

INQUIRER Council Starts Faring To Fit Budget to Tax Cut

\$2,000,000²³ Must Be Trimmed

City Council yesterday began the job of trimming some \$2,000,000 from municipal expenditures next year to fit the 1943 budget to the one-half of one percent cut it has already agreed to make in the wage tax.

The wage cut, which will reduce the pay envelope levy to 1 percent, will necessitate slashing \$2,047,559 from the budget as tentatively approved last week. Council was told by Councilman L. Wallace Egan.

\$4,744,839 SURPLUS

The preliminary budget figures are \$4,744,839 above the estimated revenue for next year. Egan said, but the city will have a surplus of about \$4,744,839 by the end of this year to apply toward 1943 expenses.

He suggested that the remaining \$2,047,559 be made up as follows:

Return \$600,000 to the general fund from unexpended balances now held by various city bureaus.

Cut \$220,000 from the police payroll and \$150,000 from the firemen's payroll to provide for normal labor turnover in both branches.

SLASH OF AIRPORT ITEMS

Cut \$450,000 from proposed expenditure for the rehabilitation program, as Federal officials have decided unofficially, the city will have to spend \$148,000 for materials and \$118,000 for labor to "patch up" the water system, Neeson said. In addition, he asked \$250,000 to clean the sedimentation basin at the Torresdale pumping station.

Council discussed the possibility of applying some of the \$18,000,000, which was borrowed with approval of the voters two years ago, toward the repairs, but Assistant City Solicitor Herman N. Schwartz said he use of the fund might be illegal for anything but permanent improvements. Council will hold further conferences to settle the question.

\$500,000 REQUIRED

If the War Production Board disapproves the rehabilitation program, as Federal officials have decided unofficially, the city will have to spend \$148,000 for materials and \$118,000 for labor to "patch up" the water system, Neeson said. In addition, he asked \$250,000 to clean the sedimentation basin at the Torresdale pumping station.

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FACES DIFFICULTIES

The Councilman encountered new difficulties as soon as they began auditing Egan's proposed economies. At the request of Director of Public Safety James H. Malone, they reduced the savings in the police and fire payrolls from \$280,000 and \$100,000 to \$150,000 and \$100,000, respectively.

They also cut the sewer saving from \$450,000 to \$300,000, when Neeson warned that the additional sewer construction might become very next year.

PENSION PAYMENT CUT

At the beginning of the session, Council cut the 1943 pension fund payment from \$975,000 to \$825,000. The saving was made possible, according to City Treasurer Edgar Baird, largely because employees' payments toward the fund will increase next year because of salary raises.

The wage increases for city and county workers, already fixed at an additional \$200 for workers receiving up to \$2500, will also apply to those earning between \$3501 and \$4360. Council also approved \$300 increases for those between \$5300 and \$3992; \$250 for those between \$4360 and \$4499, and \$200 for those between \$4500 and \$4999. All increases were made part of the basic salaries, instead of temporary bonuses.

WPB Aides End Water Study Here

Officials of the War Production Board yesterday completed a three-day inspection of Philadelphia's water system and returned to Washington to submit a report which will determine to what extent the city can rehabilitate its water treatment and distribution plants.

Director of Public Works John H. Neeson, who has been trying for months to obtain Government approval of all or part of the city's proposed \$18,000,000 water rehabilitation program, said he thought the latest conference had made progress "toward a solution of the problem."

U. S. AIDES SILENT

The Federal officials, however, maintained a sphinx-like silence. They are Arthur E. Gorman, chief of the War Production Section of the War Production Board, and W. D. Williams, an assistant.

The entire \$18,000,000 program, involving a complete overhaul of the water system, has already been rejected by WPB, according to unofficial reports. Gorman and Williams made their inspections—the latest of many—to determine whether materials could be allocated to Philadelphia in vital piecemeal improvements.

FEELS "ENCOURAGED"

"The Federal men inspected the chlorination and filtration plants, pumping stations, water main extensions and the distribution system generally," Neeson said. "I feel encouraged, because I believe we made considerable progress in arriving at basic conclusions on emergency war-time conditions. Mr. Gorman has a thorough understanding of our problem."

Gorman's report will be submitted to Herbert S. Marks, a top official of the War Production Board, Neeson said he believes "a final decision will be reached within two weeks."

COUNCIL BOOSTS CITY-COUNTY PAY BY \$4,729,500

Budget, \$6,358,318 Short, and Yule Bonuses Aid Incomes of 19,000.

City Council voted \$4,729,500 in pay increases yesterday for the 19,000-odd city and county employees.

First it enacted the \$88,174,707 budget for 1943, which boosts the pay of everybody earning less than \$5000 a year—at a total cost of \$3,737,000.

Approves Christmas Bonus

Council passed the ordinance giving \$992,500 in year-end bonuses—payable before Christmas—to employees whose basic pay was \$2500 or less. Most of the beneficiaries will receive \$50; the comparative handful earning less than \$700 a year will get smaller sums down to \$25.

Acting Mayor Bernard Samuel signed both measures promptly. The budget, enacted just one day in advance of the legal deadline, is temporarily \$6,358,318 short. The estimates of collections from all sources in 1943 total only \$81,816,388. Since income and outgo must balance to the penny in the budget ordinance, the budget as passed ostensibly totals only \$81,816,388 too.

Cut Police and Firemen.

The reduction was effected by arbitrarily cutting the police payroll from \$4,266,918 and the firemen's payroll by \$2,022,000, in anticipation that merging balances and the 1942 surplus which becomes available after the first of the year will be sufficient to make up the shortages.

With the police and fire appropriations restored, the Department of Public Safety payrolls will come to \$19,096,282—by all odds the largest of any city or county department and only about \$300,000 less than those of all the other departments combined.

The \$3,737,000 in pay increases represents a doubling of the "additional compensation" provided this year for employees earning between \$2500 and \$4999. The bonus system is being discarded, however, and the increases have now been added onto the basic scales.

How Pay Boosts Work.

The basic pay of employees earning \$2500 or less is raised by \$200 in the new budget; that of \$3000 in the new budget to \$500 is upped \$250; salaries and wages between \$600 and \$700 are raised \$300; those between \$700 and \$800 are increased \$400; those between \$800 and \$900 are by \$250; those between \$1000 and \$4499 are raised \$250; and those between \$4500 and \$4999 are by a \$300 increase.

The new pay scales, together with a copy of the ordinance providing the Christmas bonus, now must be submitted to the National War Labor Board, but it is not necessary to await the board's approval before paying out the money.

Steps Against Fire Hazard.

Council's Committee on Public Health yesterday approved two ordinances designed to eliminate the imminent hazard of night-time fires on dumps. The measures, covering private operations, come up for final passage Thursday.

Violations of either ordinance subject the offenders to fines ranging from \$25 to 100—or up to 30 days in jail, if the fine is not paid within 10 days.

The committee also approved an ordinance to force the dead-end filling of the existing 25 solution feed chlorinators now located at various stations and to relocate them at filter plants and open reservoirs in the system to meet requirements of the State Department of Public Health.

Extension of Mains.

4. Water Mains: Port Richmond District extension, 4130 feet of 12-inch-diameter cast-iron pipe and 290 feet of 8-inch-diameter cast-iron pipe. Roxborough reinforcing main, 1000 feet 24-inch-diameter cast-iron pipe. The Girard booster district main, 1000 feet of 36-inch-diameter cast-iron pipe.

Fire Hydrants: Replacement of 756 damaged fire hydrants of various types for which repair parts cannot be obtained. The first installation of these hydrants will be in sections where fire risks to war industries are greatest.

Short of Demands.

WPB recommendations fall far short of Neeson's original demands last spring for authorization to proceed with the entire \$18,000,000 water rehabilitation program approved by Philadelphia voters a referendum at the spring time of 1940.

Later he asked permission to build new pumps already on order.

PROGRAM MAY BE DEFERRED

The city's proposed \$18,000,000 water rehabilitation program is apparently being disapproved by Federal officials, but Neeson explained that chlorination facilities should be replaced or extended if the rest of the program must be postponed for a duration.

The "make-shift," he said, does not contemplate increasing the dosage of chlorine in water, but rather improvement of methods of making water potable. Neither city nor Federal officials would comment upon the possible outcome of Gorman's inspection, the latest of many made by WPB representatives.

City Plans Start Of Water Project

Director of Public Works John H. Neeson said yesterday rehabilitation of the city's water system would be started almost immediately with resumption of work on five pumps—three for the Torresdale station and two for Lardner's Point.

Of the 756 hydrants allocated the city by the War Production Board, Neeson said, 276 will be delivered at once. Under the Federal contract permitting a curtailed program, the city will spend about \$1.5 million on the project, which originally called for expenditure of \$6,000,000.

Five Pumps OK'd For Water Works

(Continued From First Page)

tract, where the new Budd bomber plant is being built.

Two at Lardner's Point. 2. Lardner's Point pumping station: Installation in a temporary station now under construction of two new motor-driven centrifugal pumps, each of 25,000, 000-gallon-a-day, rated capacity.

Approval of this installation will be subject to the provision that the city agree to rehabilitate during the next six to nine months all of the present steam-driven pumps, boilers and auxiliaries.

3. Chlorinators: Installation of three new high-capacity chlorinators, with accessories, at the Torresdale filter plant. Approval of this installation is subject to the provision that the city will agree to rehabilitate the existing 25 solution feed chlorinators now located at various stations and to relocate them at filter plants and open reservoirs in the system to meet requirements of the State Department of Public Health.

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City to Get New Pumps, Hydrants

A program providing for the immediate expenditure of \$1,500,000 on repairs and improvements to Philadelphia's water system was approved yesterday by the War Production Board.

A approval followed a conference in Washington between John H. Neeson, the city's Director of Public Works, and Herbert S. Marks, acting director of the WPB Power Division.

PLAN NEW HYDRANTS

The program was described as a "minimum program," and provision was made for additional repairs and improvements when they become necessary in the future.

Improvements are a tentative starting on the projected \$18,000,000 program. The first installation of 756 new hydrants to replace damaged obsolete hydrants. The first installation will be made in sections where fire risks to war industries are greatest. Under one contract the city will receive 276 hydrants immediately, and another 480 at the rate of 80 a month.

3 PUMPS SCHEDULED

Other provisions are:

One pump with a capacity of 6,000,000 gallons a day and two with capacities of 6,000,000 a day each will be installed in a temporary building at the Torresdale Pumping Station. These pumps will reinforce service in the area where the new Budd aircraft plant is being built.

CITY TO GET PIPE

At Lardner's Point, two new motor-driven pumps, each with a capacity of 25,000,000 gallons a day, will be installed in a temporary station now under construction. This installation is conditional on the city's promise to rehabilitate during the next six to nine months all of its present steam-driven pumps, boilers and auxiliaries.

The WPB also approved delivery to the city of 4130 feet of 12-inch diameter cast-iron pipe and 290 feet of 8-inch pipe to be used in Port Richmond; 1000 feet of 24-inch pipe to be used in Roxborough; and 1000 feet of 36-inch pipe to be used at the Girard Booster District Station.

Approves Water Repairs

WPB Approves 5 Pumps For City's Water System

Agency Recommends High Priorities for Equipment; Three High-Capacity Chlorinators and Pipe for Mains Also Okayed.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.— does not mean the seriousness of Philadelphia's antiquated water system will receive a temporary "shot in the arm" as the result of an agreement here today by city officials and WPB engineers.

Under the agreement, WPB's Power Division will recommend that the city be permitted to purchase approximately \$1,250,000 worth of new equipment, even though this diverts contributions directly to the war effort.

City to Spend \$280,000.

The city, for its part, promises to spend about \$280,000 rehabilitating existing machinery and equipment.

Both Philadelphia Public Works Director John H. Neeson and Herbert F. Marks, acting director of WPB's power division, emphasized that the improvements are designed primarily to prevent a breakdown of the city's water system, with a resultant slowing or halting of war production.

Minimum Program.

"We all realize this is a minimum program," Marks told reporters after a conference with Neeson and his engineers. "It does not mean the seriousness of the situation in Philadelphia will be corrected immediately."

Neeson expressed doubt that the program "would see us through the war."

However, he pointed out that the expenditure authorized today is in addition to a \$3,000,000 program which has been underway for 14 months.

"The most satisfactory thing about the agreement," he said, "is that the door is left open for us to come back any time we want to, or when the situation in materials shortages improves."

List of Equipment.

New equipment, for which high priorities are recommended, will consist of:

1. Torresdale purifying station: Installation in a temporary building of three new motor-driven centrifugal high-service pumps, with auxiliaries. Two of the pumps will have a rated capacity of 3,000,000 gallons a day, and the other a rated capacity of 6,000,000 gallons a day. These pumps will reinforce service in the Torresdale high service district.

(Continued on Page 8, Column 1)

PHILADELPHIA NEEDS SARVED BY WPB

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