

WORKING SESSION - MONDAY, JUNE 8, 1992

The working session of the Ann Arbor City Council was called to order at 7:37 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber by Mayor Elizabeth S. Brater.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

PRESENT: Councilmembers Larry Hunter, Kirk D. Dodge, Peter Fink, Robert C. Grady, Nelson K. Meade, Kurt Zimmer, Peter Nicolas, Thais Anne Peterson, Robert Eckstein, Mayor Elizabeth S. Brater, 10.

ABSENT : Councilmember Ann Marie Coleman, 1.

WORK SESSION

REPORT OF MAYOR'S BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE ON CITY FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Mayor Brater introduced Edward Gramlich, Chair of the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on City Finance and Management, and University of Michigan graduate student Stacey Miller, who presented the Committee's report.

Mr. Gramlich stated that, after determining specific areas for investigation, the Committee developed the following studies: "A Comparison of Ann Arbor's Revenues and Expenditures with Other Michigan Cities," "A Comparison of Ann Arbor's Revenues and Expenditures with Eleven Other University Cities," "A Benefit Cost Analysis of DDA Parking Projects," and "Contracting Out in Ann Arbor." (Reports on file in the City Clerk's Office)

Mr. Gramlich stated that the comparative and historical studies provide a clear context in which to view Ann Arbor. He reported that, in terms of fiscal characteristics, Ann Arbor appears "average" relative to nine other Michigan cities, and ranks highest in expenditures for solid waste and parking and below average in spending for police, fire, and highways. Mr. Gramlich further reported that Ann Arbor is a somewhat low-tax, low-service city in comparison with other university cities around the country.

Mr. Gramlich stated that the benefit cost analysis of the two DDA parking projects, Liberty Square and Ann Ashley structures, shows no strong evidence that the investments provide a clear net benefit to the City. He recommended more precise evaluations and surveys on

downtown business activity prior to further investments in parking structures.

Mr. Gramlich suggested that City Administration and Council determine the topics for future study to make the Committee's work more useful to the City government.

Council agreed that the Committee's report establishes a factual basis for discussions and that future topics to be followed up by the Committee should include: fire expenditures, methods of assessment, total quality management, estimate of SEV per capita excluding students living on University property, and a comparative study involving urban areas with shared infrastructures.

The Chair declared a recess at 8:39 p.m.

The Chair again called the meeting to order at 8:43 p.m.

TRIP HAZARD PROGRAM REPORT

Transportation Director John Awendt briefed Council on the City's Trip Hazard Program and reviewed the following documents: "City of Ann Arbor Sidewalk Program 1986"; letters to property owners explaining City's Sidewalk Repair Program; and charts on Sidewalk Notification Status, Received Response Status, and Sidewalk Repair History. (Reports on file in the City Clerk's Office)

Mr. Advent reported that in 1986 the City Engineering Department determined that the total cost to address all sidewalk projects and concerns would be approximately \$29,000,000.

Mr. Awendt stated that the City's sidewalk program is currently complaint-driven, and that he will be working with the Street Advisory Committee to review the program, collect concerns, and return to Council with recommendations for improvements to the system.

ADJOURNMENT

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

On a voice vote the Chair declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

W. Northcross
Clerk of the Council

Janet L. Chapin
Recording Secretary