

335

CITY COUNCIL BUDGET HEARING

City Council Chambers  
November 23, 1976

Following the regular City Council meeting, Mayor Johnston reconvened the 1977 City Budget Hearings at 7:20 p.m.

Present were Mayor Johnston, Mrs. Bichsel, Mr. Hudson, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Nielsen, Mr. Schroeder, Mr. Sonntag, Mr. Strege and Deputy Mayor Warnick.

Mayor Johnston called upon Aldo Benedetti, Director of the Department of Public Utilities, who reviewed the budget of the Light, Water and Belt Line Divisions, the anticipated revenues and the goals of the department.

William Glundberg, Director of the Metropolitan Park District, presented a review of the budget and introduced John O'Leary, Park Board Member.

Mr. O'Leary asked for an additional \$100,000 for 1977 operating expenses in order to provide the current level of service. He also asked for an additional \$100,000 for long-range planning.

Kevin Hegarty, Library Director, reviewed the accomplishments of the last year and presented the budget for 1977, which he advised has an increase in supplies and capital outlay. However, the budget is balanced due to the reduction in the number of employees. He said the reduction in personnel was done through attrition.

Dr. Harlan McNutt, Director of the Health Department reviewed the budget and advised it covers the present level of services. He said the department's activities are governed by State Law and City Ordinances. Emphasis is on prevention of disease.

Dave Bishop, Planner of the Health Department, answered questions of Council members regarding certain activities and statistics of disease and infant mortality.

Also speaking and answering questions of Council members was Nancy Cherry, Chief of the Nursing Division.

Archie Fiddler, Director of the Tacoma/Pierce County Humane Society, advised that theirs is a non-profit organization operating under State Law under contract with the City and Pierce County. He reviewed the budget and the objectives for 1977. He introduced Clar Gaisford, the accountant for the Humane Society. Mr. Gaisford advised that the budget increase for 1977 is less than one half of one percent. He suggested that the formula of 47% County and 53% City allocation be changed to a 50/50 allocation. He submitted a supplemental budget for one employee for night services for a little over \$20,000.

Ellida Kirk, President of the Tacoma/Pierce County Civic Arts Commission, reviewed the accomplishments of the Commission, its assistance to the artists, and benefits to the community. She asked for Council support of the arts.

Also speaking and asking for support were Greg Geissler and Barbara Baldwin, Members of the Arts Commission.

Mrs. Kirk advised that there is a supplemental budget of \$11,291 for costs of staff for six months. The CETA funds requested are \$205,534. She also asked for Council guidelines for the use of the one percent for the arts monies.

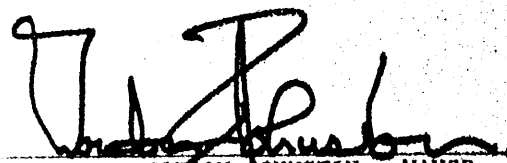
On completion of testimony from organizations, Mayor Johnston asked if there were any citizens requesting to speak.

Rosa Franklin spoke on health care for citizens and urged the City's participation.

Dave Johnson spoke regarding insufficient bus service in Northeast Tacoma.

With no other citizens desiring to speak, Mayor Johnston declared the budget hearings closed, and requested an Ordinance adopting the 1977 budget be brought to Council for first reading on December 14, 1976.

The hearings were declared closed at 10:25 p.m.

  
GORDON JOHNSTON - MAYOR

ATTEST:   
H. B. BOND - CITY CLERK