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MINUTES OF A BUDGET WORK SESSION
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL,
TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL, HELD IN THE
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, MAY 12, 1987 AT 7:30 P.M.

Mayor Pro-tem Bill Thorpe called the Work Session to order. Council Members present were Julie Andresen, David Godschalk, Jonathan Howes, David Pasquini, Nancy Preston, R. D. Smith, and Arthur Werner. Mayor James C. Wallace was absent, excused. Also present were Town Manager David R. Taylor and Assistant Town Managers Sonna Loewenthal and Ron Secrist.

The following is a summary of the major subjects discussed at the May 12, 1987 Budget Work Session.

Council members present agreed to review the Manager's Recommended Budget document on a department by department basis. Discussion centered on discrepancies in the amounts that appeared on budget work sheets versus the Recommended Budget summary sheets. James Baker, Finance Director, indicated that the addition on the work sheet was in error and was corrected in the Recommended Budget document.

Council

Clarification was provided in regard to which budget line item, membership in organizations, such as Triangle J Council of Governments and National League of Cities, was included. Also, Council Members Werner and Pasquini requested travel funds reserved for their use be deleted from the Council budget and that the Manager bring back to the Council a proposal for reimbursing members of Council-appointed boards and commissions for out-of-pocket expenses incurred while serving on an advisory board.

Manager's Office

Town Manager Taylor informed the Council that he would adjust the final Recommended Budget to include the recommendation of the Human Services Advisory Board for Performance Contracts with local human services agencies that was presented to the Council on May 11. This would mean an additional \$1,100 in the line item for Human Services Performance Contracts. The increase in the line item for the Manager's travel account includes a car allowance to the Manager previously agreed upon by the Council and a proposal for the Manager to participate in a senior local government executive program at Harvard University in 1988.

Personnel Department

Discussion was held on the status of the Town Wellness Program, the process for maintaining personnel files, and the proposal that the Receptionist position be transferred from the Manager's Office to the Personnel Department.

Finance Department

Council Member Godschalk asked for clarification on the Town's use of the County computer system.

Legal Department

Attorney Ralph Karpinos provided clarification to his proposal of updating the law library.

Planning Department

There was a consensus of the Council to delay discussion on the Planning Department recommended budget until Wednesday, May 13, at the 5:00 p.m. continuation of the Joint Work Session with the Planning Board and Appearance Commission.

Council Member Pasquini asked for further clarification on the role of the Orange County Economic Development Commission.

Inspections Department

The number of permanent positions in the department was reviewed.

Engineering Department

Council Member Andresen indicated her support for continuing the stormwater management program. Council Member Godschalk asked for the status of the aerial mapping project.

Public Works Department

Council Member Andresen asked Public Works Director Bruce Heflin to describe litter pick-up procedures and felt that perhaps more effort was needed in this area. Ms. Andresen also asked if the Recommended Budget reflected the increased street lighting program. Mr. Taylor responded that funds were included to implement year 2 of the street lighting program. Public Works Director Heflin summarized for Council Members the interim recycling program which will begin in mid-May and possible future directions in recycling. Council Member Smith asked that work on the renovation of the Gomains Tot Lot be expedited.

Landfill/Solid Waste Fund

In response to Council Member Smith's inquiries, Public Works Director Heflin detailed new Landfill operating procedures with the Council, including equipment operation, increased hours of operation, and impacts upon adjacent neighborhoods.

Police Department

Council Member Godschalk requested an explanation of the crime statistics and reasoning for the Manager's recommendation to add 8 Public Safety Officers to the Police and Fire Departments. Council Member Smith expressed his desire for increased foot patrols and clarification of 911 telephone answering procedures. Several Council Members requested that Interim Police Chief Arnold Gold consider increasing Police patrol presence in residential areas, to include speed and traffic enforcements. Council Member Pasquini asked for clarification on turnover in the Police and Fire Departments and the recommended retirement program included in the Recommended Budget.

Town Manager Taylor recommended to the Council that a Public Safety Director position be created to administer the Police and Fire Departments and that he proceed with recruitment of a Public Safety Director. It was the consensus of the Council to proceed with creating the position of Public Safety Director.

Parks and Recreation Department

Town Manager Taylor stated that the Recommended Budget included an additional Buildings and Groundskeeper to enhance Park maintenance services.

Library

Council Member Preston asked for status on the Bookmobile program. Town Manager Taylor responded that a report will be provided to the Council by July 13 and that an interim Bookmobile program was now underway.

Other Budget Issues

Town Manager Taylor informed the Council that he had just recently learned the Town's insurance premiums would be \$120,000 greater than what is included in the Recommended Budget and that he would seek alternatives prior to Council considering budget adoption.

Town Manager Taylor also explained the Personnel pay and benefit package that is included in the Recommended Budget.

Transportation

It was the consensus of the Council that the Manager include in the final budget for Council's consideration enhancing Easy Rider and Shared Ride services on the weekends.

Town Manager Taylor summarized by telling the Council that he expected the tax rate to be \$.54/\$100 assessed valuation (3-1/2 cents for Transit, 50-1/2 cents for the General Fund).

The Work Session adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

