

**ANN ARBOR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
BUDGET WORKING SESSION - MONDAY, APRIL 30, 1996**

The budget working session of the Ann Arbor City Council was called to order at 6:12 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber by Mayor Ingrid B. Sheldon.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

PRESENT : Councilmembers Tobi Hanna-Davies, Patricia Vereen-Dixon, Jane Lumm, David Kwan, Heidi Cowing Herrell, Patrick A. Putman, Christopher Kolb, Elisabeth L. Daley, Mayor Ingrid B. Sheldon, 9.

ABSENT : Councilmembers Jean Carlberg, Stephen C. Hartwell, 2.

1996-97 BUDGET REVIEW

The following department heads and staff members presented highlights of their proposed budgets for the 1996-97 fiscal year and answered questions from Council. Also available for questions were City Administrator Neal Berlin, Budget Director Alan Burns and Assistant to the City Administrator Melanie Purcell.

HOUSING COMMISSION

Housing Commission Director Elizabeth Lindsley stated that the significant budget issue for the Housing Commission is its deficit position, but that progress is being made in controlling costs. Ms. Lindsley reported that other major factors include the massive federal regulatory changes for public housing and Section 8 and the downsizing of the federal government, which has resulted in reduced funding for housing and urban development. She emphasized the need to work on obtaining outside grants to contractually provide more services.

Ms. Lindsley stated that the Housing Commission's progress with HUD's Public Housing Management Assessment Standards (PHMAP) will be reviewed at the June 10 Council working session.

15TH DISTRICT COURT

Total Recommended Budget: \$2,018,302

Court Administrator Robert Randolph reviewed the budget highlights for the District Court which include a 3.23% increase over last year=s budget, shared purchase of video recording equipment for Courtrooms 6 and 7, and purchase of conferencing video equipment for links with Courtroom 9 and the county jail. Mr. Randolph stated that in spite of the changes sweeping the Washtenaw County court system, the 15th District Court budget remains very stable.

Mr. Randolph reported that the first installment of the grant to establish a single data base for all Washtenaw County courts will be awarded this week. The grant will enable the 15th District Court to share its case processing computer system with the county.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Total Recommended Budget: \$829,634

Personnel Manager Robert Scott stated that budget highlights for the Human Resources Department include implementation of the Affirmative Action Plan, implementation of a job classification rewrite program coordinated by an outside contractor, consulting funds for sexual harassment and discrimination investigative resources, increased funding for diversity and general employee training for all City employees, and rehabilitation of a room in the City Center Building for a new employee training room.

PLANNING

Total Recommended Budget: \$395,782

Planning Director Karen Hart requested a \$21,800 addition to the recommended Planning Department budget to fund a ten-month temporary assistant city planner position and a planning consultant to help with a backlog of code revisions. Ms. Hart reported that the request for a temporary assistant planner is due to reduced staffing levels during the first half of the fiscal year and that both positions will be offset by savings from some of the employee leave being unpaid.

Ms. Hart reported that department highlights for the next fiscal year include implementation of the development permitting and inspection system, completion of the five-year plan for the Planning Commission and Department to better target

resources for community needs, continued efforts to raise minimum code standards and streamline procedures to accomplish this goal, and continuation of the multi-year effort in improving the Capital Improvements Program process.

BUILDING

Total Recommended Budget: \$1,403,138

Interim Building Direction Larry Pickel introduced Housing Inspection Bureau Manager David Sebolt and Central Permit Desk Manager Jeff Ellis and reported that his budget highlights include a 1.5% increase over this fiscal year, funding for a seasonal employee to patrol the business districts for peddler/sidewalk occupancy permit enforcement, purchase of two additional radios for department vehicles, purchase of a cash register to function with the permit tracking system, increased funding for professional licences which require a three-year lump sum payment, and funding for a part-time planning review consultant to help with the review load.

CITY ATTORNEY

Total Recommended Budget: \$767,763

City Attorney Abigail Elias reported that her department's largest increase is in personnel costs, which includes the .75 increase in FTE positions approved this fiscal year. She stated that the position will continue into the next fiscal year to replace a retiring half-time attorney.

Ms. Elias also reported that she is in the process of reviewing the office library and data resources available for research, including computer equipment and software, and will come back to Council for any increases needed for necessary upgrades in this area.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Total Recommended Budget: \$488,867

City Administrator Neal Berlin stated that the significant factor in the Administrator's Office proposed budget is the \$25,000 for supplemental pay, a new incentive program for employees who take on extra duties and responsibilities that go beyond departmental lines and are of significance to the organization and/or the community.

Mr. Berlin reported that the major change concerning the Downtown Development

Authority is the recent decision by the DDA to stop passing along revenues to the City, due to its belief that significant DDA revenues will be needed within the next ten years for demolition and reconstruction of parking facilities. Mr. Berlin further reported that the DDA is in the process of employing a new executive director and that the decision will be made in the next couple of weeks.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Total Recommended Budget: \$191,617

Mayor Sheldon reported that significant changes in the Mayor/Council budget include increased funding in the conference and training and materials and supplies categories.

REVENUES

Budget Director Alan Burns reported that state shared revenues will be down \$500,000 for the next fiscal year. He also reported that the total taxable property value was used to make adjustments in the revenue and expenditures prior to the printing of the proposed budget document.

REPORTS FILED

The following reports were distributed to Council and were placed on file in the City Clerk's Office: "Budget Questions, Volume 1, April 30, 1996"; and revised "Summary of Positions by Payroll Department" (15th District Court, Human Resources, Planning, Building, Attorney, Administrator, and Mayor and Council).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Janet L. Chapin
Acting Clerk of the Council
Recording Secretary