

**PUBLIC HEARING AND BUDGET WORKING SESSION -
MAY 11, 1992**

The public hearing and working session of the Ann Arbor City Council was called to order at 7:03 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber by Mayor Elizabeth S. Brater.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

PRESENT: Councilmembers Larry Hunter, Ann Marie Coleman, Kirk D. Dodge, Peter Fink, Robert C. Grady, Nelson K. Meade, Kurt Zimmer, Peter Nicolas, Thais Anne Peterson, Robert Eckstein, Mayor Elizabeth S. Brater, 11.

ABSENT : 0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1992-93 BUDGET

A public hearing was conducted on the proposed 1992-1993 City of Ann Arbor Budget. Notice of public hearing was published May 1, 1992.

The following persons appeared:

Susan Drew, 400 Koch St., Project Grow Community Gardens Board President, thanked Council for its past financial support, and reported that Project Grow has been involved with a number of important City programs, most notably its work with the Solid Waste Department for home composting education.

Paul Lambert, 210 Bucholz Ct., representing the Homeless Action Committee, thanked Council for supporting Salvation City and requested that the Human Services portion of the proposed budget be increased.

There being no one else to speak the Chair declared the hearing closed.

PROPERTY TAXES INCREASE ("TRUTH IN TAXATION")

A public hearing was conducted on the proposed increase of .8455 mills in the 1992 operating tax millage rate above the Truth in Taxation rate of 14.7845 mills. The operating

rate of 1991 was 15.63 mills. The proposed operating tax rate for 1992 is also 15.63 mills. However, because of the "Truth in Taxation" requirement (P.A. 5 of 1982) a rate of 14.7845 mills would be required under law compared to the proposed rate of 15.63 mills which can be adopted by City Council after a public hearing. If adopted, the proposed millage will increase operating revenues from ad valorem property taxes by 1.4%. Notice of public hearing was published May 1, 1992.

There being no one to speak the Chair declared the hearing closed.

BUDGET FINE/FEE INCREASES

A public hearing was conducted on the following proposed 1992-1993 City of Ann Arbor budget fine/fee increases: a) Police Department: Towed Vehicles, from \$10.00 to \$20.00; Abandoned Vehicle Towing, from \$0 to \$20.00; b) Solid Waste Department: Special Pick-Ups, from \$25.00 to \$30.00; Building Material Hauling, from \$20.00 to \$25.00; c) Utilities Department: Water Rates, from \$1.08/100 cu. ft. to \$1.18/100 cu. ft.; Stormwater Rates, \$6.09 per dwelling/quarter to \$9.01 per dwelling/quarter; and d) Utilities Department: Water and Sewer Connection Permit Charges and Related Fees. Notice of public hearing was published May 1, 1992.

There being no one to speak the Chair declared the hearing closed.

1992-93 BUDGET REVIEW

The following City department heads and staff presented overviews of their 1992-93 budget highlights and answered questions from Council.

CITY CLERK

City Clerk Winifred Northcross reported that increases in the Clerk's proposed budget are due to the administration costs associated with a major election year. Ms. Northcross stated that elections have been run more efficiently over the last few years which has reduced costs, but that the proposed election budget is probably too conservative for the upcoming Presidential Election. Ms. Northcross further stated that Council may have to approve a transfer of funds to cover the final costs of the election.

Ms. Northcross expressed concern with the failing condition of the current voting machines which are quite old, and stated that plans for next year's budget include a request for a new voting system, with costs estimated at \$500,000.

Ms. Northcross reported that no additional staff was requested in the Clerk's proposed

budget, and that the increase in fringe benefits is due to the status change of two Community Access staff members from temporary to permanent.

Cable Administrator Harry Haasch and Deputy City Clerk Yvonne Carl were also available to answer questions.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Personnel/Human Rights Director Robert Scott reviewed the functions of the new Human Resources Department, based on the reorganization, and stated that the department includes a Human Resources Director, an Assistant to the City Administrator for Labor Negotiations and Labor Relations, and a Personnel Manager.

City Administrator Gatta explained that the Human Resources Department creates a more comprehensive human resources-approach to personnel, with greater attention to employee training and development, collective bargaining, and employee benefits. Mr. Gatta further explained that the department, headed by the Human Resources Director, would be divided into two divisions: 1) Human Resources administration which includes collective bargaining, employee benefits and human rights administration; and 2) Personnel which would be headed by a Personnel Manager.

The Mayor requested that the eliminated Human Rights Investigator position and employee personal time issues be addressed during Council budget discussion, and that the pay equity study issue be a priority of the new Human Services Director.

POLICE

Police Chief Douglas reported that the areas of community policing, reorganization, and traffic safety/services have the most impact on the proposed Police budget. The Chief stated the department is headed toward a more aggressive position in community policing, and that the traffic safety program will more accurately reflect enforcement strategies and handle constituent services.

Budget Officer Donald Terry reported that the proposed Police budget has an increase of nine positions (1 school crossing guard, 2 officers due to the reorganization, and 6 positions in the Traffic Safety/Services Unit), and that the number of full-time employees will be increased from 206.5 to 216.75. Officer Terry also reviewed the significant changes in budget line items.

Councilmembers requested that the following issues be investigated: 1) State of Michigan reimbursement for liquor license investigations and time spent on these types of investigations (Councilmember Peterson); 2) Increasing School subsidy for school

crossing guards (Councilmember Nicolas); 3) School subsidy for Safety Town activities (Councilmember Hunter); 4) Combining Police and Fire radio functions (Councilmember Hunter); and 5) enforcement activity data under the City's Domestic Violence Ordinance - what is income, race, sex, etc. of people having contact with Police? (Councilmember Hunter)

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

BUDGET SCHEDULE

Mayor Brater asked that Councilmembers respond by May 13 with possible revisions to the Administrator's proposed budget, and stated that a budget discussion meeting will be scheduled over the weekend to review budget objectives.

ADJOURNMENT

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

On a voice vote the Chair declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Janet L. Chapin
Acting Clerk of the Council
Recording Secretary