

Wednesday, October 5, 1955.

Council reconvened. Present 5; Battin, Jensen, Humiston, Perdue and Stojack. Absent 4; Bratrud, Goering (taking her seat at 8:01) Hooker (taking his seat at 8:01) and Mayor Tollefson, taking his seat towards the end of the meeting.

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, the City Clerk called the meeting to order.

It was moved by Dr. Humiston, seconded by Mr. Perdue, that Mr. Jensen be appointed as Chairman for the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS:

The Clerk read a letter from Councilman Bratrud, requesting that he be excused from attending Council meetings for the duration of his present illness. It was moved by Dr. Battin, seconded by Col. Hooker that Mr. Bratrud be excused from attending Council meetings for the duration of his illness. Motion carried unanimously on voice vote.

FINISHED BUSINESS:

This being the date to which hearing on the Preliminary Budget was continued, the matter was taken up at this time.

Mr. Jensen suggested that the various City departments be heard from in the order in which they appear in the Preliminary Budget.

Accordingly the following Department budgets were examined and the following department heads were called upon for explanations:

City Manager- (page 2) Mr. Backstrom reported that the principal reduction in the City Manager's budget was a reduction in travel expense from \$1500 to \$500.00.

City Clerk- (page 3) Mrs. Melton, City Clerk explained that increase in her budget was primarily due to the fact that it is an election year and the increase is to take care of election costs.

Legal Department (page 4) Mr. Boyle, City Attorney, reported that his budget was substantially the same as last year.

Finance- (page 5) Mr. Gaisford, Director of Finance, reported that the increase in his budget was due to the fact that his office has taken over the bookkeeping of the sewer, garbage and public works departments, which meant the transfer of 3 employees to his payroll. Capital outlay is also increased because of contemplated purchase of three new bookkeeping machines for \$20,000, which will replace 5 old machines ranging in age from 9 to 12 years.

City Treasurer- (page 10). Mr. Lemley, City Treasurer, said his budget in the "Tax and License Division" was being increased by the employment of two additional office employees, in order to allow two men out in the field full time to audit accounts instead of half time as at present. They felt that additional revenue would be picked up by this method, which would more than off-set the increased expense.

Personnel Dept. Mr. Backstrom reported that the department would have the same staff next year, and that the budget is approximately \$1,000 below last year's due to a reduction in office expense and capital outlay.

Planning Department (page 14) Mr. Backstrom reported that the principal reduction in this budget was the result of a drop in the amount budgeted for expert services. He pointed out that \$18,000 had been allocated for engineering studies in the "1956 proposed Construction Program" (page 83) for Engineering Studies to aid the Planning Department. Dr. Humiston asked if they planned to use the Public Works Staff entirely or to also employ outside engineers, and Mr. Backstrom replied the City may use outside engineers and have outside consultants do some of the planning studies in addition to the Public Works staff.

POLICE COURT: (page 16) Mr. Gaisford explained the increase in this branch was due to the purchase of a new cash register (\$3,080) which will keep an authentic record of the bail money received but not turned into the general fund, as the present register is not of sufficient capacity to handle these figures.

Fire Department (pages 18 to 25) Fire Chief Fisk called attention to the item of \$1,190 (page 23) for vacation and sick leave, which he believed had been omitted in the 1956 Budget through an oversight and should be included. He enumerated numerous items such as pumpers, replacement clothing for firemen, fire hose, which had been cut from the Preliminary Budget and which he would like to see included for 1956. Mr. Jensen suggested that the Fire Chief file a list of these requests with the City Manager and Finance Committee.

Police Department (pages 27 to 38) Mr. Backstrom said that a request for 50 new police officers, uniforms, revolvers and new automotive equipment has been cut from the budget. He felt that at least 10 new police officers should have been included this year, but this was not possible. Mr. Don Hager of the Police Staff said that the increased budget was due to the replacement of 6-3 wheel Motorcycles and 15 2-wheel motorcycles at a cost of approximately \$30,000 and to the fact that gas, oil and tires for automotive equipment is now charged to the Police Department while last year these expenses were charged to the Public Works budget.

Civil Defense Dept. (page 40) no comment.

Health and Welfare (pages 41 to 49) Dr. Fargher, Director of Health, said that 9 automobiles to replace the present cars, all of which are older than 1952, had been cut from his budget and participation of the City in the T B program had been reduced by eliminating the X-Ray technician. At present the City is contributing \$7,000 toward this program, he added. Dr. Humiston said he felt the City had no business cutting down on vital services such as preventable disease control and he asked Dr. Fargher to obtain accurate figures on the cost of an adequate T. B. program.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. (pages 50 to to 108) Myron Calkins, City Engineer explained in great detail the Public Works Department Budget and answered questions of the Council members pertaining thereto. Mr. Hiberly spoke at length about the Garbage department's operation and said that the increase in that budget was primarily due to \$100,000 for capital outlay for new equipment, for vacation relief and fill material for the dump.

Mr. Ketchum, Superintendent of the Sewer Utility, explained that branch of the Public Works Department Budget.

Employees Retirement System, (page 112) Mr. Robert Weaver, head of the Retirement System reported that his budget was down due to the fact that there will be no actuarial survey, as this was made in 1955.

It was duly moved, seconded and carried that the budget hearing be continued to Thursday, October 6th at 7:30 P. M.

Upon motion, duly seconded and carried, Council recessed to Thursday, October 6th at 7:30 P. M. (Recess time 10:35 P. M.)

J. M. Johnson

President of City Council

Attest: *Josephine Nelson*

City Clerk.