

City of Englewood

City Council Budget Meeting Minutes

March 13, 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
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:

Municipal Court:

- Presented by Judge James Dow and Debbian Barr, Court Administrator.
- Reviewed 2012 revenues.
- Requesting a private collection agency to go after outstanding money owed for fines. If the funds are collected they will go into miscellaneous revenues not into anticipated revenues.
- Mayor and Council Comments:
 - Councilman Cohen asked how far back the estimated \$1 million in uncollected fines go, and if they could be put into the Budget. *The fines go back to 2001 and only money collected this year can be placed into the Budget.* Also asked about the status of Police Officers being subpoenaed for Court during work hours and not utilizing overtime pay. *Working as well as it can.*
 - Councilman Forman inquired about the e-ticket system and if there has been an increase in revenue to date. *Judge Dow spoke about glitches in the Park Mobile system where people have paid for the meters and still receive parking tickets.*
 - Councilman Skurnick wants a comparison of 2011 tickets issued versus 2012.

Health Department

- Departmental budget was presented by Nelson Xavier Cruz. Health Officer Lisa Wisotsky, Board of Health President and Deborah Baldwin. Registrar of Vital Statistics and Office Manager.
- Mr. Cruz presented a per capita comparison of the Health Department to Police and Fire Departments along with other City Departments. Accused the City Manager of harassment and discrimination regarding the reduction of his salary as Health Officer. Mr. Dacey then suggested that this discussion be stopped or moved to Closed Session as no Rice Notice had been given to any employee.
- Deborah Baldwin spoke about the Salary & Wage line in the Introduced Budget.
- Lisa Wisotsky commented that the Budget as Introduced by the City Council at last night's meeting is fine. The Board of Health had approved the Budget with the reduction in the Health Officer's salary, because at the last meeting of the Board of Health they had taken a vote on the salary reduction for the Health Officer and it was approved.
- Mayor and Council Comments:
 - Councilman Cohen commended the Board of Health President. He wanted a comparison of the Englewood Health Department with other Health Departments on a per capita basis not with other City Departments. *Board President Wisotsky explained that you cannot compare Englewood with other Health Departments because it is like comparing oranges to apples. Board member Lisa Levien said that it would be an unfair comparison because of the different programs/services offered and different levels of staffing.*
 - Asked questions regarding different line items in the Budget.
 - Inquired if the Health Department provides actual healthcare, and why people are not referred to a hospital. *The Health Department does not provide treatment or follow up care nor do they have the*

facilities to treat people. They do provide prevention services and immunization. They recommend the NHCAC Clinic.

- Asked about other possible revenue sources, shared services. *Department have been increasing.*
- Councilwoman Algrant asked if the money for computers will come from capital or operating budget. *It was explained that this would be determined once the aggregate is known city wide.*
- Councilman Hamer asked if any other Health Department in the area offers similar program and services. *Mr. Cruz explained that Montclair has a larger population and Teaneck concentrates on Code Enforcement, Vital Statistics and Environmental Issues. Teaneck's Health Officer works a 4 day week, so if he worked for both towns he would spend 1 ½ days in Englewood.*
- Lisa Wisotsky, Board of Health President spoke about Shared Services with Teaneck:
 - The two (2) Health Departments are very different.
 - Englewood has a Public Health Nurse and Educator, Teaneck has a smaller staff.
 - Teaneck's Health Department is less comprehensive than Englewood's.
 - Teaneck's Health Department is smaller and could not cover both towns without there being a reduction in services. If an emergency arises then Teaneck becomes its priority and not Englewood.
 - Board of Health determined that a shared Health Officer was neither a significant cost savings nor a positive for the City.
 - Best way to share is to share our Health Officer with a smaller town such as Englewood Cliffs on a limited basis. *Mr. Dacey clarified that in his discussions with Ms. Wisotsky it was only to share a Health Officer and not services or other staff. This was discussed by the Board of Health with Mr. Cruz in Closed Session and he agreed.*
- Councilman Hamer asked if the cost of services increase and the budget decreased how is there not a degradation of services.
- Salary & Wage line is 82% of the Department's Budget.
- Councilman Skurnick commented that not just the 3rd and 4th Ward use the Health Department services but also a significant portion of the 1st Ward and in the 2nd Ward, Rock Creek. Shared services only works well if a big place takes over a little place. Teaneck may have a larger population but has a smaller department than Englewood. He is concerned about transparency and that the Council and the Public were not informed. As a Councilman he never saw a report. Mr. Dacey said that he did issue a report in the weekly update. Upset that programs that serve his constituents are being cut in the Health and Recreation Departments and does not want to see these reductions in the Budget.
- Councilman Forman suggested sharing services with bordering towns possibly Leonia or Tenafly.
- Mr. Cruz said that we have an agreement to provide backup emergency services to Bergenfield for the past three years. He did investigate Shared Services with Leonia because they wanted to have Englewood take over their Health Department but they were not going to pay us enough to make it worth our while.
- Board member Lisa Levien explained that Health Departments have to have a certain level of service or are in violation of Title 26 and the municipality will not get any State Aid. Spoke about the H1Ni epidemic and the State handed out supplies and the Health Department is on its own for 72 hours to deal with it. The Health Department is the first line of defense.

Public Session:

No one from the Public came forward to speak

ADJOURN: 8:35PM

Motion: Forman

All in Favor

Lauren Vande Vaarst, RMC

City Clerk