

TO: Honorable Mayor James E. Dyer - City of Danbury, Connecticut

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Common Council held on May 10, 1984.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 O'Clock P.M. by the honorable Mayor James E. Dyer who led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Prayer was offered by Councilman Bernard Gallo.

Roll Call was taken by the City Clerk, Elizabeth Crudginton with the following members being recorded as:

PRESENT: Council Members - Johnson, McGarry, Esposito, Flanagan, Zotos, Chianese, Skoff, McManus, DaSilva, Gallo, Cassano, Charles, Butera, Durkin, Eriquez, Farah, Torian.

ABSENT: Council Members - Foti, Torcaso, Godfrey, Boynton.

17 Members Present - 4 Members Absent.

Councilman Godfrey arrived after roll call, later during the meeting. It was reported that Councilman Foti was out of town on business and Councilwoman C. Torcaso was confined to bed due to illness and Councilman Boynton was absent due to hospitalization in Boston.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING - to be held on the 10th day of May, 1984 at 7:00 O'Clock P.M. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, for the purpose of acting upon the following:

01 - ORDINANCE - AN ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 1984 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 1985.

02 - RESOLUTION - A RESOLUTION LEVYING THE PROPERTY TAX FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 1984 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 1985.

RETURN OF SERVICE - Notices delivered and served by Police Officers of the City of Danbury.

A motion was made by Councilman Joseph DaSilva and seconded by Councilman Bernard Gallo for the Call and Return of Service to be accepted. Motion carried unanimously.

01 - ORDINANCE - AN ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 1984 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 1985 IN THE AMOUNT OF (\$62,757,962.).

A motion was made by Council President C. McManus and seconded by Councilman J. McGarry for the Ordinance to be adopted.

BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS - 1984-1985

Councilman DaSilva submitted the GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT, stating that the committee met on six separate occasions to study the various accounts in the Mayor's proposed budget for the purpose of recommendation to the Common Council.

The committee met on April 9, 1984 to organize its procedures. It then met on April 16, April 18 and April 23, 1984 with seventeen various Department Heads, Directors and Commissioners, to obtain input on their particular budget accounts. On April 25, 1984 and May 2, 1984 the committee met to deliberate its recommendations to the Common Council.

The committee found the large majority of items to be acceptable appropriations and recommend the adoption of all items within the scope of General Government Budget Committee, with the following exceptions:

1. 01-100- Common Council
029500 Outside Services +\$5,000 to read \$9,500
Total \$10,500.

The addition of this amount is to provide secretarial help to the major, ongoing committees during the year as well as the budget committees each Spring.

A motion was made by Councilwoman McManus and seconded by Councilman Gallo for the amendment to be adopted. The amendment was adopted unanimously by a roll call vote of 17 Ayes - 4 members absent.

2. 09-110 - CLAIMS			
073500 Settlement of Claims	+\$5,000	to read	\$5,000
		Total	\$5,000.

This amount was added for the settlement of any outstanding claims that predate the City's nondeductible insurance.

A motion was made by Councilwoman McManus and seconded by Councilman Gallo for the amendment to be adopted. The amendment was adopted unanimously by a roll call vote of 17 Ayes - 4 members absent.

03 - 09-121 - Pension Expenses			
072801 - Pension Expenses	-\$45,000	to read	\$3,154,550
		Total	\$3,154,550.

This adjustment was made to realign recommendations for increased spending within this committee report. A reduction was suggested here because there have been occasions when funds have been left unspent in this account at the end of the fiscal year.

A motion was made by Councilman McGarry and seconded by Councilwoman B. Johnson for the amendment to be adopted. The amendment was adopted unanimously by a roll call vote of 17 Ayes - 4 members absent.

04 - 11-000 - Capital Program			
850015 - Fire Hose	+\$18,020		
850016 - Fire Headquarters			
Insulation	+ 7,519		
850017 - Fire Dept. Storm windows	+ 9,100		
		Total	\$634,639.

These items were referred to the committee by the Public Safety Committee, and were found to be appropriate for the Capital Budget and worthy of inclusion.

A motion was made by Councilwoman McManus and seconded by Councilman Gallo for the amendments to be adopted. The amendments were adopted by a roll call vote of 17 Ayes - 4 members absent.

PUBLIC WORKS BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT 1984-1985

Councilman Cassano submitted a report stating that as the result of budget review meetings for the above committee, including meetings with Public Works Department management, the Public Works Budget Committee recommends the following changes be incorporated in the 1984-1985 Budget as proposed by the Mayor:

	Mayor's Proposal	Committee Recommendations
03-117 - Equipment Maintenance		
010100 - Regular Salaries	\$157,115	\$168,115
Bottom Line	\$400,640	\$411,640

The above recommendation includes a secretary/dispatcher position for the nine month period (October 1, 1984 through June 30, 1985) following construction of the Equipment Maintenance facility.

A motion was made by Councilman Gallo and seconded by Councilman Flanagan for the amendment to be adopted. The amendment was adopted unanimously by a roll call vote of 17 Ayes - 4 members absent.

The Public Works Budget Committee recommended no further changes in the Mayor's proposed Budget.

The above recommended changes result in a net increase, over all the considered accounts, of \$11,000 in the Mayor's proposed Budget.

HEALTH & PUBLIC SAFETY BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT 1984-1985

Councilman Bernard Gallo submitted a Report stating that as a result of a series of budget review meetings, including meetings with the Department Heads involved, the Health & Public Safety Budget Committee recommends that the following changes be incorporated in the 1984-1985 Budget as proposed by the Mayor:

Mayor's Proposals

Committee Recommendations

02-100- Police Department

020300 - Communications Svcs. \$60,000. \$72,499.

A motion was made by Councilwoman C. McManus and seconded by Councilman J. McGarry for the amendment to be adopted. The amendment was adopted unanimously.

061500 - Automotive Equipment 0 4,400

A motion was made by Councilman DaSilva and seconded by Councilman Flanagan for the amendment to be adopted. The amendment was adopted unanimously.

Bottom Line now reads -- \$4,146,926.

02-102 - Dog Warden - No change
02-110 - Fire Department - No change

02-122 - Building Inspector

010100 - Regular Salaries \$138,081 \$125,862.

Bottom Line \$134,962.

A motion was made by Councilman J. DaSilva and seconded by Councilwoman J. Butera for the amendment to be adopted. The amendment was adopted unanimously.

02-123 - Weights & Measures - No change.
02-134 - Dept. of Civil Preparedness - No change.
04-101 - Health & Housing Dept. - No change.
Dog License Fund - No change.

05-100 - Welfare Dept.
010100 - Regular Salaries \$102,225 \$104,399
Bottom Line (amendment failed) \$930,834.

A motion was made by Councilman J. McGarry and seconded by Councilman S. Flanagan for the amendment to be adopted.

Councilman Gallo submitted a further report in reference to this item stating that the Welfare Supervisor deserved a larger salary increase than had been proposed by the Mayor for the following reasons:

1. The committee doesn't feel the Welfare Supervisor is being paid a salary commensurate with her duties.
2. The committee feels the increase is necessary to bring the Welfare Supervisor's salary in line with other management people working in City Government.
3. Members of the committee that served on other committees involving the Welfare Supervisor, all remarked on how well this Supervisor represents herself and the City at any committee meetings or hearing she is asked to attend.

The amendment failed by a roll call vote of 11 Ayes and 6 Nays. 14 votes are required to amend the Mayor's Budget.

Council members - Johnson, Zotos, Chianese, Skoff, McManus, Cassano, voted Nay.
Council members - McGarry, Esposito, Flanagan, DaSilva, Gallo, Charles, Butera, Durkin, Eriquez, Farah, Torian. voted Aye.

EDUCATION LIAISON BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT - 1984-1985

Councilman Farah submitted a report stating that the Education Liaison Committee began its study of the School System's fiscal condition early in February of this calendar year. The committee met frequently with representative members of the Board of Education and with the Superintendent of Schools and other key administrators. Inquiries were answered with promptness and full cooperation.

The Board submitted a Budget which requested a sum of \$33,384,999, to cover the Danbury School system's expenses in the fiscal year 1984-1985. This is an increase of \$3,780,961 or 12/77% over the current Budget.

There are 121 line items in this Budget. Each line item was explained by School administrators and Board Members. Supportive materials and further verbal explanations were furnished upon request. The committee's recommendations were based on:

- 1) The educational needs of our School children which include the maintenance of sound and attractive physical facilities.
- 2) The status of unencumbered accounts and anticipated surplus in the School Budget as of April 23, 1984, and
- 3) The willingness of our taxpayers to fund improvements leading to educational excellence in Danbury.

Recommendations

1. Approve a school funding level of \$32,602,080 for the 1984-1985 fiscal year. This is an increase of \$2,998,542 or 10.13% over the current year's level. Although this falls \$782,419 short of what the Board has requested, we feel that the recommended amount will not only maintain the status quo in our schools but will provide the means to make a reasonable progress in all vital areas.

Research and investigation show that the schools will need \$31,907,705 to maintain the present programs and to meet all present contractual commitments including salaries, transportation, insurance cost, and fringe benefits. Our recommendation will provide an additional \$694,375 for improvements and for upgrading the system.

Unexpected expenses may be offset by unexpected windfalls. Even if unexpected expenses exceed unexpected windfalls by about \$100,000, there will still be nearly \$600,000 for improvements.

2. Cognizant of the Board's right to reallocate funds within its budget, the committee decided to merely express its desires to the Board regarding certain programs. The committee asks the Board to make every possible effort to enhance Art and Music programs, and to improve student's care and classroom management and instruction in Special Education.

The committee also recommended that the Board seek more efficient alternatives for the transportation of Special Education students, and abandon the practice of withholding allocated funds for instructional supplies and books until past midyear. Such withholding deprives students of the opportunity to derive the most out of what is rightly earmarked for their instructional materials.

Shortly after the conclusion of budget deliberation and adoption, the committee and representatives of the Board of Education and the School Administration will convene regularly in order to continue the open dialogue and cordial and cooperative relationship which, despite occasional disagreements, prevailed throughout their meetings.

A motion was made by Councilman E. Torian and seconded by Councilman/Flanagan or the Education Liaison Budget committee report to be accepted and the recommendations approved.

Councilman Eriquez remarked that he disagreed and found it difficult to support the committee report and that he will be voting against it.

The Report and recommendations were denied by a roll call vote of 4 Nays (McGarry, Godfrey, Durkin and Eriquez voted Nay). Councilmembers Johnson, Esposito, Flanagan, Zotos, Chianese, Skoff, McManus, Gallo, Cassano, Charles, Butera, Farah and Torian voted Aye (13 votes). Councilman DaSilva abstained from voting on the School Budget. 3 members absent (Boynton, Foti, Torcaso). 14 votes are required to amend the Mayor's budget.

A motion was then made by Councilman Gallo and seconded by Councilman McGarry to amend Line Item #850004 of the Budget as follows:

For 25 years Thomas J. Dyer organized the Memorial Day Parade and Veteran's Memorial Services, and served for a quarter of a century as a leader in veteran's affairs as a Commander of the Hat City Barracks World War I Veterans, Secretary of the Veteran's Council, and a Common Council Member from the Seventh District;

Therefore Be It Resolved By Amendment to Line #850004 That the City of Danbury recognizes Thomas J. Dyer's exemplary and unprecedented service to Veterans and his community by designating the City's Veteran's Park as THE THOMAS J. DYER VETERAN'S PARK.

The motion was carried and the Resolution was adopted unanimously.

There being no further amendments to be submitted, a motion was made, duly seconded and passed for a recess to be held at 7:30 P.M. for the Department of Finance to compute the new figures to determine the Mill Rate.

Prior to the recess a motion was made by Councilman Charles and seconded by Councilman Gallo to amend the Comptroller's Budget by reducing line item #01-141 - 010100 Regular Salaries. Motion failed.

The meeting reconvened and Attorney T.H. Goldstein, Corporation Counsel submitted the figures for the final budget as follows:

AN ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 1984 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 1985.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANBURY THAT:

Section 1. That the amounts hereinafter set forth aggregating \$62,773,281.00 or so much as may be necessary, are hereby appropriated for the General Fund, from current revenue, for the use of the several Departments of the Municipal Government and for the purpose hereinafter mentioned, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1984 and ending June 30, 1985.:

I - Total General Government	\$3,079,888.
II - Total Public Safety	\$8,344,438.
III - Total Public Works	\$3,294,084.
IV. - Total Health & Housing Dept.	\$388,986.
V. - Total Public Welfare, Social Agencies	\$1,039,819.
VI. - Total School Budget	\$32,582,305.
VII. - Total Libraries	\$799,007.
VIII. - Total Parks & Recreation	\$877,839.
IX. - Total Recurring Costs	\$6,053,847.
X. - Total Debt Service	\$2,180,943.
XI. - Capital Program	\$634,639.
XII. - Total Transportation	\$395,074.
XIII. - Contingency	\$700,000.
XIV. - State & Federal School Projects	\$1,485,146
XV. - Grants-Human & Social Welfare	\$917,266.
TOTAL BUDGET	<u>\$62,773,281.</u>

Section 2. That the amount of Ninety-seven Thousand, seven-hundred & ninety three (\$97,793.) Dollars is appropriated in the same manner as in Section 1 hereof, for the DOG LICENSE FUND.

Section 3. That the amount of One-Million, twenty-nine thousand, three hundred & Fifty-five (\$1,029,355.) is appropriated in the same manner as in Section hereof, for the REVENUE SHARING BUDGET in compliance with the State and Local Fiscal Assistance Act of 1972, as amended.

Section 4. That the amount of Three Million, eight-hundred & Fifty-five thousand, five-hundred & fifty-six (\$3,855,556) dollars is appropriated to the WATER ACCOUNT in the same manner as set forth in Section 1 hereof.

Section 5. That the amount of One-Million, Six-hundred & Forty-one Thousand, two-hundred & eighty-four (\$1,641,284.) Dollars is appropriated to the SEWER OPERATING BUDGET in the same manner as set forth in Section 1 hereof.

Section 6. That a provision for uncollectible taxes reserve is established in the amount of \$500,000.00.

Section 7. That the amount of \$793,607.00 Dollars is appropriated to the Danbury Sanitary Landfill Enterprise Fund in the same manner as set forth in Section 1 hereof.

A motion was made by Councilwoman C. McManus and seconded by Councilman J. McGarry for the Appropriation Ordinance to be adopted as amended and presented by Corporation Theodore H. Goldstein.

The Ordinance was adopted unanimously by a roll call vote of 18 Ayes. Three members absent.

RESOLUTION - A RESOLUTION LEVYING THE PROPERTY TAX FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 1984 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 1985.

Section 1. The sum of Forty-five Million, Eight-Hundred and Forty-four thousand, Two-hundred & Thirty-five Dollars (\$45,844,235.00) representing the gross appropriation for the City of Danbury of \$62,773,281.00 for the fiscal year of July 1, 1984 and ending June 30, 1985, minus Indirect Revenue of \$16,429,046.00 and minus Estimated Available "Surplus" of \$1,000,000 plus uncollectible taxes reserve in the amount of \$500,000.00, is hereby levied and assessed on all taxable property in the City of Danbury as set forth on the annual Grand List as of October 1, 1983.

Section 2. Accordingly, the General Fund Tax Rate for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1984 and ending June 30, 1985 shall be as follows:

TAX RATE -- 40.06 MILLS

Section 3. The taxes levied and assessed as hereinafter provided shall be payable in quarterly installments on July 2, 1984, October 1, 1984, January 2, 1985, April 1, 1985, except for taxes levied and assessed on Aircrafts, Boats, Mobile Homes, Motor Vehicles and where not in excess of \$100.00 Dollars, which taxes shall be paid on July 2, 1984, in accordance with the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, unless said dates shall have lapsed before the effective date of this Resolution, in which case the Tax Collector shall fix the dates and installments as if said dates had not been fixed herein as provided by law.

Section 4. The Tax Collector shall cause the said taxes above levied and assessed to be inserted on the Tax Folls for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1984 and ending June 30, 1985.

A motion was made by Councilwoman McManus and seconded by Councilman Gallo for the Resolution to set the Tax Rate, be adopted. Motion carried. The Resolution was adopted unanimously.

Mayor Dyer then expressed many thanks to all the Budget committees; the Council as a whole; its leadership; City Clerk and Assistant, Betty Crudginton and Mary Rickert; the Comptroller and Assistant, John Edwards and Dominic Setaro; the Legal Staff; the Mayor's Staff; Department Heads; for their efforts in working on the budget which does a great deal for our taxpayers for what they can afford.

There being no public speakers and no further business to come before the Common Council, a motion was made by Councilman McGarry and seconded by Councilman Gallo for the meeting to be adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Rickert
Assistant City Clerk

Attest: *Elizabeth Crudginton*
Elizabeth Crudginton
City Clerk