

Council Chambers, 4:00 P. M.
Thursday, October 8, 1959

Council reconvened for the continuation of the hearing on the 1960 Budget: Present on roll call 7: Bratrud, Easterday, Goering, Humiston, Perdue, Porter and Mayor Hanson. Absent 2, Anderson and Price, coming in at 4:20 P. M.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Rowlands explained that the Council requested a report on Tacoma's position in reference to its recent drop in fire rating, and what would be necessary to bring the City back to a Class 3 Fire Rating. He said there has been many meetings with the staff in preparing a proposed program for the possible removal of deficiency points, which has been submitted to the Council. They have attempted to be conservative as far as marking down the number of points they hope to remove. He called the Council's attention to the first page of the report under Special Training and Examination - although 17 points were deficient, even with the inauguration of the proposed new program only 9 points were allowed. Under Number 10 - Retirement Age 62 - it is hoped to have an opinion from the Attorney on this soon. This point is still undecided, but 6 points would definitely be picked up here.

Mr. Clar Gaisford, Director of Finance, pointed out that this deficiency could be corrected by the Pension Board adopting rules and regulations in this regard.

Mr. Rowlands said 117 points were to be picked up but this would only put the City on the borderline, and as Mr. Hoyt suggested, they should try to achieve sufficient points to bring the City to the 1250 mark, at least.

Mr. Rowlands continued on the proposed plan: #12 - Additional Ladder Truck and #21 - Ladder Service (distance) combined in which a deficiency of 31 points were found. He said 12 points could be picked up by 15 additional personnel and one ladder truck at a cost of \$133,230.

#14 - Additional Personnel - 75 points deficiency. 10 points could be picked up by adding 6 additional personnel at a cost of \$30,000 plus 6 more firemen which will be picked up through rescheduling of vacations and taking off Battalion Chief Drivers.

#16 - Additional Pumpers and Testing - 34 deficiency points. 20 points could be picked up by adding 2 pumpers at a cost of \$60,000.

#17 - Additional Equipment - 29 points deficiency. All 29 points could be picked up with the small amount of \$12,750.

#18 Additional Hose - 9 deficiency points. All 9 points could be picked up for \$30,000.

#19 - Adequate Training Facilities & Program - 62 points deficiency. 40 points can be picked up by adding 2 personnel and one training tower at a cost of \$164,000.

#20 Systematic Inspections - 17 points deficiency. 9 points could be picked up by a change in inspection procedure, at no cost.

#22 - Complete Training Records - 1 deficiency.

Fuel Trailer Truck - 3 points deficiency.

Personnel Records (Examination) - 3 points deficiency. These ^{last} 7 points can also be picked up at no cost to the City.

Mr. Rowlands said in the Fire Section alone, in order to keep this relationship between the Water Department and the Fire Department, the minimum of 83 points will be picked up, although more than that should be picked up to make sure we go into a Class 4.

Under the breakdown there were demerit points for Water supply, Fire Department, Fire Alarm, Police, Fire Prevention, Building Structural Conditions, climatic conditions and divergents.

At present the relationship between Fire and Water Department is 5 to 3. If the City goes into a Class 2 in the Water Supply, the Fire Department will have to be brought to a Class 4 so the same relationship can be retained. Therefore, over 100 points have to be picked up in the Fire Department to make certain a Class 4 is reached.

Under Fire Prevention - 81 points deficiency - 50 points could be picked up at a cost of \$40,000 by adding 5 personnel and 5 cars and radios. This would double the personnel and enable inspection of buildings 4 times a year which the National Board of Fire Underwriters advocates.

Fire Alarm Category - 20 points deficiency - 11 points can be picked up, 1 at no cost and 10 by one additional personnel at a cost of \$4800.

Building Department Category - Fire Zone No. 1 be extended and Fire Zone No. 2 for outlying business district - 8 points can be picked up at no cost.

Police Department - report of unauthorized building construction. 10 points can be picked up.

Water Supply - Additional Hydrants in downtown area - Water L. I. D. will pick up 40 points at a cost of \$100,000.

Electrical - Electrical Inspection of old wiring - 4 points could be picked up.

In all, this would total 291 points, he added.

In addition, Mr. Rowlands presented 4 alternative plans costing from \$251,550. to \$534,780 and removing from 207 to 279 deficiency points.

Joseph Hoyt, Fire Insurance Expert, recommended that the City pick up at least 367 points to guarantee its recovery of a Class 3.

The National Board of Fire Underwriters may find other deficiencies when it rerates the City and therefore they should leave themselves a safe margin.

Also, Mr. Hoyt said, Tacoma is now in a Class 4. It is up to the Rating Bureau as to whether they are going to rerate Tacoma on that basis or whether they are going to want a reasonable length of time for Tacoma to re-establish a Class 3.

Mr. Hoyt said they are willing to cooperate and give advice along these lines. This analysis is a step in the right direction, but George Clark, Manager of the Rating Bureau said "you have to declare your intentions and then carry them out". In other words in the next few months Tacoma has to show the Rating Bureau that it is actually accomplishing what is proposed. He also pointed out the program developed should go far enough into a Class 3 so as to assure them of remaining there.

Mr. Bratrud said he could see where we could pick up sufficient points with very little trouble by making the no cost alterations and the 29 points in the additional small equipment category for \$12,750, and the 2 personnel in the Training Program for \$14,000. This would pick up a total of 142 points.

Mr. Hoyt said it was pointed out that they want a balance. You can not have a very excellent Water Department and Distribution System, and a very poor

Fire Department. The big weakness in the Fire Department is the manpower problem. In other words the City is a Class 5 as far as the Fire Department is concerned. The Fire Department is going to have to be built up some 120 to 140 points to get it down to a Class 4. The City will have to adopt an overall program - you can not just concentrate on certain items such as the "no cost items".

Dr. Humiston said it is conceivable that the Council might ask for some millage. He did not think as of today the Council had to consider the method of financing Capital Outlay, unless it is spent out of this year's budget. What has to be settled today is how much maintenance and operation is going to be appropriated for the year 1960.

Mayor Hanson said to accomplish this the alternatives have to be considered.

Mrs. Goering asked if we risk everything on millage and it fails, what would happen?"

Mr. Rowlands said Tacoma would then be rerated as a Class 4.

Dr. Humiston said in order to give the Council something concrete to consider, he moved that \$62,000. be added to the Fire Department's budget to pay for 9 additional Firemen and some miscellaneous equipment. Motion seconded by Mr. Bratrud.

Dr. Humiston added, when the Council determines the amount to be used out of the 1960 Budget, the Fire Department Capital Outlay will have to be set up to approximately \$350,000., contingent on it being raised by some other method.

Mayor Hanson said, then, this motion is one of the ultimate alternatives that the Council will have to face after they determine which plan to use. Before getting to this point, he felt all of the methods of financing these items should be considered to see what will have to be put in the budget. Thinking beyond this, there are possibilities of bond issues for all Capital Outlay.

Clar Gaisford, Director of Finance, asked if this could possibly be set up for Capital Outlay for City Departments, therefore, on that basis they could work out particular revenues to pick up the \$62,000 suggested by Dr. Humiston. Otherwise he could not see where the money would come from.

Mr. Easterday said he felt millage was far more simple than a bond issue. By this method there would be no interest, no selling expense, etc.

Mr. Anderson and Mrs. Price coming in at this time.

Dr. Humiston said Mr. Easterday was probably right but the reason he made this motion, was that he did not feel that in 1960 or 1961 there was going to be any substantial money to use for Capital Outlay for the Fire Department and if they are going to come near meeting one of these plans, whatever is spent for Capital Outlay would have to come from some other source than the budget. At some

stage the Council will have to decide what sum is going to come out of this year's budget.

Mayor Hanson said the Council, first of all, should determine on what plan they wish to proceed, on what terms of immediate appropriation, and if the remainder should be by bond issue or by millage. It would be a problem for the staff to determine what additional Capital Outlay items should be deleted from this budget, to be put on a millage or bond issue.

Mr. Bratrud said he felt the people who understood this matter thoroughly such as Mr. Hoyt, other Insurance Experts and Clar Gaisford, Director of Finance, should be allowed to study the problem and come up with a very definite recommendation.

Mayor Hanson said there were experts present who could advise the Council today if they wished, as a decision has to be reached before the Budget can be adopted.

Mr. Rowlands said the staff had proceeded according to Mr. Bratrud's suggestion. Various meetings were held with Mr. Hoyt and members of the staff in an effort to come up with a minimum figure needed for the budget. Another meeting will be had after the Council determines on what recommendation to follow.

Dr. Humiston said he felt the Council should decide on what plans to adopt today in order to give the Manager an assignment as to how to change the budget. That is why he recommended that \$62,000 be found somewhere to add to the Fire Department. He thought an attempt to solve this problem by millage now would be useless.

Mayor Hanson said on the contrary, he felt this action would be a partial solution which would almost be useless.

Dr. Humiston said he felt that there was a specific problem here - mainly the raising of Capital Outlay for the Fire Department which is going to require millage. He said he would never vote to put millage on the ballot which has been created by this particular problem. If this is the problem we are faced with and have to go to the people, then it should be purely a Fire Department millage request.

Mayor Hanson said that would be a matter discussed at Friday's meeting after the alternate plans are brought in. He called for a vote on Dr. Humiston's motion to add \$62,000 to the Fire Department Budget. Motion carried: Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

Mayor Hanson said unless there is any objection, they will ask the staff to approach this matter from the standpoint of millage or a bond issue.

Mr. Porter said he would like to have it approached from every angle rather than just the one stated in the motion just passed. Since they all voted on the prevailing side, they can move to reconsider if something else develops, he added.

Mr. Rowlands said he would like to bring up the item mentioned by Mr. Anderson previously on increasing the L I D participation, and asked if the Council had any suggestions.

Mayor Hanson said he would like to have this considered before the Council takes definite action on the Budget. He said he feels this plan might have

to be considered when asking for millage.

Mayor Hanson said the Council has come to the conclusion that in order to resolve this matter, it would take either millage or a bond issue voted on by the people.

It was moved by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Dr. Humiston that the hearing on the Budget be continued to 4:00 P. M. Friday, October 8, 1959.
Motion carried.

Council then recessed at 6:00 P. M. to convene again at 4:00 P. M. October 9, 1959.



Mayor of the City Council

Attest: 

City Clerk