

**ANN ARBOR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
BUDGET WORKING SESSION - WEDNESDAY, MAY 2 , 2001**

The budget working session of the Ann Arbor City Council was called to order at 7:05 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber by Mayor John Hieftje.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

PRESENT : Councilmembers Jean Robinson, Robert M. Johnson, Joseph Upton, Joan Lowenstein, Heidi Cowing Herrell, Stephen C. Hartwell, Marcia Higgins, Christopher Easthope, Wendy A. Woods, Mayor John Hieftje, 10.

ABSENT : Councilmember Jean Carlberg, 1.

2000-01 BUDGET REVIEW

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 were City Administrator Neal Berlin and Budget Director Alan Burns.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Total Recommended Budget: \$5,382,603

Eileen Ryan, Director of Community Development, Kathleen Muscato, Fiscal & Administrative Manager, and Larry Friedman, Housing Services Manger, reported that the total department budget is \$6,942,850. Portions of the department budget are residual funds from federal programs and the Affordable Housing Fund. An additional \$70,000 has been added to the General Fund for the Youth Challenge Program. The Drug Forfeiture Fund has been transferred from the Police Department to the Community Development Department.

The major continuing programs and projects are as follows: Consolidated Strategy & Plan Fiscal Year 2000-05 Year 2 Implementation, Affordable Housing Plan Implementation, Transitional and Emergency Shelters and the Youth and Family Support Services. The major continuing federal programs are; the Community Development Block Grant, and the HOME Program.

New services and programs for Community Development are; Staff Support for Year Two Implementation of Affordable Housing Plan and Subcommittees, Implementation of Year Two of the Consolidated Strategy & Plan (2000-05), Shelter Neighborhood Impact Study, and the outcomes approach to Human Services.

The department has been reconfigured and reduced by one position and three staff members are eligible for retirement. The priorities for the Community Development department are computerizing the Housing Rehabilitation specifications, and increased emphasis on community outreach.

ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION SERVICES

Total Recommended Budget: \$388,689

Energy Coordinator, Administrator Dave Konkle reported that there is an increase of one position to the department. Department priorities include the establishment of a new office, continuing to implement programs to save energy and reduce energy cost for City facilities and operations, provide support for the Energy and Environmental Commissions and respond to organizational and public needs to protect the quality of local environment and encourage sustainable development.

Projects implemented in fiscal year 2000-01 include; RIO +10 Preparatory Meeting, Ann Arbor Area Clean Cities Program, Municipal Energy Fun, Utility Deregulation, Green Fleets, Alternate Transportation Program, Cities for Climate Protection Program and New Grant Proposals. The major continuing programs for Fiscal Year 2001-02 are the same as stated above, excluding the RIO +10 Preparatory Meeting. New projects for fiscal year 2001-02 are opening the Environmental Coordination Office, produce and publish a "State of the Environment Report" and explore the expansion of computerized energy management system to facilities beyond City Hall through the existing computer network.

BUILDING

Total Recommended Budget: \$2,349,319

Building Director Larry Pickel reported that the department will maintain it's full time positions as well as two temporary positions in the department. Strategic improvements to the department are to expand Code Update Class focusing on the 2000 International Building Code, place a variety of permit application forms on-line for downloading, and utilize the permit tracking system more efficiently. The permit tracking system has been installed and is now in use.

SOLID WASTE

Total Recommended Budget: \$7,709,621

John Newman, Solid Waste Director, reported that two positions have been eliminated in the Administrative Division. One of the two positions has been transferred to the Waste Division, in order to provide a stronger program for hands-on service to the public. The budget has been reduced in the area of disposal fees, recycling fees, and vehicle rental.

The current year projects include expanding the Downtown Pride Program and the Commercial Recycling Program. Proposed significant features for the coming year are; having a clean community, working with local groups and encouraging the cleaning of neighborhoods as well as support with the Pride Program. Funding has been included in this year's budget for hiring an outside consultant to assist in the possibility of co-collection vehicles.

UTILITIES

Total Recommended Budget: \$32,508,065

Sue McCormick, Water Utilities Director, reported on the continuing Utility Programs/Projects which are as follows: implementing Qualserve recommendations; improve meter reading, billing and customer information system processes; update safety program, manuals and procedures; and the review of stormwater rates and revenue requirements.

The new Utility Programs/Projects are as follows: Conduct cost of service studies for Water/Wastewater/Stormwater and implement modifications to rate structures; update utility fees and charges; re-emphasize customer service; and establish community engagement and determine optimization of staffing with implementation of PICS.

Other projects the Utilities Department is working on is the Hydro Power/Dams - which involves railing replacement; and Stormwater – complete digitizing as-builts in GIS, and start constructing GIS layer for stormwater.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

Anissa R. King
Acting Clerk of the Council
Recording Secretary

