



# City Council Budget Workshop Minutes

<http://www.cityoftacoma.org/default/54council/default>

Tacoma Municipal Building North, Room 16, 733 Market Street, Tacoma, Washington 98402

April 21, 2004

Deputy Mayor Evans called the Budget Workshop to order at 4:41 p.m.

Council Members Present: 7 ~ Anderson, Evans, Ladenburg, Lonergan, Manthou, Stenger, and Talbert.

Council Members Absent: 2 ~ Phelps and Mayor Baarsma. (Council Member Phelps arrived at 4:42 p.m.)

Deputy Mayor Evans announced that the first budget discussion item would be a presentation on property and real estate excise taxes by Ms. Diane Supler, Office of Management and Budget Analysis Director.

(Council Member Phelps arrived here.)

Ms. Supler reviewed the two categories of debt discussed at the previous Workshop, Councilmanic and voter-approved debt, and then described the revenue sources for debt repayment. Ms. Supler explained the difference between the regular levy rate and the excess levy rate, as well as the limitations imposed upon the City by the state law, and provided a comparison of Tacoma's total taxes with other jurisdictions.

Mr. Steve Marcotte, Finance Director, provided information regarding the remaining debt capacity available for funding capital projects. He explained that an additional amount would be available if the voters were to approve an excess levy and provided a brief history of the 1997 bond issue and its impact on current budget issues.

Ms. Supler explained that the maximum regular levy rate permitted by state law is \$3.60, allowing a maximum of a \$0.25 increase in the levy rate.

Mr. Steve Victor, Assistant City Attorney, reviewed the provisions of the statutes that pertain to lifting levy lids and described their significant impacts.

Ms. Supler provided information on Initiative 864 related to levy lid lifts and its potential impact on the budget process. She continued by providing a history of the EMS Levy and the effect of more seniors becoming eligible for exemption on the rest of Tacoma's taxpayers. Ms. Supler then reviewed real estate excise tax and the conditions imposed for use of the funds collected and then provided an overview of the City's current capital projects and the funds that have been committed to each one.

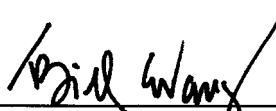
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The Council recessed at 5:42 p.m. for a dinner break and reconvened the Budget Workshop at 5:59 p.m.

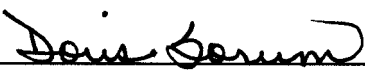
Ms. Supler invited Council to provide feedback on distributing the existing sources of revenue among the projects currently committed to and how additional projects could be funded using voter approved funding.

General discussion ensued regarding various funding strategies and establishing criteria for evaluating capital projects and identifying priorities.

There being no further business, the Budget Workshop was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.



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BILL EVANS, DEPUTY MAYOR

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
DORIS SORUM, CITY CLERK

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