

BUDGET WORKING SESSION - APRIL 22, 1991

The working session of the Ann Arbor City Council was called to order at 7:32 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber by Mayor Elizabeth S. Brater

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

PRESENT: Councilmembers Larry Hunter, Ann Marie Coleman, Ingrid B. Sheldon, Kirk D. Dodge, Robert C. Grady, Nelson K. Meade, Mark Ouimet, Kurt Zimmer, Thais Anne Peterson, Robert Eckstein, Mayor Elizabeth S. Brater, 11.

ABSENT : 0.

BUDGET REVIEW

GENERAL FUND REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

Acting City Administrator Donald Mason presented an overview of the general fund revenues and expenditures in the proposed 1991-92 City budget. Mr. Mason reported that the City's total operating budget for the 1991-92 fiscal year is \$124,036,182, with the General Fund making up the major portion of the budget at \$60,795,000.

The following is a summary of the 1991-92 General Fund Revenues and Expenditures:

Revenues:

Property Taxes - \$36,800,506 (60.7%)
State Share - \$9,813,064 (16.1%)
Charges for Services - \$6,842,095 (11.2%)
Fines and Forfeits - \$5,161,250 (8.4%)
Licenses, Fees and Permits - \$986,162 (1.6%)
Investment Income - \$685,000 (1.2%)
Other - \$474,718 (.8%)

Expenditures:

Police and Fire - \$19,442,811 (32%)

AATA, Park Levy, Resurfacing Levy - \$10,799,738 (17.8%)
General Government/District Court - \$9,614,974 (15.8%)
Solid Waste Levy - \$5,779,817 (9.5%)
Pension/Social Security/Retiree Insurance - \$4,674,513 (7.7%)
Parks and Recreation - \$3,977,570 (6.5%)
Building, Planning and Engineering - \$2,842,385 (4.7%)
Lighting, Parking Enforcement - \$2,624,437 (4.3%)
Other and Contingency - \$1,006,550 (1.7%)

Council agreed that the following department heads within Finance and Administrative Services would present a brief review of their budget highlights, to be followed by questions and discussion from Councilmembers:

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (ASSESSOR/TREASURER/CONTROLLER)

Finance Director Dean Moore reviewed the new positions proposed for the Finance Department, including two positions in the Assessor's Office, an Assistant Treasurer for investment and audit activity, a Retirement Coordinator in the Controller's Office to consolidate retirement system duties, and two positions transferred from Information Services to the Controller's Office for data entry work.

City Assessor Edward Young was also available to answer questions from Council.

CITY CLERK/CABLE

City Clerk Winifred Northcross reported that the Clerk's budget reflects two less elections in 1991, and stated that a new voting system, requiring special financing, will be needed soon to replace the aging voting machines. Ms. Northcross explained that the purchase of a new system is not shown in the budget because the State has not yet approved the systems under consideration. Ms. Northcross further reported that Public Information, which includes the publishing and mailing of the City Newsletter, is being emphasized in this year's budget.

Deputy City Clerk Yvonne Carl and Acting Community Access Coordinator Lucy Visovatti were also available to answer questions from Council.

CENTRAL SERVICES

Central Services Director James Amin reported that the 11% increase in his department's budget is mostly attributed to severance pay for one employee and increased costs for insurance, Information Services support, and postage.

Acting City Administrator Mason stated that building maintenance will not be funded to the level requested, and cautioned Council of the potential for expensive repairs because of major problems that may need immediate attention. Mr. Mason also noted the continuing space problem in City Hall.

Mr. Amin further reported that his budget will partially cover the removal and replacement of the underground fuel storage tank which stores fuel for the emergency generator in City Hall.

PERSONNEL/HUMAN RIGHTS

Personnel/Human Rights Director Robert Scott stated that the two areas of his department's budget showing a significant increase are advertising, due to higher rates, and personnel, due to the addition of a temporary secretarial position to cover for an employee on medical leave.

Council discussed the possibility of renaming the Personnel/Human Rights Department to the Human Resource Department, in order to consolidate services. Mr. Scott stated that his department is making some moves in that direction, such as taking over employee orientation from the Controller's Office and enhancing the program.

INFORMATION SERVICES

Assistant Manager of Information Services Fred Bohl stated that City Hall will be in its third year of implementing the six-year Information Services Strategic Plan. Mr. Bohl reported that the first two years of the plan have been spent building the infrastructure (enhancing computer hardware and software), while the next year will shift toward development of applications.

Mr. Bohl further reported that the budget includes implementation of the City-wide computer network, as well as the following application projects: 1) an on-line access to the real property data base in the Assessor's Office; 2) a Council communications system (in-home computers for Councilmembers to access City Council business); and 3) a citizen service request system.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FILED

The following communications were distributed at the meeting and are on file in the City Clerk's Office:

1. Memorandum, dated April 22, 1991, from Acting City Administrator Mason regarding errors in the 1991-92 Budget Document; and

2. Cable Communications-Community Access Television 1991-92 proposed Reorganization Chart, Mission Statement, and Goals and Objectives.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, it was moved by Councilmember Coleman that the meeting be adjourned.

On a voice vote the Chair declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:34 p.m.

W. Northcross
Clerk of the Council

Janet L. Chapin
Recording Secretary