

## City of Englewood

### City Council Budget Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2013 at 7:00pm

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A Budget Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Englewood, Bergen County, New Jersey, was held in the City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Conference Room, 2-10 N. Van Brunt Street, Englewood, NJ commencing at 7:00 P.M.

**Roll Call:**

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| Present: | Council member Marc Forman<br>Council member Eugene Skurnick<br>Council member Wayne Hamer<br>Council member Lynne Algrant<br>City Manager Tim Dacey<br>City Clerk Lauren Vande Vaarst<br>CFO Ronald Amorino |
| Absent   | Mayor/Council President Frank Huttle III<br>Council member Michael Cohen   |

Council President Pro Tempore Algrant called the meeting to order.

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

#### Budget Workshop:

- Key points of the Budget were reviewed by Tim Dacey; explained use of Route 4 Special Assessment money and accelerated tax sale. EVAC sent a letter explaining that they had trouble collecting the anticipated billing funds for 2012 and will need the \$40,000 donation from the City. The billing situation has since been rectified and they will not require funding for 2014. He has met with the EEDC regarding the Trolley and a cost analysis of the system is being worked on. Funding for the trolleys is available through June and there is money due the City for the trolleys from ERA but it is currently tied up in litigation.

#### Police Department

- Departmental budget was presented by Chief Arthur O'Keefe and Deputy Chief Lawrence Suffern.
- Same operating budget as for the past few years and staffing has been reduced, with improved efficiency and productivity.
- Spoke about the school resource officer and that overtime has been incurred because he is the only one. An additional officer is being trained to be a school resource officer and this should cut down on overtime. They have asked the EPSD to pay for the officer during the school year. Spoke about the emphasis on school safety for all the schools in the City, both public and private.
- Staffing levels are down and are beneath what is recommended by the NJ State Police, they use a per capita formula and Englewood should have 86 officers while we currently have 77. Per the FBI formula, we should have 96 officers. The City is lucky to have the resources of the Bergen County Police, Sheriff and Prosecutor offices and does utilize them as needed. There are 4 other communities in Bergen County with higher staffing levels; Ft Lee, Teaneck, Paramus and Hackensack but their focus is on traffic or retail crime unlike Englewood which has urban crimes such as New York City. The City is divided into sectors in order to provide coverage for the full 24 hours.
- Extra Duty work hours were discussed and it was explained that the utilities pay for the officers and not the City. A positive aspect is that when an emergency arises in the City the officers working Extra Duty will respond to the emergency as they did in last week's double homicide of the mother and child.
- It was asked if the City could strengthen or formalize its Mutual Aid agreements with neighboring communities or if neighboring communities can police the border areas. Mutual Aid is there to provide assistance in an emergency if the neighboring community has the available man power; it is not to provide day to day policing.
- Provided an update on the 3 officers who graduated from the Police Academy where they placed 1, 3 and 7 in their class. They are currently posted with an experienced officer and will become independent at the end of March.
- An officer is expected to leave this year and they would like to replace that officer with 3 new officers who can enter the Police Academy in June. It was clarified that it takes 7 years for a Police Officer to reach the top salary.
- Discussion ensued on staffing levels which the Chief explained should be driven by the level of service that is provided to the community. Needs input from the Mayor and Council on this. The Chief needs stability in staffing levels and while he feels that 90 police officers is optimum, he would be pleased with 86 officers. Mr. Dacey explained that the calls come in regarding 3 major areas; schools, traffic and downtown.
- The required narrow band radio system was discussed, and the City is purchasing an analog system that can be expanded into digital once the kinks have been worked out with digital systems. The analog system is fully compliant with

the narrow band requirements. Council requested that the vendor, Command Radio, come in and do a presentation on the system before it is purchased. Mr. Dacey explained that due to the exorbitant cost (\$542,000) to join the County Dispatch system the City will not be joining it and if and when Bergen County figures out how to offer the service for free or at a much reduced rate then the subject will be revisited. The construction at the City's Joint Fire and Police Dispatch Center is on schedule and we are looking to open in July depending upon the purchase of the new radio system. Dispatchers will be cross trained for both police and fire dispatch.

- Discussed emergency preparedness plans. Ken Albert, City Engineer is currently reviewing natural gas generators for the Englewood Police Department so that they can function fully in an emergency. The natural gas generator was included in the 2012 Capital Budget along with the Fuel Depot.
- There are currently 2 EPD officers that are working on Joint Task Forces, Drug Task Force and Homeland Security.
- The e-ticket program started last year but the numbers are down \$3,000 from 2010 which was the highest year, but everyone has been trained and system is fully functioning so numbers should be better in 2013. Asked if we can budget higher anticipated amounts for the e-tickets in the 2013 Budget. The City can only budget what was taken in last year.
- Asked if the City was successful in lobbying to be allowed to not use Police Officers as Court security. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) mandated the use of Police Officers as Court security for all municipalities and counties.

Public Session:

**No one from the Public came forward to speak**

ADJOURN: 9:43PM

Motion: Algrant

All in Favor

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Lauren Vande Vaarst, RMC  
City Clerk