

City of Englewood

City Council Budget Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2013 at 7:00pm

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

Roll Call: Present: Council member Marc Forman
Council member Michael Cohen (7:40PM)
Council member Eugene Skurnick
Council member Wayne Hamer
Council member Lynne Algrant
Mayor/Council President Frank Huttle III
City Manager Tim Dacey
City Clerk Lauren Vande Vaarst
CFO Ronald Amorino

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 the notice as required by the Open Public Meetings Act.

Budget Workshop:

Department of Public Works:

- Presented by Clyde Sweatt, Director.
- Spoke about the impact of larger and more frequent storms on the department's budget.
- The Sanitation Division is a major portion of the Department and its Budget.
- The purchase of new equipment such as one manned garbage trucks can provide for greater efficiency and effectiveness.
- New radio equipment is needed as the equipment being currently used is old and out of date.
- Most of the Department equipment is old and out of date which makes it expensive to maintain.
- Recycling has increased greatly due to greater awareness by the residents of its importance.
- Spoke about the storm and sanitary sewer system
- Shade Tree division planted thirty (30) trees last year, a small number compared to the hundreds that have been lost in recent storms over the past few years.
- Bagging of leaves would be better for the environment, and lessen the impact on the Department's Budget.
- Mayor and Council Comments:
 - Discussed some alternates to leaves at the curb, such as bagging (DPW does give away free bags), composting and mulch mowing.
 - If leaves are not required to be bagged then garbage pickup will go to once a week during leaf season to allow more days for leaf pickup.
 - Plant appropriate types of trees that will not grow into the wires. Asked how much money is in the budget for purchasing trees. Would like more money available so 50 more trees can be planted than last year. Tree cutting needs to be kept up as well.
 - Can DPW encourage registered Landscapers to bring leaves to DPW and not leave them in the roadway? They are trying to do so but they have to charge the property owner when they haul the leaves away and the property owner does not want to pay.
 - Compliance with recycling has gone up about 25% in the past four years due to an emphasis on education and collection at multifamily dwellings and schools. Increased recycling reduces the City's costs.
 - Large budget increase for sewer maintenance was corrected.
 - There is a problem with illegal discharge and dumping into the sewer system.
 - Park, ball field and playground maintenance needs to be stepped up; unfortunately DPW is limited by the availability of workers. Years ago the City subcontracted out the park, ball field and playground maintenance work, the use of one manned garbage trucks will free up DPW workers for this. There is also a big problem with littering in the City (7-11 on Grand Avenue was mentioned).
 - City needs to be stricter in regard to fallen or cut trees dumped at the curb for the City to pickup.
 - Council would like more recycling pickups scheduled. Mr. Dacey proposed a more uniform system; garbage and recycling pickup on the same day with all recycling comingled.
 - Councilman Skurnick feels that the one manned trucks will be too slow and the regular trucks are quicker and more efficient. Does not want one manned garbage trucks. Councilman Cohen is a big supporter of the one manned garbage trucks and asked if current fleet will be kept and maintained for leaf pickup and snow removal.

- Mentioned that once a week garbage pickup will not be acceptable to the 2nd Ward but is open to suggestions to make leaf pickup better. Mayor Huttle does not support once a week garbage pickup either.
- Suggested that open recycling containers are eliminated.
- Discussed sewer problems on Jones Road which occur after big storms and asked what can be done. This is a question for the City Engineer.

Recreation Department

- Departmental budget was presented by Merle Simons. Director.
- Spoke about the cost of operating the pools for 7 days versus 4 days; currently there is \$78,000 in budget to operate Mackay for 7 days per week and Tryon for 4 days per week. In order to operate both pools for 7 days per week the budgeted amount needs to be \$104,000.
- Plans to clean, paint and repair 4 additional rooms at the Liberty School.
- Need replacement passenger van at an estimated \$20,000 and Park Ranger vehicle for \$15,000.
- Renovations need to be made to the bathrooms at Tryon Pool.
- Line item #222 jumped from up \$50,000 from 2012 due to the addition of utilities for Liberty School.
- Also saw budget increases for advertising and janitorial.
- \$10,000 from Splash camp was used to subsidize swim lessons.
- Mayor and Council Comments:
 - Councilman Skurnick stated that he wants a general reduction in the fees for recreation across the board. Also asked questions about the YWCA.
 - Mayor Huttle asked questions about the 2012 Budget without Liberty School and the 2013 which includes the Liberty School. He would like to see the programs at Liberty School marketed better.
 - Councilwoman Algrant would like an internet survey and email blasts to get the word out about programs at Liberty School.
 - Affordability of programs was discussed.
 - Councilman Hamer has another marketing person for Tim Dacey to speak with.
 - Council would like copies of survey and the fees that were done.
 - If the Tryon Pool is open 7 days per week then the budget needs to be bumped up by \$26,000.
 - If fees are reduced then revenues go down and taxes go up.
 - Councilman Cohen spoke about the history of fees not having been raised for 10 years, and the percentage of the sudden increase was too high.
 - Football, Track and the Pools are not paying for themselves and these are the programs that the most complaints are received.
 - Councilman Forman asked if we offer a multiple child discount, and the Recreation Department does.
 - Councilman Cohen spoke about Vacation Camps.
 - Councilwoman Algrant asked if it is difficult to get information regarding the free and reduced lunch program.

Public Session:

- Katherine Glynn 306 Tenafly Road:
 - Stated that the Library does a weekly email blast to approximately 7,500 subscribers and would be happy to offer to do them for the Recreation Department (in both English and Spanish) as well. Will also take flyers to place in the Children's Room.
- Barbara Stubbs 57 Knickerbocker Road:
 - Spoke about using leaf bags.
- Eugene Clements 306 Tenafly Road:
 - Asked about succession in the DPW in regard to the Director position.
- Charles Cobb 113 Marilyn Court:
 - Feels that bagging leaves is an added cost to the residents and why is the leaf vacuum machine not being used.
- Theresa Thomas 279 Genesee Avenue:
 - Agrees that vacuuming of leaves is more efficient if done correctly.
 - The City needs an effective policy in regard to how trash is put out for collection.

ADJOURN: 9:25PM

Motion: Algrant

All in Favor

Lauren Vande Vaarst, RMC
City Clerk