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New Haven budget passes 22 to 7

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New Haven, Conn. (WTNH) - New Haven's much anticipated city budget passed right down to the wire 22 to 7 Thursday night.

A lot of things were on the chopping block and was a full house at New Haven City Hall where parents, students city workers and union workers are all packed into the meeting to hear how board members might reduce the tax burden and save them money.

Alderman debated several amendments including a \$472 million spending plan. That spending plan is expected to include a 4 percent property tax increase which would amount to \$18 a month for the average home owner.

They voted to flat fund Education next year, a reduction of \$1.5 million initially allocated. Students and parents are worried that the city's talented and gifted program will suffer.

Alderman Darnel Goldson proposed sweeping cuts to try and prevent the property tax increase, but his idea was overwhelmingly voted down.

Mayor John DeStefano of New Haven says these are tough choices in a tough economy. "I think this budget is one the public is anxious about because of the current economy," said Mayor John DeStefano. "We've already closed two schools and three senior centers. Most of the salary increases are zero and we don't have contracts in place," said DeStefano.

DeStefano went on to say that the city is looking to protect public safety, however the budget will somewhat shrink the police department. But he says the goal is to make sure the city works together to get the budget done.

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The city is still facing a \$5 million dollar gap that is supposed to be filled with what DeStefano has called 'innovated based budgeting.' Union members are concerned that some of that money will come from them in the form of jobs and benefits as negotiations continue.

Many Alderman said Thursday that no one will walk away from the meeting entirely happy. But they said that cuts have to be made in order maintain education and services in the Elm City.

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Too Long · 7 hours ago 0

I hated the headlines for Ch 3 that were "New budget hurts everyone". Reporters incite riots and make people upset more often than not. I thank everyone that keeps the prop. tax down. It is also passed on in the rent.

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nhlove · 7 hours ago 0

New Haven is a wonderful city, but shrinking down the police presence is not what this city needs right now!

Reply 1 reply · active 55 minutes ago Report

Pup · 55 minutes ago 0

"New Haven is a wonderful city, but shrinking down the police presence is not what this city needs right now! "

Then STOP GIVING TO ILLEGAL ALIENS and you MIGHT have money for police, etc etc. WAKE UP!

Reply Report

Will · 5 hours ago 0

Now that the custodians are going to be out of work and waiting in the unemployment line. Who's Next?

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