

City of Englewood
City Council Work Shop
Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2011 at 7:30pm

Roll Call: Present: Mayor/Council President Frank Huttle III
Council member Lynne Algrant
Council member Michael Cohen
Council member Jack Drakeford
Council member Scott Reddin
City Manager Daniel Fitzpatrick
Assistant City Manager Robert Gorman
City Solicitor William Bailey
City Clerk Lauren Vande Vaarst

Absent: Council member Ken Rosenzweig

Mayor/Council President Huttle called the meeting to order.

The City Clerk stated that adequate notice of this meeting was given by the posting, filing and distribution of a Special Notice as required by the Open Public Meetings Act.

Budget Workshop - Police Department:

- Departmental budget was presented by Chief Arthur O'Keefe and Deputy Chief Larry Suffern.
- It is a "hold the line" budget, and all current and anticipated vacancies will not be filled.
- The amount budgeted for Overtime has been reduced by \$500,000.
- The issuing of summonses has increased by 40%.
- Asked for a Capital expenditure of \$400,000 to install a new radio system which is federally mandated by the FCC and would allow for compliance with the new "narrow band" regulations for the mobile, portable and base radio operating systems.
- Discussions ensued as to whether or not grants would be available to fund the new equipment, doing the upgrade in phases, finding money within the Police Department budget to cover the cost of the radio upgrade, and the possibility of sharing the equipment with another town.
- Shared Services such as Dispatch being combined with Englewood's Police and Fire Departments or with another nearby town was discussed.
- The Police Department Operations budget was discussed, and the Chief was asked by Councilman Drakeford if he could cut another 5% from the budget with no layoffs. Also discussed was a 12 hour shift schedule, reducing overtime costs, vehicle leasing, and reduction in the 3 hour minimum paid to Police Officers for Court appearances.

Public Session – Budget Workshop:

- Eugene Skurnick 296 Marlboro Road – spoke about the following points:
 - Police Overtime costs in Englewood are 12+% of the total Department Budget as compared to other towns where they averaged 3-5%.
 - Police Department is overstaffed, and should be 70 rather than 78.
 - He feels that the City lost its bargaining leverage when the six (6) officers were promoted in 2010.
 - Longevity pay equals 8% of the budget and should be eliminated.
 - The City should start a program like Hackensack's "H" Police program.
 - Dump the DARE Program because it is ineffective.
 - The Police Department should have a minimum of 6 layoffs this year and no promotions.

Workshop Agenda Items:

Tax Reassessment – Claire Psota, Tax Assessor and Neil Rubinstein, Realty Appraisal Co:

- Letters regarding the Tax Reassessment will begin going out to residential property owners on February 9, 2011.
- The reassessment of commercial properties is not yet completed.
- The tax reassessment was done due to the downturn in the real estate market. The reassessment by law must be completed by March 4, 2011.

- Realty Appraisal Co. utilized all closed sales, pending sales, listings and tax appeals to arrive at the reassessed values. Their will informal public hearings held that all property owners can attend and sit down one to one with them to discuss the reassessed value of their property.
- Typically when the tax assessment is lowered the tax rate is recalculated.
- In Englewood there were 186 formulas utilized in the reassessment.
- Realty Appraisal Co. will be providing the Mayor and City Council with volume of sales information as has been requested.
- This is the last year that the State will allow a tax reassessment and that is why Claire Psota recommended it, because if Englewood had not done it the State could have ordered a full re-evaluation.

Public Session – Tax Reassessment:

- Sandy Greenberg 449 Liberty Road – asked if Realty Appraisal Co. makes their determination by neighborhood. *Yes, they do.* Also asked if they looked at successful tax appeals. *They explained that they do and if another house in the same area fits the criteria of the property with the successful tax appeal then their assessment would be lowered also.*
- Lorraine Cohen 431 Lewelen Circle – commented that the deadline to file a tax appeal is April 1st and is the deadline going to be extended because of the tax assessment. *Yes, the deadline has been extended to May 1, 2011.*
- Eugene Skurnick 296 Marlboro Road – asked what the date was that the entire tax assessment would be completed and that the information should be provided to the governing body. *The tax assessment will be completed by March 4, 2011 and the governing body will be given the information.*
- Jack Silberman 320 Murray Avenue – asked what areas or neighborhoods will be getting hit the worst by the reassessment. *It was explained that reassessments are not that uniform and the impact is not really spread out by area like that.*

Workshop Agenda Items (continued):

RESOLUTION #048-02-08-11

2011 TEMPORARY EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS

WHEREAS, an emergent condition has arisen in that the City of Englewood is expected to enter into contracts, commitments, or payments prior to the 2011 Budget and no adequate provision has been made in the 2011 temporary budget for the aforesaid purposes; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20 provides for the creation of an emergency temporary appropriation for said purpose; and

WHEREAS, the total emergency temporary appropriation resolution adopted in 2011 pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 96, PL 1951 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20) including this resolution totals \$155,949;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Englewood, Bergen County, New Jersey, that in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20 emergency temporary appropriations are hereby made in the amount of \$155,949

General Appropriations

Operations within "CAPS"

Contribution to Child Development & Teen Program
(N.J.S.A. 40:5-2.9) V.K. Tibbs Child Development Center \$58,413

(D) Municipal Debt Service - Excluded from "CAPS"
Interest on Bonds \$97,536

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said emergency temporary appropriations will be provided for in the 2011 Budget and a certified copy of this resolution be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

COUNCIL	MOTION	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Algrant		X			
Rosenzweig					X
Reddin		X			
Cohen		X			
Drakeford	X	X			

Public Session:

- Sandy Greenberg 449 Liberty Road – spoke about cleaning sidewalks after a snow fall and that in areas where there are not sidewalks a pathway should be cleared. Ordinance should be amended to reflect this.

RESOLUTION #049-02-08-11

PERMIT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ENGLEWOOD TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Englewood, pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, that the Council meet in closed session to discuss the following subject matter:
Litigation and Personnel

Which subject matter is permitted to be discussed in closed session pursuant to the following designated sub-section(s) of Section 7 of the Open Public Meetings Act:

- () Sub-section 1 dealing with material rendered confidential by express provision of Federal or State law.
- () Sub-section 2 covering a matter in which release of information would impair a right to receive federal funds.
- () Sub-section 3 involving disclosure of material which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy, including material related to an individual's personal and family circumstances, without the express written consent of the individual involved.
- () Sub-section 4 pertaining to collective bargaining agreements and the terms, conditions, and negotiations thereof.
- () Sub-section 5 dealing with the acquisition of real property, the settling of bank rates, or the investment of public funds where discussion thereof would adversely affect the public interest.
- () Sub-section 6 dealing with tactics and techniques used in protecting the safety and property of the public where disclosure could impair such protection or investigation of violation of the law.
- (X) Sub-section 7 dealing with pending or anticipated litigation, contract negotiations, or matters falling within the attorney-client privilege.
- (X) Sub-section 8 dealing concerning personnel matters dealing with employment, appointment, termination, or terms and conditions of employment of any person or persons, or the evaluation, promotion or disciplining of employees unless all employees involved consent to disclosure thereof.
- () Sub-section 9 involving deliberations after public hearing on a matter which may result in the imposition of a civil penalty or the suspension or loss of a license.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as precisely as can be determined at this time, the discussion conducted in the said closed session can be disclosed to the public upon taking final action thereon, provided disclosure shall not violate the attorney-client privilege or constitute an undue invasion of privacy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, although it is not envisioned that the Council will return to open session after this meeting, the Council reserves the right to do so upon conclusion of the closed session.

<i>COUNCIL</i>	<i>MOTION</i>	<i>AYES</i>	<i>NAYS</i>	<i>ABSTAIN</i>	<i>ABSENT</i>
<i>Algrant</i>	X	X			
<i>Rosenzweig</i>					X
<i>Reddin</i>		X			
<i>Cohen</i>		X			
<i>Drakeford</i>		X			

ADJOURN: 11:05PM

Motion: Algrant

All in Favor

Lauren Vande Vaarst, RMC
City Clerk