



City Council Budget Workshop Minutes

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

November 12, 2004

Mayor Baarsma called the Budget Workshop to order at 4:40 p.m.

Council Members Present: 9 ~ Anderson, Evans, Ladenburg, Lonergan, Manthou, Stenger, Phelps, Talbert, and Mayor Baarsma.

Mayor Baarsma stated that the objectives of this Budget Workshop were to review possible revenue enhancements, potential service restorations and reductions, and the additional budget documents requested by Council. Mayor Baarsma then suspended the agenda to allow Council Member Manthou to update the Council on the search for potential City Manager candidates.

Council Member Manthou provided a brief overview of the highlights of the meeting between the representatives of The Oldani Group and the members of the City Manager Search committee. He reviewed the next steps for developing the City Manager profile and the proposed timeline for the completion of the search. Council Member Manthou asked the other Council Members to review the revised draft contract provided earlier.

Council Member Lonergan added that the proposed timeline may be extended to allow enough time for the selected candidate to leave a career position and relocate to Tacoma.

Mayor Baarsma returned to the workshop agenda and asked Mr. Jim Walton, City Manager, to begin the discussion.

Mr. Walton encouraged Council Members to ask questions during the workshop so that staff present in the audience could respond. He then introduced Ms. Diane Supler, Director of the Office of Management, Budget and Analysis.

Ms. Supler referred Council to the handout of the electronic presentation entitled "Biennial Budget Update Through September 2004" and provided a brief summary of the content. She noted that supplemental documents distributed to Council provided more detail.

Ms. Supler explained how to read the information contained in the "Pricing of Services" document. She then provided a synopsis of the "General Fund Forecast" document and answered questions from Council.

Mr. Walton reviewed the Breakthrough Change list, the list of services identifying structural changes to the City's business processes compiled by the Executive Leadership Forum, and noted that the purpose of the current budget process is to organize City government for future needs.

Discussion followed regarding updates to the budget figures due to corrected accounting procedures and the impacts of proposed revenue enhancements on specific sections of the economy, including increasing the Business and Occupations (B&O) tax, extending the B&O tax to internet providers, and removing B&O tax credits for living wage jobs.

Mayor Baarsma requested a break at 6:12 p.m. He reconvened the Budget Workshop at 6:25 p.m.

Following the break, discussion of proposed revenue enhancements, including adding new fees for City services, raising the gambling tax, and initiating impact fees for the expansion of existing services.

Ms. Eileen Lewis, Chief of the Tacoma Fire Department, introduced Deputy Chief Ralph Johns, Fire Prevention and Education, who distributed a proposed Fire Code Permit and Fee Schedule.

Deputy Chief Johns explained the layout of the fee schedule proposal and the anticipated revenue to be gained.

The discussion continued with an overview of the impact of exempting non-profit organizations from the B&O tax, eliminating the multi-family tax credits, seeking reimbursements for recovery of jail costs and booking fees, charging an admission tax for Meadow Park Golf Course, and recovering web hosting costs.

General discussion followed with comments from Council Members regarding the topics covered during the workshop, questions regarding various potential revenue sources not presented by staff, and a discussion of the potential value of a levy lid lift.

Mayor Baarsma opened the discussion on services the Council want to have restored and areas for potential further reduction.

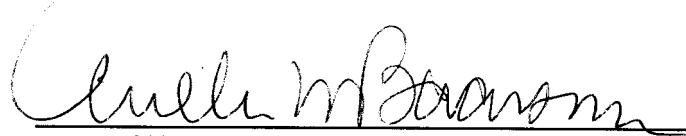
Council Members clarified issues concerning delaying the construction of the new police substations, funding for the Tall Ships Festival, reducing Legislative Division staff

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hours and eliminating the Mayor's car allowance, freezing wages and limiting Cost of Living Allowances (COLAs), and prioritizing programs for restoration.

The Council then discussed the topics and information needs for the succeeding workshops.

There being no further business, the Budget Workshop was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.



WILLIAM H. BAARSMA, MAYOR

ATTEST: 

DORIS SORUM, CITY CLERK