

Publication of Budget Big Step Forward, but Leaves Trap for Unwary

For citizens who take pride enough in Indianapolis to consider now and then how its municipal affairs are being run by the present city administration, there is food for abundant thought in the annual budget, published in the abbreviated form of an appropriation ordinance, proposed for 1921.

The city council will hold a public hearing upon the proposed budget and tax bill at the city hall, at 7:30 o'clock on the evening of Friday, Sept. 3, at which time any taxpayer has the right to ask questions of make his views known.

Robert E. Tracy, director of the bureau of municipal research of the Chamber of Commerce, is urging each business club of the city to have a man committee the public hearing.

The bureau is interested in the budget because this year it embodies some of the recommendations made after the survey of Indianapolis governmental affairs conducted under the auspices of the bureau three years ago.

This is the first time a budget, or even a condensed form of one, has ever been officially published in the city papers.

Citizens would have known no more about how the Jewett administration proposes to spend the various funds under its supervision in 1921 than ever had not a new law made publication in two newspapers compulsory.

As a result taxpayers who are genuinely interested in what the Jewett forces intend to do with \$1,500,000 more than they asked for last year will not have to hire a private detective and a crew of lawyers to get figures out of officials before the city council takes action.

The publication, as made early this week by the city controller and heads of other departments whose finances are independent of the general city, is not all that might be desired in the way of real information to the taxpayers, although it is better than the old method of pushing this budget without giving the public more than a cursory glimpse of what is going on.

The official publication gives the figures only of the most general items, not going into such interesting details as to how much of a deficit the city expects to have to make up in the operation of the garbage reduction plant, which Mayor Jewett predicted several months ago would pay for itself in five years.

CALCULATED TO WEAKEN PUBLIC CONFIDENCE.

To get hold of some of these highly colorful figures as this one has to call repeatedly at various offices, finally to learn that they may be obtained from only one of them and then to find the responsible official who might permit examination of his records out and not expected to return until morning.

A few taxpayers who this year down the eager desire to learn the truth in most citizens, with the result that so far the general public has been concerned in years gone by city officials, and most other officials, for that matter have done just about as they pleased in financial matters.

The vast majority of taxpayers know little or nothing of the figures in the budget and for much less how they can be twisted and turned and manipulated to suit the purpose of political office holders.

As a service to citizens who may want to attend the public hearing on the budget and tax levy The Times presents this article comparisons of the amounts asked for in various funds for 1921 with the amounts asked to run on this year.

There are plenty of opportunities for finding things to ask the councilmen and city officials about in the budget. One that might be very properly pro-

"Why is it that it is necessary to ask for \$48,836 more for 1921 than in 1920 with which to pay salaries and maintenance of the ash, street cleaning and garbage hauling departments when the board of public health is asking \$5,165.37 less than last year with which to run the City hospital?"

It is not likely that one could elicit a direct and real answer to this query from anybody in the Jewett administration, since such an explanation would necessarily involve the admission that the street cleaning, ash and garbage hauling departments under the personal direction of Tommy R. Riddle, the board of works, hold many soft hands. The political workers picked with a view not to their ability to administer the affairs of these departments cheaply and adequately, but rather in consideration of the number of votes they can hold true to the Jewett machine.

FACT NOT GENERALIZED.

This is something nobody in the city hall is in the habit of frankly admitting. Picked for political reasons?

No, the Jewett henchmen cry in horror, forgetting perhaps, that the interrogator may know about several such circumstantial little incidents as the one involving a certain official in the voting of a tax levy in a near precinct, in the election in which Charles W. Jewett was ostensibly named mayor.

Well, anyway, whether the administration will or will not admit that it has the wrong men hauling ashes and garbage, the fact remains as follows:

The budget compiled last fall shows that a total of \$32,494 was needed this year to pay salaries and maintenance for the street cleaning, ash and garbage hauling departments, while the budget for next year calls for \$371,330 for the same work.

Contrasted with this increase of "young fortune" scope is what the board of public health and charities proposes to do at the City hospital.

The budget for this year called for \$327,435.27 for the operation of the hospital, while for next year only \$322,270 is asked.

How the hospital authorities hope to batter down the high cost of living so as to live on less than this year's income is a question the wide world would like to have answered and an accomplishment which few would lament.

One factor in the answer may lie in

DEPARTMENT OF LAW.	
Judgments, compromises and costs	1921. 1920. 10,000 5,000
Compensation, injured city employees	3,500 2,500
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PURCHASE.	
(Continued From Page One.)	

PRINTING, STATIONERY, MATERIALS, ETC.	
Salaries, assessment bureau	2,460 2,000
Salaries, custodian city hall and employees	19,440 16,540
Salaries, Tomlinson hall custodian and employees	11,085 16,730
Memorials, Tomlinson hall	4,740 3,900
Salaries, board of works and office force	5,211 2,000
Bank and printing and advertising	14,200 13,500
Fire insurance on public buildings	6,000 5,000
Water rents	2,500 1,500
Salaries, ashes and street cleaning	170,000 165,400
Maintenance of equipment and supplies, street cleaning and removal of ashes	26,130
Salaries, garbage collection	45,000
Maintenance, garbage collection	26,260

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE.	
Salaries, mayor's office	1921. 1920. \$11,730 \$11,720
Salaries, city clerk's office	8,500 6,000
Salaries, city council and employees	5,920 5,800
Salaries, controller's office	500
Memorial fund	16,960 13,220
Special city judges	400 300
Primary election registration	320 235
Temporary loan and interest	60,000
Temporary loan and interest	63,000
STREET COMMISSIONER'S DEPARTMENT.	

1921. 1920.	
Office force	12,020 11,510
Office department equipment	408 340
Salaries and wages, unimproved street department	73,341 55,173
Office and supplies	16,884 10,523
Sprinkling department	3,201 2,700
Sprinkling department equipment and supply	68,000 55,440
Sewer department salaries	31,182 24,464
Carpenter department	8,526 3,807
Weld cutting department equipment and supply	12,570 9,434
Weld cutting department equipment and supply	2,880 2,304
Men equipment and supply	72,500 53,353
Street department salaries	60,572 47,788
Brick and block street department salaries	9,020 7,552
Brick and block street department equipment and supplies	14,266 11,116
Walk and curb department salaries	5,698 5,112
Other department salaries	10,978 9,766
City yard department equipment and supply	20,264 12,212
Asphalt plant department salaries	15,007 13,564
Asphalt plant department equipment and supplies	36,105 30,700
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY.	

1921. 1920.	
Board of safety office salaries	\$12,164 \$11,424
Safety office materials and supplies	1,650 1,500
Safety office contractual service	6,222 5,955
Office new equipment	300
Building department material and supplies	2,338 1,650
East market department salaries	14,129 12,620
Brick market materials	900 800
East market contractual service	2,500 2,000
East market land, building and structures	1,000
Land year \$20,000 appropriated for repair of market buildings there being no detail in this year's budget which exactly corresponds)	
Electrical department salaries	53,376
Electrical department material and supplies	15,006
Electrical department new equipment	26,224
The electrical department was not provided for in last year's budget. It is being done under another department, hence there are no figures for this year corresponding with the estimates for next year.)	
Fire department salaries	879,149 611,610
Fire department equipment	27,310 9,950
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS.	

1921. 1920.	
Administration and office	\$14,720 \$13,000
Assessments, bureau	3,420 3,000
Banking	12,000 9,000
Foremen	8,222 7,320
Custodians	22,350 20,550
General Maintenance	204,880 168,550
Supplies and equipment	67,294
RECREATION DEPARTMENT.	

1921. 1920.	
Administration and office	\$8,230
Construction and maintenance	14,108 8,300
Janitors, matrons, guards, etc.	48,590 31,680
Winter work	6,300
Apparatus for playgrounds	11,969 9,190
Materials, supplies, etc.	1,400 1,000
Miscellaneous	17,825 12,000
Additional life guards for swimming pools	5,400
Training school for instructors	1,000
(The two preceding items are for work which has been undertaken by the recreation department heretofore.)	
Total recreation department estimate	114,782 68,194

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