

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Council Begins Review of Budget To Cut or to Add is the Question

by Russell Greenbaum

The city council, faced with the problem of striving to cut the budget and the tax rate, and at the same time confronted by the need for new facilities and increased operating expenses, began its review of the proposed 1958 city budget at the first of a series of special meetings on Monday, November 25. The budget discussion will be continued in the regular meeting this Monday, December 2, and at a special meeting the following night.

The city's perennial dilemma, which grows more serious each year, was dramatized by the events of the first meeting. The council heard a request the Little League for much needed lights for McDonald Field. The minimum cost was estimated by the Little League to be about \$4,500 if the city buys the equipment itself and installs the poles, but the cost could be twice that amount. This will be taken up when the recreation account in the budget is reached.

Following this, there was a request from the Community Church for a sidewalk running from Woodland Way to Crescent Road along the church side. Greenbelt Homes, Inc., also asked the council to join in a shrub and tree spraying program, already successfully tested by GHI this past year. It was roughly estimated that a regular city-wide program, that could combine mosquito control, would cost about \$2,000 a year. Both items will be considered under the public works category of the budget.

These additional requests, although the last two are not major items, come on top of several items that City Manager Charles McDonald left out of his proposed budget but strongly recommended for the council's serious consideration. These items, ranging from an additional city clerk to new parking areas for GHI members and dugouts for Braden Field, would add at least \$25,000 to the budget.

In contrast to this, Councilman Ben Goldfaden urged the council to work toward a tax rate 15 to 20 cents lower than the present rate. He considered this necessary to allow for an increased rate of about that amount to cover payments on the bond that may be floated if a citizens' referendum approves such a bond for the construction of the proposed municipal center. Although the budget submitted by the manager is nearly \$60,000 less than the 1957 approved budget (and about \$95,000 less than the budget he proposed last year), this reduction would only effect a tax cut of 1.2 cents, bringing it down to \$1.65.

The serious problem of operating costs took up much of this first budget meeting. Although the matter of the additional city clerk was not discussed directly, the council agreed that it was necessary at least to remove the restriction of \$1.50 an hour maximum for overtime and to permit employees to be paid at a minimum their full hour's pay for overtime work.

This matter came up when Mrs. Mabel Kandler, the city's treasurer and chief accountant, pointed out to the council that this year she has already put in 341 hours overtime (at less than her regular hourly rate) and several times has worked a 12-hour day. This was not due so much to lack of help, although this was considered a

factor, but the result of the expanding and increasingly complicated operation of the city.

A machine accounting system would ease matters, she noted, but it would require \$5,000 to install one and is perhaps not yet warranted. Meanwhile, individual posting of accounts requiring her personal attention has forced her to maintain a killing pace. Councilman Alan Kistler suggested that possibly local housewives skilled in accounting could be hired on a regular part-day basis.

Goldfaden himself recommended that the city purchase a used station wagon for the use of the manager, the recreation director, and other city officials. At the present time, about \$900 a year is allotted to them for gas and oil while using their own private cars on official business. Goldfaden argued that the station wagon would be cheaper over a five-year period, but McDonald felt that repairs and maintenance toward the end of this time would make it far more expensive.

The budget under the present law must be passed by December 20, and it is anticipated that the public open hearing on the budget will be held four or five days prior to that date.

Notice

The News Review regrets that advertising income this week did not cover the cost of printing a 4-page paper. For this reason, we are forced to omit many news items which should have been printed and which our readers should know about.

KRAMER BAR MITZVAH

An open invitation has been extended for the Bar Mitzvah of Kenneth Kramer on Saturday, November 30, at 10 a.m. at the Jewish Community Center, Ridge at Westway. Services will be conducted by Rabbi Morris Gordon.

Donna Jean on Radio

Donna Jean Evans, Greenbelt's young vocalist, makes another nationwide appearance on Saturday, November 30, when she will appear on the Johnny Pearson - ABC Radio show. This will be a live broadcast from New York City. Donna will be representing the Washington area on the 5 p.m. broadcast.

Donna will also appear on the Jerry and Jinna Strong show, Station WMAL, on Friday, November 29. The young songbird recently appeared on the Ted Mack Original Amateur Hour.

WHAT GOES ON

Monday, December 2 - 8 p.m. Regular City Council Meeting, city offices.
Tuesday, December 3 - 8 p.m. Special Council budget meeting, City offices.
Friday, December 6 - 8:15 p.m. GHI board considers budget, Administration Bldg. 8:45 p.m. Duplicate bridge, Social Room, Center School.
Saturday, December 7 - Christmas Ball sponsored by Greenbelt Woman's Club, Greenbelt American Legion Hall. 11:30 a.m. Turkey Trot Run, Braden Field.

Greenbelt Theatre Has New Owner, Manager

Starting Sunday, December 1, the Greenbelt Theatre will be under new ownership and management when Charles Walton, pioneer Prince Georges County theatre manager and resident, assumes ownership. An immediate change in the theatre's opening policy will begin at that time. It will be operated seven days a week, instead of the present four. On Monday through Friday, doors will open at 6:30 p.m., the shows starting at 7 p.m. On Saturday and Sunday, the theatre will open at 12:30 p.m., and shows will start at 1 p.m., running continuously.

Mr. Walton has been with the Sidney Lust Theatres for ten years. Until recently, he also owned and operated the Marlboro Theatre in Upper Marlboro, Md. At various times he has managed the Hyattsville, Kaywood, Chevy Chase, Bethesda, and Viers Mill Theatres for the Lust circuit.

Mr. Walton brings a wealth of experience in show business and motion picture theatre operation to the Greenbelt Theatre. He plans to book many outstanding pictures during the coming months and will run special matinees periodically for children, booking specially recommended films for the small fry.

Recreation Review

Turkey Trot Run

Because of the bad weather last Saturday, the two-mile Turkey Run has been postponed until Saturday, December 7 at 11:30 a.m. Start and finish will be at Braden Field. Rain, sleet, snow, or shine, we will run on December 7. Turkeys to the first three places, with silver tie bars for the first ten.

Photo Club

A Photography club is being formed in Greenbelt. The Club meets on Friday evenings in the kitchen at Center School at 7:30 p.m. All beginners, as well as experts, are welcome. If you have any problems with your camera, just drop by and discuss it with the group.

Golden Age Club

Members of the Golden Age Club have been invited to attend the Women's Club's annual Christmas party at the Community Church at 8 p.m. on December 12.

CASH PRIZES

BIG JACKPOT

BINGO

Every Wednesday Night

Time - 8:30 p.m.

Place - J.C.C. Building
Westway and Ridge

FREE ADMISSION

Monthly Charges May be Increased Next Year to Cover Higher Costs

Faced with an increase in contemplated costs of \$20,000 to \$45,000 for 1958, John O. Walker, manager of Greenbelt Homes, Inc., submitted to the board of directors last Friday night a tentative budget calling for a nominal increase in monthly charges of 1 to 4 percent. The exact amount of the increase cannot be determined, said Walker, since much depends on how the board wishes to handle the increased costs of operation for next year. The board will consider and adopt the budget at the next meeting on Friday, December 6.

The rise in costs is attributable mainly to increased payroll charges (\$18,000), rise in fuel oil costs (\$7,000), and the trim painting program (\$20,000). Offsetting these increases may be a savings in water costs of about \$13,000 and an unused real estate tax reserve item of approximately \$10,000.

GHI comptroller, Roy Breashears, in explaining the reasons for the increased budget, pointed out that labor costs for next year will reflect the adjustment in salary schedules voted by the board in March, 1957, and administrative increments. No additions to the staff are contemplated.

Heating costs in 1958, Breashears said, will continue to reflect the 1957 hike in fuel oil prices. Experience for the first nine months of 1957 shows that fuel oil costs exceeded the budgeted figures at an annual rate of about \$9,000, due primarily to the increased costs of No. 6 fuel oil which is used for the frame buildings.

The \$20,000 trim painting program represents a separate item in next year's budget, Breashears stated. This year, the money for this item was diverted from re-

serves for repairs and maintenance and contract work. If the board wants to put the painting program on a permanent five-year cycle basis, he continued, then the item has to be budgeted separately.

Breashears explained that for every projected \$20,000 increase in budget costs, monthly charges need to be raised on the average by \$1 a month. "This, of course," he added, "does not mean that every unit would get a \$1 raise. Some might get a raise of only 25 cents and others might get a raise of as much as \$1.50, depending on the type of unit."

Some of the 1957 differential between units, Breashears continued, will be traceable to the fact that last year no change was made in monthly charges, although 1956 operating experience indicated that some units should have had increases and others decreases. The board felt at that time that because of the nominal amounts involved it would be less confusing to retain the same charges, leaving the desired adjustments to be incorporated in future changes.

Another minor contributing factor to the differential between units, Breashears stated, is the rounding of monthly charges to the nearest 25 cents.

Following this explanation, discussion was centered on how to keep the increase in monthly charges to a minimum. Walker stated that one uncertain item in the budget is the water and sewerage charges for 1958. This year these costs are running some \$13,000 to \$14,000 less than the budgeted amounts. If this trend continues for 1958, then, Walker suggested, the savings could be used to offset other increases in the budget.

However, he continued, the corporation is faced with an outlay of some \$3,200 next year for the installation of water meters by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission shortly after the first of the year. Also, the combined water and sewerage charge is expected to rise from 34 cents per 1000 gallons, the current city charge, to 41 cents per 1000, the WSSC charge. Thus, Walker said, the board may prefer to use this year's water savings to meet these increased costs.

Some board members, on the other hand, expressed the opinion that with the metering of GHI homes, there will be further savings of 15 percent, due to reduced water consumption and elimination of charges for leakage.

Another possible item which could be used to offset increased costs, Walker advised, was real estate tax reserves of \$10,000, which were set aside in 1956 but not needed to help pay 1957 taxes, which actually ran \$2,000 less than the budgeted amounts. The availability of this item, he cautioned, assumes, of course, no increase in county or city tax rates for 1958.

Pet Violators

In other action, the board added the following eight names to the list of GHI members whose contracts are being terminated for failure to dispose of unauthorized dogs and cats: James L. Brown, 11-G Southway; James Davis, 4-K Ridge; Theodore Diedrich, 73-A Ridge; Louis Fink, 20-J Ridge; Robert Mogel, 1-D Research; John Snoddy, 7-L Southway; Mrs. Ruth Taylor, 25-H Ridge; and William Maguire, 10-P Southway. In answer to an inquiry from Fink, Walker stated that a terminated member will continue to build up equity in his home and retain his status as a member until the action is confirmed by the courts.

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CASH PRIZES
BIG JACKPOT
BINGO
Every Wednesday Night
Time - 8:30 p.m.
Place - J.C.C. Building
Westway and Ridge
FREE ADMISSION



GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Published every Thursday by Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Assn., Inc.
Delivered each week to every home in Greenbelt

Editor - Harry Zubkoff (GR 3-5801)

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Vol. 22

Thursday, November 28, 1957

No. 17

Your

GREENBELT FEDERAL

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CHRISTMAS BALL

A Christmas Ball sponsored by the Greenbelt Woman's Club will be held Saturday, December 7 at the Legion Hall. For table reservations call GR 4-6173.

MASS

St. Hugh's Catholic Church begins a new schedule of Masses for the Winter season on Sunday, December 1. The time schedule is listed in the Church directory of the News Review.

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Reserve Rose Doux	1.79	1.29	.50
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Cotes-du Luberon - red Rhone	1.89	1.39	.50

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ITALIAN WINE

Still White Wine	1.89	1.49	.40
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GREEK WINE

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SPANISH WINE

Rioja - red - sauterne	1.79	1.29	.50
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CHILE

Vintage 1945 Burgundy	1.59	.98	.61
Italian Frascati - light red	1.59	1.09	.50

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