this change should not be made at the last minute. Mr. Easterday's motion lost on roll call Ayes 2 (Easterday) & Nays 3; Absent 2, Anderson and Bratrud.

Mr. Easterday then moved that Code No. 0030 - Switchboard Operator, be put in salary range 11 and Code No. 1103 - Police Court Clerk be placed in salary range 13. Motion seconded by Mr. Porter and carried: Ayes 7; Nays 0; Absent 2, Anderson and Bratrud.

\*\*\*\* Mr. Anderson leaving at 4:45 P. M.

Mr. Rowlands said several weeks ago the City Council was informed that in all probability it would not be necessary to appropriate the \$50,000 in the Budget which was earmarked for the renovation of the Police Building for the Allied Arts group. This group is trying to raise between \$85,000 to \$100,000. to remodel the old Police Building for an Allied Art Center. There have been contacts made with a certain organization in the City asking them on behalf of the City Council if they would contribute some \$50,000 which seems to be forthcoming contingent on the Allied Arts raising their share. The City Council has already appropriated \$20,000 to eliminate the old annex adjacent to the Police Building, furthermore Allied Arts would like an agreement with the City with respect to maintenance of the building. The tentative figure was approximately \$16,000 but the organization would now be willing to agree to the figure of \$9,000 a year to be given to Allied Arts for janitorial services. The amount for the coming year would be approximately \$4,500 as Allied Arts will not be able to occupy the building until the middle of next year.

Mayor Hanson said he thought the City could not afford to refuse this offer. Dr. Humiston said his preference in the matter would be to leave this out of the budget and make an emergency appropriation later, if necessary.

Mayor Hanson said he felt the Council should appropriate some money in the budget to show their enthusiastic approval of this fine gesture on the part of the organization, who can now be disclosed, as the Weyerhaeuser Timber Co.

Mr. McCormick, City Attorney, said since it would take some time for the group to raise the entire sum needed for this project, he felt they were not so interested in the amount of money, but were more interested in the agreement, itself, that "the City will in the future, when the money is raised, reimburse them up to and not to exceed \$9,000." The foundation wants to be sure the City is in good faith going into this long term proposition. He said his personal feeling was that \$2,500 or \$3,000 would be sufficient to place in the budget for this purpose for the coming year.

Mr. Rowlands said we are talking about a proposed lease of 50 years, but the agreement on the straight line depreciation will be for 25 years.

Dr. Humiston moved that \$2,500 be placed in the budget for Allied Arts on a contingency basis. Seconded by Mr. Easterday. Roll call: Ayes 7; Nays 0; Absent 2, Anderson AND Bratrud.

Mayor Hanson added that the City Council, on behalf of the entire city, should extend their thanks to the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company for their very fine contribution to the Allied Art Center. He said he would send a letter to the Company expressing this appreciation.

Mr. Perdue moved that the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company be thanked by the City Council for their generous gift. Motion seconded by Mr. Porter and carried on roll call: Ayes 7; Nays 0; Absent 2, Anderson and Bratrud.

Dr. Humiston said he attended the meeting regarding the Fire rating which was held at 10:30 Wednesday morning, which was comprised of three members of the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau, (The General Manager, Chief Engineer and Associate Manager) people from insurance agencies in town and members of the City's staff and Fire Department; and as the Council recalls they asked Mr. Rowlands to obtain in writing the intention of the Washington

Survey and Rating Bureau regarding their action in re-rating Tacoma. Such a letter has been obtained from George Clarke, Manager of the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau which stated in effect that the National Board will not reclassify Tacoma immediately but that the Bureau will hold off indefinitely only if Tacoma adopts a specific program to correct the deficiencies found by the Board and proceeds with "due diligence" to carry out the program.

Dr. Humiston said this program would probably include three areas:

1. Changes in procedure, which will cost little or no money.
2. Changes which will mean additions to the department's Annual operating funds, which should be budgeted out of the City's normal tax revenues.
3. Substantial capital outlay items - including a new training center and tower - which cannot be absorbed within the city's operating funds and will require a special millage to be approved by the voters.

How much money this will involve is still not known and until it is, Dr. Humiston said, he did not feel the Council could adopt the budget. Personally, he said he cannot see how Tacoma can get back into a Class 3 without spending a considerable amount of money.

Unless the City does adopt such a program, Dr. Humiston said, they can expect insurance rates to go up about 20% somewhat more in commercial and industrial areas than in residential.

Mr. Rowlands said a report will be submitted Thursday on this subject involving the costs etc..

Mr. Porter said he thought the City was going to have to face the fact that money would have to be spent in this area before the Class 3 rating is regained.

It was moved by Dr. Humiston, seconded by Mr. Perdue that the hearing on the Budget be continued to 8:00 P.M. Thursday, October 8, 1959. Motion carried.

Council then recessed at 6:00 p. m. to convene again at 4:00 P. M. October 8, 1959.

  
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Mayor of the City Council

Attest:   
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City Clerk