

MINUTES
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
April 13th, 1981
6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by President of the Council Salvatore A. Caruso. All members were present with the exception of Councilmen Hinton, Martin, Singletary, and Washington. Mayor Hart was present.

President Caruso stated the purpose of the meeting was to hold a public hearing on Item No. 81-3-297 (1981-82 Operating Budget Appropriations Ordinance and Capital Improvement Program) and the proposed budget as presented by the Mayor, Item No. 81-3-299 (1981-82 Operating Budget Adoption), and Item No. 81-3-300 (1981-82 Capital Improvement Budget Adoption), and declared public hearings open on all three proposed ordinances as they were of related subjects.

Councilman Barthelmy pointed out that no funds had been appropriated in the proposed budget for the continued use of school facilities in regard to the Community Education Program. Dr. Courtney Cheri, representing the St. Tammany Parish School Board, addressed the Council and reported on the services and facilities which were made available to children and adults through this program. Dr. Cheri stated that funds supplied by the City were matched by the School Board and were solely used to cover administrative cost of opening the buildings. Dr. Cheri asked the Council to consider appropriating funds in the amount of \$12,000.00 in order that the Community Education Program may be continued.

Councilman Washington joins the meeting at 6:50 P.M.

Mrs. Gloria Sellers addressed the Council on behalf of the Council on Aging. Mrs. Sellers read the proposed budget for the Council on Aging which totaled \$22,370.00 and asked the Council to appropriate that amount of money for that organization as opposed to the recommended \$6,600.00.

Mrs. Margaret Williams, city employee, addressed the Council questioning what provisions were made for a cost-of-living raise for the city employees. Mrs. Roe pointed out that city employees would receive a 7% salary increase (5% merit increase, and 2% retirement which was being picked up by the City).

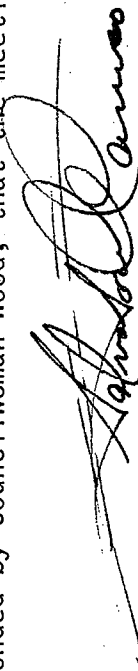
As no one else indicated their desire to be heard, the public hearings were closed.

Councilwoman Wood pointed out that in the Utility Fund a source of revenue totalling \$188,500 was listed which was to be derived from an increase of \$1.75 in the water and sewerage fee. Mrs. Roe, Director of Finance, explained that this increase was a necessity, that the Utility Fund was a self-sustaining fund, and that it was required to maintain a certain balance at all times, and this could only be done by increasing the fee at this time. Councilwoman Wood stated that she would introduce an ordinance at the April 14th council meeting providing for the implementation of this fee in order that a public hearing may be held on the matter.

Councilman Singletary joins the meeting at 7:50 P.M.

After a lengthy discussion regarding the fee increase, it was moved by Councilman Washington, seconded by Councilwoman Wood, that the meeting adjourn at 8:10 P.M.

Emily M. Mills
Clerk of the Council


Salvatore A. Caruso
Councilman, District C
President of the Council