

City of Englewood
City Council Work Shop
Meeting Minutes

February 16, 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 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:

Municipal Court:

- Departmental budget was presented by Judge James Dow Jr. and Debbian Barr, Court Administrator.
- Reviewed memo handout and Gross Revenue Chart.
- Explained that staff was down in size due to three vacancies. They do need to fill one of the vacancies because of the high caseload in the Court.
- Court revenues will increase in 2011 due to the increase in parking fines.
- The credit card machine has been installed and is enabling the Court to collect more fines in a timely manner.
- They have helped to reduce the Police Department overtime in regard to the court appearances by not putting out a Court Calendar, instead officers are subpoenaed.
- The Language Line was installed and has enabled the Court to save money on live translators.
- More people are paying additional fees in order to take advantage of the "no points" option on traffic violations.
- Mayor and Council comments and questions included:
 - Mayor Huttle wants to see a report from the Police Chief regarding the decrease in overtime due to reduced need for officers to appear in court.
 - Councilman Drakeford wants 2 of the vacant positions eliminated. *Court only needs to fill 1 of the 3 vacancies.* Suggested filling the position with a part-timer.
 - Councilwoman Algrant asked if it is feasible to consolidate the court with another town(s). *This would work for a small town not a city like Englewood.*
 - Councilman Drakeford also asked if court security can be reduced. *No, it is essential.* Suggested cutting security officer that is on overtime and keeping the 2 at regular pay.

Public Session – Budget Workshop (Court):

- Eugene Skurnick 296 Marlboro Road:
 - Glad that court is no longer posting court calendar for police officers to collect additional overtime. The practice accounts for the high overtime amounts over the years.
 - Can they provide the number of tickets issued to Englewood residents for traffic tickets? *No way to track that.*
 - Asked the Judge what percentages of defendants that come before him are clearly gang members? *Judge does not get access to a defendant's prior record until after they are convicted.*
- Aaron Wilson 165 Central Avenue – asked how much of the money taken in for violations go to the State, County and City. *City gets 50% of the money from violations.* Feels that the Court is a self supporting department so why would you reduce the staff.

Health Department:

- Departmental budget was presented by Nelson Cruz, Director.
- Reviewed handouts.
- Discussed outsourcing certain functions to the County, and that it would not be a good idea because of the reduction coming in the County staff and that they would not have the manpower to service Englewood.

- Mayor and Council comments and questions included:
 - Councilman Cohen asked if the City's Health Department has done an analysis of the Bergen County Health Department's proposed layoffs, and asked if staff has been cross trained. *They have been cross trained and also provide cross coverage.* Also asked about shared services. *Mr. Cruz explained that they do look into shared services, and asked the State about combining Vital Statistics with Tenafly, but the State said that they could not.*
 - Councilman Reddin asked if their records project has been completed. *Yes, it was completed about one year ago.* Also asked about vaccine law & the new religious exemption. *Mr. Cruz said that he is concerned about it and the potential for an increase in outbreaks.*
 - Councilwoman Algrant asked why the duplication of services between the City, County and State.
 - Councilman Drakeford asked about reducing costs and if the "Baby Keep Well" program is serving a smaller population because the hospital and another entity do similar programs. Wants the Public Health Nurse position eliminated. *Mr. Cruz explained that a Public Health Nurse is a state-mandated position that includes many more responsibilities besides the "Baby Keep Well" program.* Councilman Drakeford said that he wants them to come up with more revenues and more cuts, needs an additional 5% in cuts. *Mr. Cruz said that he will provide that.*
 - Councilman Cohen asked why the Board of Health has its own attorney and does not utilize the City Attorney. *It is required by law and the Board of Health is an autonomous body.*

Public Session – Budget Workshop (Health):

- Eugene Clements 306 Tenafly Road – asked Mr. Cruz if the Health Department is responsible for the physical plant of the building. *Yes, but just the Board of Health's section.* Stated that the Library is responsible for their physical plant.
- Eugene Skurnick 296 Marlboro Road:
 - His wife served as a Board of Health member for 6 years.
 - Feels that the Health Department is utilized by citizens throughout the City.
 - Glad that this department was able to reduce its budget by 30% and is able to reduce by a further 5%.
 - The County is the redundant government within the State.

ADJOURN: 9:23PM

Motion: Huttel

All in Favor

Lauren Vande Vaarst, RMC
City Clerk