

BUDGET WORKING SESSION - MAY 15, 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 pro tem Larry Hunter.

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, 10.

ABSENT : Mayor Elizabeth S. Brater, 1.

BUDGET REVIEW

The following City department heads presented overviews of their 1991-92 budget highlights and answered questions from Council:

GARAGE

Garage Director James Hackbarth reported that the 5% increase in the Garage budget is primarily due to higher insurance costs and pay raises. Mr. Hackbarth stated that the Garage is the service center for various City departments and that its budget is fixed around the needs of those departments.

ENGINEERING

City Engineer William Wheeler explained that his department is divided into several functional teams and that most of Engineering's time is charged to particular projects, rather than to the General Fund. Mr. Wheeler reported that the proposed Engineering budget includes three new employees: a civil engineer, a technician, and a draftsman.

BUILDING

Building Director Jack Donaldson stated that the Building Department is 100% funded from the General Fund and that revenues from inspection and permit fees are returned to the General Fund. Mr. Donaldson reported that the revenue projection for the next fiscal year is \$880,000.

In response to questions concerning fluctuations in new construction, Mr. Donaldson stated that Ann Arbor has not experienced the major fluctuations of other areas, but that staff is adjusted, through reassignment of duties, if construction is down.

The Chair declared a recess at 9:23 p.m.

The Chair again called the meeting to order at 9:30 p.m.

PLANNING

Planning Director Martin Overhiser briefly reviewed project scheduling, and explained that the Planning Commission has a five-week cycle for small projects and a seven-week cycle for larger projects. Mr. Overhiser stated that, to involve the public early in the process, notice is given to area residents and property owners within one week after petitions for larger projects are filed.

Planning Department goals for the next fiscal year include completing a new plan to preserve and enhance the character of the central area, revising ordinances and development regulations to protect the quality of residential neighborhoods and the downtown area, and improving the Capital Improvements Plan process.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mayor pro tem Hunter announced that a resolution to adopt the budget is scheduled for May 20, and that the meeting may be recessed and continued at a later date to give further consideration to the budget resolution. Mr. Hunter stated that some items regarding the budget process may be brought to the table at the next meeting by the Mayor.

In response to concerns regarding Information Service charges to departments, City Administrator Donald Mason stated that he would distribute a breakdown of the charges and distribute copies of the Information Services Plan to the new Councilmembers.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Janet L. Chapin
Acting Clerk of the Council
Recording Secretary