

Council Chambers, 4:00 P.M.
Monday, November 2, 1959

Council met in regular session. Present on roll call 5: Anderson, Easterday, Perdue, Porter and Mayor Hanson. Absent 4; Bratrud, Goering, Humiston and Price. Mrs. Goering coming in at 4:40 P.M.

It was moved by Mr. Anderson that the minutes of the meeting of October 26, 1959 be approved as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Easterday. Voice vote was taken on the motion, resulting as follows: Ayes 5; Nays 0; Absent 4, Bratrud, Goering, Humiston and Price.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution No. 15920:

L I D 2196

BY PERDUE:

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Fixing Tuesday, November 24, 1959 at 4:00 P.M. as the date for hearing on L I D 2196 for grading and an oil mat surface on So. 8th from Winnifred to Shirley; So Visscher from So. 18th to So. 19th; also concrete sidewalks on both sides of the west side of Visscher from So. 18th to So. 19th Streets.

It was moved by Mr. Anderson that the Resolution be adopted. Seconded by Mr. Easterday. Voice vote was then taken on the motion, resulting as follows:

Ayes 5; Nays 0; Absent 4, Bratrud, Goering, Humiston and Price.
The Resolution was then declared adopted by the Chairman.

Resolution No. 15921:

BY GOERING:

Authorizing H. E. Franklin, Jr., Traffic Manager and representative of the Tacoma Chamber of Commerce to represent and speak for the City of Tacoma as well as the Tacoma Chamber of Commerce in the hearings on the Trans-Pacific Route Case.

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It was moved by Mr. Anderson that the Resolution be adopted. Seconded by Mr. Easterday.

Mayor Hanson asked what date was scheduled for the hearing?

Mr. Franklin replied that the hearing will start next Tuesday, November 10th in San Francisco.

Mayor Hanson said he was pleased Mr. Franklin was being sent to represent the City and asked if he had any comments he wished to make.

Mr. Franklin said that copies of the exhibits prepared on behalf of the City and the Chamber will be available for examination by any member of the Council desiring them, and also available is a copy of the prepared statement which he will submit at San Francisco on behalf of both the Chamber and the City in support of the applications.

Mr. Anderson said he felt it would be in order to send a letter to the President of the Chamber of Commerce thanking them for sending Mr. Franklin to represent the City at this very important hearing, which will be gratis to the City.

Mr. Rowlands said he would like to mention that on his recent trip to the East while attending to City business, he spent considerable times with the Internal Revenue on behalf of the Chamber's Parking Committee, which, he added, "could balance the account."

Voice vote was then taken on the Resolution, resulting as follows:

Ayes 5; Nays 2; Absent 4, Bratrud, Goering, Humiston and Price.
The Resolution was then declared adopted by the Chairman.

Resolution No. 15922:

BY PRICE:

Authorizing the extension of an agreement with the U. S. Army Engineers to October 31, 1960, relating to the construction of the McMillin Reservoir No. 2.

It was moved by Mr. Easterday that the Resolution be adopted. Seconded by Mr. Anderson.

Mr. Benedetti, Superintendent of Water, said this is in connection with the Eagle Gorge Dam Construction Project, now under way 2 miles up-stream from the City's reservoir. As the Council recalls an agreement was entered into 2 years ago with the Army Corps of Engineers for construction of the McMillan Reservoir, 3 years ahead of schedule. In order to provide for the construction activities up-stream on the intake the agreement at that time provided for re-imbusement to the City for the operation and maintenance costs of the new Reservoir, the depreciation on the Reservoir and interest on the investment for a three year period, all of which amounted to \$256,000. At that time it was contemplated the dam would be finished within the 3 year period. Now it is found it will require another year before completion; therefore, this Resolution will extend the agreement to October 31, 1960 at an additional amount of \$16,500.00.

Voice vote was then taken on the Resolution, resulting as follows:

Ayes 5; Nays 0; Absent 4, Bratrud, Goering, Humiston and Price.

Mr. Anderson moved to suspend the rules in order that Resolution No. 15923, which is not on the agenda, be taken up at this time. Seconded by Mr. Porter. Voice vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes 5; Nays 0; Absent 4, Bratrud, Goering, Humiston and Price.

Resolution No. 15923:

BY HANSON:

351 Authorizing the proper officers of the City to make such contracts and agreements with the Cummings Boat Company as may be necessary to facilitate additional repairs to the Tacoma Fireboat.

It was moved by Mr. Easterday that the Resolution be adopted. Seconded by Mr. Anderson.

Mr. Rowlands said this is in regard to the fireboat repair and passed out information for additional repairs needed on the Fireboat. He said these repairs were not discovered until the boat was in drydock. Mr. Buckner, the Marine Surveyor who was hired to inspect the vessel found that this work was needed to make the boat seaworthy.

The Council has already appropriated \$10,000 for the repair work which was considered sufficient at the time, but this recent disclosure has increased the amount to an additional \$15,000.

Harold Fisk, Fire Chief, said he has been informed by Capt. Buckner and also by the Cummings Boat Co. that when a boat is in water and a survey is made the estimate of cost for the bottom of the boat is not determined until the boat is put in drydock and sandblasted, then further examination is made into its condition.

Chief Fisk called the Council's attention to the item of \$4,041.00 which concerns ringing rivets. It was found that over 900 rivets had to be recapped. Also when they sandblasted the boat a hole was found that had to be patched. He pointed out that the boat is thirty years old and has been in the water two years since last being in drydock, and added that there were so many barnacles on the bessel that when the recent survey was made by the National Board of Fire Underwriters only 88% of the efficiency of the boat was found to be true. Therefore this additional repair work will help in the survey expected later on.

Mr. Anderson said he felt the boat should be put in drydock every year in order that the bottom be painted to preserve the boat.

Chief Fisk said this previously was the policy but it was found with the plastic coating now being used that eighteen months was sufficient time as recommended by the Navy Department. Due to the length of time of the bid and due to the strike, it has been two years now. Chief Fisk added that they now recommend that the boat come up every year as it is thirty years old.

Mr. Anderson said it seemed the City has been negligible in the upkeep of the boat and a great deal of the expense now is caused by improper care and inspection of the boat in the past. He said he would recommend the boat be drydocked every year.

Mr. Rowlands said the point is that this is the first year a real thorough examination of the boat has been made by a Marine Surveyor. He thought perhaps this should have been done sooner.

Mayor Hanson said this is quite obvious a situation where it was felt in the past that funds were not sufficient to give the boat all the care it needed. Now it is found that this work has to be done. When Mr. Buckner was called in, it was expected that he would find additional repairs. Now it happens the repairs needed are more extensive than expected.

Voice vote was then taken on the Resolution, resulting as follows:

Ayes 5; Nays 0; Absent 4, Bratrud, Goering, Humiston and Price.
The Resolution was then declared adopted by the Chairman.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES:

Ordinance No. 16449:

Amending Sec. 6.64.050 (b) of the Official Code of the City in reference to Occupations Subject to Tax - increasing the Occupation tax on persons engaged in the distribution of natural gas from 2% to 3% per annum, effective January 1, 1960. Read by title. 411

Mr. Rowlands said this matter was discussed by the Council before adopting the 1960 Budget. As the Council recalls this 1% increase will represent about \$19,500 in revenue for the City.

Mr. Leland Jones, Southern Regional Manager of Washington Natural Gas Co., said the Gas Co. now pays to the City forty times as much tax on the sale of fuel as its competition would pay on the same scale. The Gas Co. is paying five and one-half times as much money this year to the City as compared to 1956. All taxes are paid

one way or another by the Company's customers. In Tacoma 47½% or nearly one-half of all revenues come from six large Industrial customers. The 1% proposed increase would raise for the City approximately another \$20,000, nearly half of which will come from revenues of these six customers.

Competitive fuel prices are such today that small differences in price become a deciding factor in fuel choice for Industry. If the Gas Co. should lose one-half the business of these six Industries by reason of the price increase, the City would lose in tax revenue \$18,000 per year at the present 4% rate or practically the total increase expected from the 1% added tax rate.

If the Council decides such an increase is necessary, they would like to make a recommendation that the Ordinance be amended in paragraph 6.64.050 (b) by inserting "except that the tax rate over 2% shall apply only to the first \$2,500.00 per month on any one gas customer's bill." This would preserve present tax revenues also tend to insure that a change will not be made locally by the larger Industries in the fuel they now use, thus insuring greater net tax revenue to the City. This proposal will produce \$12,000 of added revenue to the City plus whatever increase comes from added sales.

Mrs. Goering coming in at 4:40 P.M.

Mr. Sherman of the Hooker Chemical Co., said his company is one of the Gas Company's largest customers and concurs in Mr. Jones' statements. He said about a year and a half ago residual oil prices dropped and became a very serious competitive element. Hooker Chemical Company at that time, very seriously considered going back to using oil, but finally renewed their contract with the Gas Company.

Mayor Hanson said this Ordinance will come up for final reading next Monday and if they desire at that time, the matter can be continued to a later date. The Ordinance was then placed in order of final reading.

Ordinance No. 16450:

328 Granting the renewal of a franchise to the Consumers Central Heating Co., at a rate of 4%, effective January 1, 1960. Read by title.

Mayor Hanson said he talked with Mr. Roger Peck, a representative of the Consumers Central Heating Co, who said they would not object to the 4% rate although they felt it very high. He said they realize the City is in need of funds therefore they will not dispute the raise. However, because of the various problems involved in financing improvements they would like to have a term extended to twenty years instead of the ten years as provided for in the Ordinance.

Mr. McCormick said as far as franchises are concerned they are usually a long term contract. The Charter under Article 8 provides for the right of the Council to repeal, amend or modify a franchise, with due regard to the rights of the grantee in the interest of the public. In his opinion, in view of that protection, this Ordinance could very well provide for a term of twenty years.

Mr. Anderson then moved that the Ordinance be amended to a twenty year term. Seconded by Mr. Easterday. Voice vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes 6; Nays 0; Absent 3, Bratrud, Humiston and Price. Motion carried.

The Ordinance was then placed in order of final reading.

Ordinance No. 16451:

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361 Amending the Official Code of the City relating to zoning by adding a new section to be known as Sec. 13.06.050 (2) to include the southeast corner of So. 38th and L Street in the "R-3" - Two Family Dwelling District. Read by title. (Petition of Orrin L. Anderson.)

Mayor Hanson said the Planning Commission has held a public hearing on this rezoning and has recommended approval of the reclassification. There being no further discussion the Ordinance was then placed in order of final reading.

Ordinance No. 16452:

Amending the Official Code of the City relating to zoning by adding a new section to be known as Sec. 13.06.120 (12) to include the area bounded by No. 45th, Visscher, No. 46th and Pearl Sts. in the "C-1" Commercial District. Read by title.

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Mayor Hanson said this also carries the recommendation of the Planning Commission. A super market and drug store to be housed in a one-story building is planned for the site.

Mr. Perdue said he would like to have the members of the Council look over the property in question. In his opinion, he felt it is a very poor place to have a super market. It is possible, if certain safeguards are taken, that this can be done without too much injury to the public.

He said he felt it would create a potential traffic hazard to the neighboring Pt. Defiance School and to residents, fronting adjacent non-arterial streets. He also felt that the property value of home owners would be harmed by the service entrances facing No. 46th Street.

Mr. Buehler said although the City has no control under the present Zoning Ordinance regarding site development, applicants are usually agreeable to any suggestions offered by the Planning Commission. Suggestions were made to the applicant in regard to the problems mention by Mr. Perdue and he felt a letter of intent could be obtained from Mr. Hogan that these suggestions would be followed.

Mr. Rowlands said this matter would be looked into further and additional information would be available for the next Council meeting. The Ordinance was then placed in order of final reading.

Mr. Anderson moved to suspend the rules to take up Ordinance No. 16453, not appearing on the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Easterday. Voice vote taken on the motion resulted as follows: Ayes 6; Nays 0; Absent 3, Bratrud, Humiston and Price.

Ordinance No. 16453:

Appropriating the sum of \$15,000 or so much as may be necessary for the purpose of repairing the City Fireboat. Read by title.

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Mr. Rowlands said this Ordinance is related to Resolution No. 15923, which the Council has just passed, in regard to the repair of the Fireboat. He explained that the \$15,000 needed for this repair has to be taken out of the City's anticipated surplus fund, thereby creating a very serious problem by reducing the already limited surplus funds. The Ordinance was then placed in order of final reading.

Mr. Porter said he understood that boating safety enthusiasts plan to ask that the City acquire a small boat with which to enforce harbor regulations and to clear "deadheads" from the bay.

Mr. Rowlands said the City definitely has such a program in mind, but the City finances being so limited, it is hoped that someone will donate the boat.

Mr. Anderson asked if the program could be financed through the assessment of fines.

Mr. McCormick, City Attorney, said the City has the authority to set water regulations and enforce them through fines.

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FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES:

Ordinance No. 16443:

Vacating that portion of So. Shirley Street and the alley between Shirley and Winnifred and south of Sixth Avenue. (Petition of Margaret Schoenbaechler) Read by title and passed.

Roll call: Ayes 6; Nays 0; Absent 3, Bratrud, Humiston and Price.

Ordinance No. 16444:

L I D 2291

Approving and confirming the Assessment Roll for L I D 2291 for grading and placing an oil mat surface on East F and East G Streets from East 84th to East 86th Streets. Read by title and passed.

Roll call: Ayes 6; Nays 0; Absent 3, Bratrud, Humiston and Price.

Ordinance No. 16445:

L I D 2303

Approving and confirming the Assessment Roll for L I D 2303 for an oil mat surface on So. 40th Street from Pine to Cedar and on the west side of Pine from So. 40th to 120 feet north. Read by title and passed.

Roll call: Ayes 6; Nays 0; Absent 3, Bratrud, Humiston and Price.

Ordinance No. 16446:

L I D 2304

Approving and confirming the Assessment Roll for L I D 2304 for grading and an oil mat surface on Ferdinand Street from No. 41st to No. 42nd Street. Read by title and passed.

Roll call: Ayes 6; Nays 0; Absent 3, Bratrud, Humiston and Price.

Ordinance No. 16447:

L I D 2257

Providing for the improvement of L I D 2257 for Sidewalks on So. 72nd Street from Pacific Avenue to Sheridan Avenue. Read by title and passed.

Roll call: Ayes 6; Nays 0; Absent 3, Bratrud, Humiston and Price.

Ordinance No. 16448:

L I D 1987

Approving and confirming the Assessment Roll for L I D 1987 for sanitary sewers in So. 84th Street from J to Sheridan and in Sheridan from So. 84th to So. 78th Street; also in D from So. 88th to So. 92nd and from D to C Streets south to 92nd St. Read by title and passed.

Roll call: Ayes 6; Nays 0; Absent 3, Bratrud, Humiston and Price.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The Director of Public Works presents the assessment roll for the cost of the improvement in L I D 4639 for permanent paving in the south end area bounded by So. 35th - Pacific Ave; So 74th and Sheridan Ave.

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The Director of Public Works presents the assessment roll for the cost of the improvement in L I D 4654 for grading and curbs and gutters on So. 37th from Hosmer to Ainsworth and in Wilkeson from 37th to 38th Street.

It was moved by Mr. Perdue that December 8, 1959 be fixed as the date for hearings on the above Assessment rolls. Seconded by Mr. Anderson. Voice vote on the motion resulted as follows: Ayes 6; Nays 0; Absent 3, Bratrud, Hamiston & Price.

ITEMS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK:

Report from the Tacoma Transit System for/September 1958 and 1959.

Report from the Light, Water and Belt Line Division for the month of Sept. 1959.

COMMENTS:

Mr. Rowlands, City Manager, said the Council received in their Second Agenda ³⁵⁸ material MC-276 on Revisions to Taxicab and Ambulance Rates. These suggestions were submitted by representatives of the taxicab and ambulance companies. The staff compiled information on taxicab rates from other Cities for the Councils information. The adoption of the requested rates would give Tacoma a slightly higher rate than Seattle and Spokane but a slightly lower rate than Portland. It should also be noted as pointed out by the companies concerned that the present rates have been in effect since December of 1952.

Representatives of the ambulance service indicate that their increases are necessary to compensate for the increased costs in equipment, operations and insurance. The rate agreed upon by the Washington Ambulance Association is \$14 plus 60 cents a mile per passenger. The rates vary in different localities according to local conditions.

Mr. Anderson felt if the rates were equitable in 1952 they are not equitable now and these companies are entitled to a raise. He then requested that the necessary Ordinance be brought in to enable this increase.

Mr. Rowlands called the Council's attention to the Legislative Bulletin from the Association of Washington Cities on "Additional Street Funds for Your City." He said he felt there was much in the report that would interest the Council members. The report brings out the point that under present law allocating user funds, the City residents are subsidizing county roads to a far greater extent than county residents themselves. Each time an automobile owner, who is a resident of a city, buys a gallon of gas he pays out 2.17¢ for county roads and only 7 mills for his own city streets which is not enough to maintain them.

The need is for a reallocation of the gas tax and only through the united efforts of the cities can the present inadequacies of gas tax allocation be resolved.

Mr. Rowlands also mentioned that the meeting of the First Class Cities was to be held at the Davenport Hotel in Spokane, Thursday, November 12th at 10:00 A.M.

Mr. Rowlands said he had a lengthy report to make to the Council on meetings ³⁶³ attended while in Washington D.C. This would be a written report however and would be sent to the Council members during the week. The one point to stress now was that the hearings on the Airport situation would be held locally on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th of December and the decision should definitely be reached in January.

Mr. Anderson said the final report meeting of the United Good Neighbors will be appreciated if the Council members will be in attendance. He said the 80% mark has

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almost been reached and it is hoped to be over the top by next week. \$750,000 has been collected so far.

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Mrs. Narrigan of 921 East 56th Street complained of the condition in which her property was left after the construction of the sidewalks in the area. She said the grade elevation is going to make it necessary to put in about a two foot wall. Her neighbor, Mrs. Hammer, is also dissatisfied with the way her property has been affected. They have both talked to the engineers' office but have received no satisfaction as yet. Therefore, she is presenting the situation to the Council, she added.

Mr. Schuster, Public Works Director, said he has not been aware of the problem but would certainly investigate the matter and attempt to reach an amicable agreement with the parties concerned.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion duly seconded and passed, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 P.M.


Mayor of the City Council

Attest:


City Clerk