

## City of Englewood

### City Council Budget Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2014 at 6:30pm

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A Budget Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Englewood, Bergen County, New Jersey, was held in City Hall, 2-10 N. Van Brunt Street in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room commencing at 6:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL: Present: Council member Marc Forman  
Council member Michael Cohen (7:08PM)  
Council member Eugene Skurnick  
Council member Wayne Hamer  
Council President Lynne Algrant  
Mayor Frank Huttle III  
City Manager Timothy Dacey  
City Clerk Lauren Vande Vaarst  
Ronald Amorino, CFO

President 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.

#### RECREATION:

- Merle Simons, Recreation Director and Ken Katz, Wright Arena presented.
- Merle reviewed comparison of 2012 versus 2013 programs and registration numbers.
- Discussed ice skating lessons and instructors.
- Councilman Skurnick asked for information regarding experience for recreation staff and instructors.
- Councilman Hamer spoke about reinstating Englewood Day with Mayor Huttle. Noted that it is not in the budget and estimates that it would cost between \$25,000 to \$30,000. Should be administered through the Recreation Department and would like the Mayor and Council to consider it and bring it back. Also spoke about the construction of a skateboard park as a future project.
- Mayor Huttle asked about what the City needs for the basketball program, such as more gym space and if Recreation can get additional gym time from the EPSD. Have they also spoken to City Sports? Asked if surveys are being done to see what sports people want.
- Weekend sports schedules were discussed and that they are difficult to schedule because of religious observances.
- Councilman Cohen asked why the City is not allowed to use the DMHS gym. It was explained that the EPSD said it is off limits due to the DMHS teams own needs.
- Limited availability of gyms and facilities and tend to run out of space in the winter.
- Mr. Dacey discussed \$10,000 usage fee for the school gyms for the EPSD which was placed in the budget.
- Councilman Cohen asked what increase in the programs is due to; more public relations, more kids from all over the City participating, better outreach efforts by the Recreation Department.
- Councilman Forman asked about the use of City Sports as a centralized location especially for weekends.
- Councilwoman Algrant commended Merle on new program offerings, increased registration, availability of online registrations and that 80% of all instructors are Englewood residents.
- Councilman Hamer asked if the Recreation department is satisfactorily staffed in terms of head count. Asked how she would utilize additional staff.
- Councilman Skurnick asked how Indoor soccer is doing. Merle explained that Coach Gomez has decided to take his program independent. He does think that things have improved dramatically in Recreation but criticized the City's website in that it should have a flashing "Registration" section and wants it bilingual. The ice rink exceeded his expectations in looks, attendance and participation.
- Ken Katz gave an overview of Wright Arena season.
- Spoke about the numbers involved.
- Feels we can do better next year and suggested setting rental rates lower for this year to establish credibility and participation.
- Spoke about offseason programs.
- The Learn to Skate program did very well in spite of a late start. Participants then became regular customers.
- Collected enough equipment during drive for a hockey program.
- Mr. Dacey said that the arena is closing at the end of March and will reopen in October so that schools and teams can schedule time. May start roller-skating this summer before it gets too hot.
- Councilman Cohen asked what kind of floor is needed for roller skating. Concrete is fine and can also be used for roller hockey. Ken Katz that low utility costs would be incurred.
- Mr. Katz thanked everyone he worked with on the arena and for all the new improvements.
- Mayor Huttle asked if the arena could be used for basketball as well.

### Capital Budget:

- Ken Albert, City Engineer and Frantz Volcy, Assistant City Engineer presented.
- Roadways:
  - Survey of roadways was completed, if you have any additional roads please call Ken.
  - Roads held up better this winter than was expected.
  - Received a grant for W. Demarest Avenue.
  - Working with CSX on railroad crossings. They will do the work if the City pays. Mr. Albert is trying to find grants to help pay for it.
  - Hutchinson, Fountain and Arch has become a very big project because the sanitary sewer needs work.
  - The City of Englewood is becoming more of a walking City and Mr. Albert spoke about the Bikeway program.
  - Spoke about Elkwood, Hudson and Whitewood sidewalk program.
  - Overpeck Creek dredging project, the permit process has been completed and the work should start next year.
  - Millers Pond sediment is rising and we need to begin work to save it.
  - The City now owns 30 culverts due to abandonment by the County.
- Facilities:
  - Spoke about Library bridge, stairs and doors.
  - Security fencing at DPW is being installed.
  - Tibbs Center needs work and since the City owns it we need to maintain it.
- Equipment:
  - Fire Department air packs were discussed.
  - Spoke about Traffic Signal improvements and retiming.
- Pistol Range:
  - LSRP review is currently under ongoing.
  - The question is do we keep cleaning it up only to clean it up again in the future? Do we continue to lease or buy the property? Stop using it altogether and go out of town?
  - Mayor Huttie recommends that a report is written up and then a decision is made.
- Mayor and Council comments:
  - Mayor Huttie said that the Capital Budget is to determine the numbers but it is actually a policy statement. The City needs to deal with infrastructure issues due to the lack of prior momentum and/or neglect. Some of the needs are City Hall, Mackay Park, Palisade Avenue stripping, new signage needed throughout the City, clean up monuments and parks.
  - Councilman Cohen asked for the difference in funding on roads (individual assessment of roads regarding drainage, road surface, paving, curbs etc). Asked if we are continuing with use of Belgian Block curbing.
  - Councilman Skurnick feels that the items in the Capital Budget in general are good, but feels that a large amount of money is being spent on the East Hill and also wants less money spent on the Monument. Feels that Councilman Hamer came up with a terrific plan for a skateboard park which would be a great community area and money not spent on the Monument can go for that. Stated that Liberty School is a dangerous building and needs major work, should we shut it down.
  - Councilman Hamer asked how Capital Budget projects are determined.
  - Mr. Dacey spoke about the dasher boards. His concern and that of the installer is the width of the expansion joints. Difference in width of boards (5" now versus 6" for old ones) the question is if we change the system will the ice meet the boards. His recommendation is to leave the \$70,000 in the account and leave the old boards in place for the upcoming season and bid the project out in the future (estimated \$200,000-\$300,000).

### PUBLIC SESSION:

- Lisa Wisotsky Hutchinson Road:
  - Spoke about 2 problems with the complete streets program:
    - Leaves in the streets are dangerous and wants Council to address this.
    - People not clearing the snow in front of their property.

### **ADJOURN: 8:45 PM**

Motion: Skurnick  
All in Favor

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Lauren Vande Vaarst, RMC  
City Clerk  
City of Englewood