

**ANN ARBOR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
BUDGET WORKING SESSION - APRIL 18, 2001**

The budget working session of the Ann Arbor City Council was called to order at 7:06 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber by Mayor John Hieftje.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

PRESENT : Councilmembers Jean Robinson, Robert M. Johnson, Joan Lowenstein, Jean Carlberg, Heidi Cowing Herrell, Marcia Higgins, Christopher Easthope, Wendy A. Woods, Mayor John Hieftje, 9.

ABSENT : Councilmembers Joseph Upton, Stephen C. Hartwell, 2.

2001-02 BUDGET REVIEW

City Administrator Neal Berlin and the following department heads and staff members presented overviews of their proposed budgets for the 2001-02 fiscal year and answered questions from Council. Also available for questions was Budget Director Alan Burns.

MAYOR/COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATOR

Total Recommended Budgets: \$215,376 (Mayor/Council); \$583,841 (Administrator)

City Administrator Berlin reported that changes to the City Administrator's budget include the elimination of the Executive Assistant to the City Administrator position and Environmental Services being funded separately from the Administrator's Office. The Mayor reported that the Mayor/Council travel account has been reduced.

ATTORNEY

Total Recommended Budget: \$1,059,261

City Attorney Abigail Elias reported that changes in the City Attorney's budget include reductions in the materials/supplies and conference/training accounts, and elimination of outside counsel.

RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Total Recommended Budget: \$5,892,774

Willie Powell, Executive Director of the Employees' Retirement System, reported that the retirement system is continuing to benefit from the asset allocation and investment manager restructuring initiated in 1994. He stated that the total portfolio return for year ending June 30, 2000 was 11.57%, and that the employer contribution is expected to remain at zero for at least the next 15 years.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Total Recommended Budget: \$13,686,669

Human Resources Director David Ferber reported that during the past year, human rights and labor relations personnel were integrated into the Human Resources Department, and that much of the attention was directed to the resolution of contract negotiations with collective bargaining units and various liability issues resulting from sewer claims. The proposed budget includes reductions in consulting fees, and significant increases in the insurance accounts and in employee health coverage. ("Human Resources Department Fiscal Year 2001/2002 Budget Presentation to City Council" on file in the City Clerk's Office)

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Total Recommended Budget: \$23,769,363

Susan Pollay, Downtown Development Authority Executive Director/Associate City Administrator, reported on the ongoing \$50 million parking structure replacement and parking program. Remaining repair projects include a \$5 million improvement at the Fourth and William structure and replacement of the First and Washington structure, which will be a public/private venture with retail and housing. The State Street area and Fourth Avenue streetscape improvement projects will begin this year

FIRE

Total Recommended Budget: \$10,562,023

Interim Fire Chief Scott Rayburn reported that purchases budgeted for next fiscal year include 8 new automatic external defibrillators, a thermal imaging camera to allow firefighters to see through smoke, a washer-extractor for firefighting gear, new portable radios, a ventilation-heater for confined space rescues, and new dialing ports to upgrade computer capabilities. A major project for the Fire Department is the creation of a joint Police/Fire communications center on the second floor of the Fire Department.

There will be a decrease of 14.25 FTE firefighters, and elimination of an apparatus mechanic and an assistant fire chief. With the reduction in personnel, the normal alarm response will continue to be two pieces of fire apparatus each with three-person crews from the central fire station, along with two pieces of fire apparatus with a three-person crew from substations.

Assistant Chief Tom Edman was also available to answer questions. (“The City of Ann Arbor Fire Department Fiscal Year 2001/2002 Budget Presentation to Council” on file in the City Clerk’s Office)

NON-DEPARTMENTAL

Total Recommended Budget: \$24,051,995

City Administrator Berlin reported that most of the money in the Non-Departmental budget are the levies which are passed through the General Fund. Another large item is the funding for technology improvements, most of which will be allocated to the financial management system and the human resources management system upgrades. Budget Director Alan Burns reported that the youth program and Mayor’s Task Force on Increasing Safety for Women are also included in the Non-Departmental budget.

Deputy Chief of Police Craig Roderick, Co-chair of the Mayor’s Task Force on Increasing Safety for Women, reported that the primary focus of the Commission has been on developing a sexual assault nurse examiner program for Washtenaw County. The Commission has received Department of Health grants for the last two years.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Janet L. Chapin
Acting Clerk of the Council
Recording Secretary

**ANN ARBOR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
SPECIAL SESSION - APRIL 18, 2001**

The special session of the Ann Arbor City Council was called to order at 9:10 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber by Mayor John Hieftje.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

PRESENT : Councilmembers Jean Robinson, Robert M. Johnson, Joan Lowenstein, Jean Carlberg, Heidi Cowing Herrell, Marcia Higgins, Christopher Easthope, Wendy A. Woods, Mayor John Hieftje, 9.

ABSENT : Councilmembers Joseph Upton, Stephen C. Hartwell, 2.

NOTICE OF CALL OF SPECIAL SESSION

The certification and notice of call of special session was read and ordered placed on file with the City Clerk.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY – RESERVED TIME

JIM ADAMS – FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Jim Adams, Firefighter, spoke in opposition to the proposed reduction in Fire Department personnel in the 2001/2002 budget, which could result in reduced response times.

CARL HEIN – FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Carl Hein, Firefighter, spoke in opposition to the proposed reduction in Fire Department personnel in the 2001/2002 budget, which could result in reduced response times.

STEVE LOWE – FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Steve Lowe, President the Ann Arbor Firefighters Association, Local 693, spoke in opposition to the proposed reduction in Fire Department personnel in the 2001/2002 budget, which could result in reduced response times.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Carlberg moved that the agenda be approved as presented.

On a voice vote the Mayor declared the motion carried.

RECESS FOR CLOSED SESSION

Councilmember Robinson moved that the special session of Council be recessed for a closed session to discuss contract negotiations.

On a voice vote the Mayor declared the motion carried and the meeting recessed at 9:25 p.m.

Councilmember Robinson moved that the special session of Council be reconvened.

On a voice vote the Mayor declared the motion carried and the meeting reconvened at 9:50 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Janet L. Chapin
Acting Clerk of the Council
Recording Secretary