

CITY COUNCIL BUDGET
HEARING

City Council Chambers, 7:00 P. M.
Thursday, October 6, 1966

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Mayor Tollefson announced that this meeting is a continuation of the Budget hearing from Wednesday, October 5, 1966.

Present on roll call 7: Bott, Cvitanich, Finnigan, Johnson, Murtland, Price and Mayor Tollefson. Absent 2: Haley and Herrmann. Dr. Herrmann arriving at 7:15 P. M. and Mr. Haley at 7:20 P. M.

Mr. Rowlands explained that the City Council had requested a report on the following items for consideration at tonight's meeting. He outlined the salaries and working hours the bridge tenders receive in the City of Seattle as well as from the State of Washington. Mr. Rowlands noted that the City of Tacoma pays higher salaries to bridge tenders than that paid by the State and also greater than the two railroads.

Mr. Lauren Bair, representing the International Union of operating engineers quoted the salaries given in Seattle, and added that the bridge tenders working for the City of Tacoma are on a standby basis whereas the bridge tenders in Seattle are not required to work as many hours. He added, in other categories in the preliminary budget, it has been recommended for the higher echelon, an increase of more than a one-step range as compared to other employees who will be receiving only a one-step increase. He felt this was not fair as the cost of living has risen for all employees.

Mr. Rowlands continued, stating, that he had been instructed to try to work into this budget, three additional police officers to be used for traffic patrol and, perhaps, one more in youth guidance section. He hoped to be able to work this out.

Mr. Rowlands asked Mr. Bixel, Personnel Director, to explain the changes made in the budget.

Mr. Bixel explained that increases have been recommended to the lower echelons over the Public Administration Service survey. In some classifications where only a one-half step was recommended by the P. A. S., a full step was recommended. The staff has been instructed by the Council to check into the matter of Public Health Nurse I and II. He assured the Council it will be a continuing program to find a common understanding of duties being performed by these different categories. He added, the ordinances establishing the position of Project Director in the unclassified service for the Neighborhood Youth Corps would change the report.

Mr. Rowlands reported that Mr. Gaisford, Finance Director, reviewed the account numbers and outlined the exact amounts that would reflect the decrease and increase in order to balance the budget.

Mr. J. Willis, President of the Joint Labor Committee, felt that the Council should abandon the percentage increases proposed, in favor of a flat across the board increases. He also asked that the family medical coverage be paid by the city on a contingency basis if Initiative No. 226 passes.

Mr. Glen Robertson, 1516 No. Verde, said that the 1967 proposed budget certainly is a glaring example of the low wages in the city. He particularly mentioned the engineers in all categories.

Mayor Tollefson said that Mr. Rowlands believes that the three extra policemen can be worked into the existing budget by watching overtime and retirement.

Mayor Tollefson said the staff and union representatives should be commended, as they did an outstanding job, when you recognize that more than 1100 employees received wage raises beyond the recommendation of the outside agency.

Mr. Rowlands stated that if Initiative No. 226 does not pass, the anticipated transit deficit will have to be paid by a \$1.00 per month transit tax on the utility bills. It is hoped that this will not have to be imposed.

Mr. Haley moved that the Council authorize the addition of three patrolmen for the Police Dept. which would change the number in the preliminary budget. Seconded by Mr. Finnigan. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Mr. Haley moved that the preliminary budget heretofore filed with the Council of the City of Tacoma as amended by the City Council during the budget hearings be adopted as the final budget of the City of Tacoma for the year 1967 in the sum of \$46,975,370 and that this motion be ratified in a proper ordinance providing for the final adoption of the budget of the City of Tacoma for the year 1967, and to be presented to the Council at its regular Council meeting on the 11th day of October 1966. Seconded by Mr. Finnigan. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Mr. Haley moved that the annual ad valorem tax levies for the year 1967 be fixed in an amount sufficient to raise the estimated expenditures less the estimated revenues from sources other than ad valorem taxation for the general fund and for the payment of principal and interest upon the general bonded indebtedness of the City of Tacoma for the fiscal year 1967. Further, that a proper ordinance fixing said ad valorem tax levies be presented to the Council at the regular Council meeting to be held on the 11th day of October, 1966. Seconded by Mr. Finnigan. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Mr. Rowlands reminded the Council that at 4:00 P. M. on Monday, October 10, 1966, in the Council Chambers, a meeting will be held with Mr. Landon, Chairman of the Citizens Committee, concerning the last month's drive for Initiative 226. He invited the union representatives to be present at the meeting.

Mayor Tollefson stated that he hoped the Labor organizations would support the city in its drive for Initiative No. 226. He added, the City of Tacoma's plans will be accomplished more readily and long delayed plans for the budget can be effected. If the city can remove some of the bonded indebtedness and work on a pay-as-you-go basis, the city will be able to build up a backlog of bonding capacity and it would be possible to take care of some of the larger development plans.

Mr. Rowlands stated their office has information that can be used by anyone wishing to speak on Initiative No. 226.

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon motion duly seconded and passed the meeting adjourned at 8:15 P. M .

Attest Josephine Weston
City Clerk

Sam Johnson
Mayor of the City Council