

355

CITY BUDGET HEARINGS

City Council Chambers
November 26, 1974

Following the regular City Council meeting, Mayor Johnston reconvened the 1975 City Budget Hearings at 7:50 p.m.

Present were Mayor Johnston, Egan, Harrmann, Hudson, Moss, Nalley, Nelson, Sonntag and Warnick.

Mayor Johnston called upon Aldo Benedetti, Director of the Department of Public Utilities to present his departmental budget.

Mr. Benedetti presented his staff and proceeded on a page by page review of the department budget, citing that the proposed rate increase by City Light has been incorporated in the revenue projections of the budget.

Mr. Sonntag requested Mr. Benedetti to prepare a comparison chart of the City Light rates, including the proposed rate increase comparing Seattle, Portland and other west coast cities, as well as other cities across the nation. Mr. Sonntag requested the information prior to the Council's consideration of the proposed light increase December 10, 1974.

Dr. Ernest Benfield, President of the Metropolitan Park District, presented his budget to Council, noting that the District has conformed to the guidelines set down by the City's Budget Review Committee in incorporating the six percent increase in their budget. He cited several needs of the District which are outlined in a supplemental budget in order of their priority. He stated that the Park Board appropriation amounts to only three percent of the City's budget which compares to eleven percent for the City of Seattle and nine percent for the City of Spokane. He cited that the Park District still has 78 full-time employees, which is the same number as ten years ago. He said the District has been able to do this with the utilization of new equipment and procedures.

Mary Frances Borden, Director of the Tacoma Public Library, presented her budget as approved by the Tacoma Library Board. She reviewed in detail the revenues and expenditures of the library, citing in particular the need for continuing the library service for the handicapped and elderly.

Speaking in support of the library and the supplemental senior service and handicapped program were the following citizens: Walter Gordon, President of the Friends of the Tacoma Public Library; Mrs. James Petrich, 414 North 7th; Ron Klipping, 3625 East "B" Street, nursing home administrator; Dr. Ron Magnum, Vice Chairman of the Library Board; Miss Jane Reece, Chairman of the Task Force for the needs of the Handicapped; Ms. Ruth E. Robinson, 511 South 92nd; Mr. Dave Switchenberg, nursing home resident; Mrs. Pardini, representing the Rest Haven Nursing Home.

10

City Budget Hearings - Page 2 - November 26, 1974

Mayor Johnston then recognized Mr. Herb Kuzniczci of the Tacoma/Pierce County Health Department who briefly reviewed the Health Department's budget, noting that some \$360,000 has been incorporated in its supplemental budget.


Mayor Johnston then recognized Mr. Archie Fiddler, Manager of the Tacoma/Pierce County Humane Society.

Mr. Fiddler then introduced Mr. Clar Gaisford, former Director of the Finance Department for the City of Tacoma and a Board Member of the Humane Society. Mr. Gaisford indicated approval of the budget as submitted. He asked, however, that Council give consideration to a supplementary item in the amount of \$27,000 for remodeling of the existing facility.


Mr. Sonntag asked for a comparison of rates imposed by the Society for licenses compared with other comparable cities.

Mr. Fiddler stated he would prepare the comparative sheet, but also noted that dog fees or licenses are perhaps at their upper limits at the present time and suggested that Council give consideration to the licensing of cats, noting that the City of Seattle and King County license cats at the present time.

There being no further business, Mayor Johnston recessed the meeting at 10:55 p.m. until Wednesday, November 27, 1974 at 7 o'clock p.m.



GORDON JOHNSTON - MAYOR

ATTEST: 

H. B. BOND - CITY CLERK