

Council Chambers, 4:00 P.M.  
Monday, December 15, 1958

Council met in regular session. Present on roll call 9; Anderson, Bratrud, Easterday, Goering, Humiston, Perdue, Porter, Price and Mayor Hanson.

It was moved by Mr. Anderson that the minutes of the meeting of December 8, 1958 be approved as submitted. Seconded by Dr. Humiston; carried unanimously. Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0;

PETITIONS:

Edward P. Miller, et al, for replat of area north of No. 17th Street between Alfred St; and Miller's Skyline Terrace 2nd addition, and fixing February 2, 1959 as the date for hearing. 582

Mr. Easterday moved that February 2, 1959 be the date set for hearing on Mr. Miller's petition. Seconded by Mr. Bratrud. Roll call: Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution No. 15579

BY HANSON:

Fixing Tuesday, January 27, 1959 at 4:00 P.M. as the date for hearing on L I D 2295 for grading and placing a gravel oil mat on Orchard Street from So. 19th to No. 9th and from No. 16th to No. 26th Street. 585  
578

It was moved by Mr. Bratrud to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Mr. Anderson.

Adopted on roll call December 15, 1958  
Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

Resolution No. 15580

BY ANDERSON:

Fixing Tuesday, January 13, 1959 at 4:00 P.M. as the date for hearing on L I D 5287 for cast iron water mains in So. 12th from Pearl to Woodlawn St; Pearl from 6th Ave. to So. 19th; So. 19th from Pearl St. to Woodlawn; So. 15th from Pearl to Woodlawn and from Woodlawn from So. 11th to So. 19th Street and rescinding Resolution No. 15108, adopted on September 16, 1958. 576

It was moved by Mr. Bratrud to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Mr. Perdue.

Resolution No. 15581

BY BRATRUD:

Fixing Tuesday, January 13, 1959 at 4:00 P.M. as the date for hearing on L I D 5306 for cast iron water mains in Orchard Street from No. 18th to No. 21st St. 576

Adopted on roll call December 15, 1958  
Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

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It was moved by Mrs. Price to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Mr. Perdue.

Adopted on roll call December 15, 1958  
Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0

Resolution No. 15582

BY HANSON:

Authorizing the City Attorney to settle the claim of David L. Glenn in the amount of \$628.26 for damages sustained to his property as the result of sewage flowing into the basement of his house on or about June 5, 1958.

It was moved by Mr. Perdue to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Mr. Anderson.

Adopted on roll call December 15, 1958  
Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0

Resolution No. 15583

BY EASTERDAY:

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Authorizing the proper officers of the City to enter into a tentative agreement to supply water to the Town of Fife.

Mr. Perdue said there was some history to this Resolution. At the time the hearings were held on the incorporation of Fife, the discussion was that Fife wanted to take over some territory that Tacoma hoped to have as a natural part of its industrial area for the reason they felt they could benefit from it tax wise. At these hearings before the County Commissioners, Tacoma pointed out that Fife did not have proper water supply in that area. Fife protested that they did have water, that they needed no water from Tacoma and had experts there to back them up.

He said Fife has taken this area which Tacoma needs for its tax base as a city needs sources other than residences in order to have reasonable tax rates. Now by this Resolution it appears that the city is willing to furnish them water. If we do this for Fife it would appear we are inviting other areas to do the same.

He said Tacoma had to build reservoirs, the last few years to hold enough water to supply Tacoma's needs and it does not seem proper that we should extend the water line to take care of such an area particularly under such circumstances. For that reason he will oppose the Resolution.

Mr. Anderson said he had attended the hearings on the Fife Annexation, and at that time Fife's engineers brought up that they had sufficient water to supply the area. He felt the City would be making a mistake by supplying water to the town of Fife.

Dr. Humiston said that he would also vote "no" on this Resolution for the reasons pointed out by Mr. Perdue and Mr. Anderson. Dr. Humiston said this Council went on record approximately three years ago soliciting the opportunity to work with various adjacent communities to study the desirability or undesirability of annexation to the City of Tacoma. The way the statute read, the only way we can operate under these circumstances is on a strictly voluntary basis and the initiative for action must come from outside the City. He said he feels for the best interests of all the people in this area who are going to be served, that we have one single

metropolitan government for the area. His suggestion was that this Resolution be postponed and that there be a cooperative study on the adjacent communities by the Public Works Department in reference to water, sewerage, storm drains and fire protection and that they meet with the officials of Fife to determine if they are better off by being a separate community, before Council passes on this Resolution.

Mayor Hanson said he thought the initial responsibility was to serve the people in the City of Tacoma but, if extending the services to the City of Fife in no way limits this capacity in any degree, he would be in favor of passing this Resolution.

Mr. Hudson, Chairman of the Utility Board said he thought from the Utilities standpoint it was a good opportunity to pick up \$6,000 a year with no investment whatever. He said they understand that the City of Fife has other possible supplies of water if Tacoma does not supply them.

Mr. Murray, Utility Board member, said the town of Fife would pay the entire cost of connecting to the main and installing meters and the City would furnish them water which would bring to the Water Department \$6,000 a year. He said this Resolution was the recommendation from the Supt. of Water and the Director of Utilities. If the town of Fife doesn't get the water from the City of Tacoma they will get it elsewhere, perhaps at a little more cost, but if they do, there might be a resentment on their part towards the City, he added.

Mr. Barline pointed out that it would be to the advantage of the people of Fife to be annexed to the City of Tacoma, otherwise Fife would have to charge the present water rate plus their own fee for operational expenses, etc.

Dr. Humiston again suggested that they invite the City officials of Fife to meet with the officials of the City to determine what are the facts. He said it may be that with respect to water only, they may be better off to have water supplied to them, but if there was an examination of the facts they may want to do it some other way. He said he was interested in getting the facts out before both the people of Tacoma and the people of Fife.

Mayor Hanson said he certainly had no objection of going into a thorough study of the matter and bringing out the facts surrounding the problems of the City of Fife.

Mr. Barline pointed out that this matter first came up through a letter received from the Fife officials asking whether or not they could be serviced with water and they replied by sending them a copy of the Ordinance setting up the rates and also a copy of the Ordinance that had to do with the sale of Utilities outside of the City. Some of the Fife officials had discussions with Mr. Benedetti, Supt. of Water, and as a result of this meeting a letter was received from them stating that the meeting with Mr. Benedetti and Mr. Baarslag concerning the feasibility of extending the water system into the Fife area and the proposed rates met with their approval and they are now ready to engage an engineering firm to determine the routes and cost. However, in order to commence the survey it will be necessary for them to be advised and assured of the source of the location and supply.

Mr. Barline said they can't help but feel that Fife being in the location that it is, a part of the metropolitan area of Tacoma, will eventually become a part of the City. He said they would like to see a system go into Fife that can be coordinated with the City's system and be properly operated and not a sub-standard system. This Resolution that is before the Council at present is not an authorization to permit the Water Department to sell water to the town of Fife at this time, but permit the Water Depart-

ment to negotiate with the town of Fife to try to work out the details of a contract and also give them assurance of employing a firm to determine the routes and cost.

Dr. Humiston moved that the Resolution be set over for four weeks until January 12, 1959 and that the Director of Utilities and the City Manager and their technical staff meet with the officials of Fife and examine the possible joint use of various utilities and examine the cost under different approaches including that of annexation.

Mayor Hanson brought out that he saw no objection to passing this Resolution now and allowing the officials to obtain the information necessary. He said he would rule that these two motions be taken up separately.

Dr. Humiston moved that the Resolution be set over for four weeks until January 12, 1959. Seconded by Mr. Anderson.

Mr. Rowlands said that as he understands the situation Dr. Humiston is not only interested in the matter of supply water but is also interested in gathering information on other Utilities such as sewers, storm drains, street lighting, which should be encompassed in this study.

Mr. Bratrud said he was opposed to this Resolution for the reason that it states in the Resolution in the next to the last paragraph that "is hereby authorized to negotiate and reduce to writing a tentative contract for sale of water to the town of Fife." He said from his interpretation, it appears that the City is going to enter into a contract with the, and he felt the City has not sufficient information to go into a contract with fife at this time. For that reason he is opposed to passing this Resolution.

Vote was then taken on Dr. Humiston's motion to postpone the Resolution for four weeks. Roll call: Ayes 7; Nays 2, Price and Mayor Hanson; Absent 0.

It was moved by Dr. Humiston that the Council request the City Manager and the Utility Board to have their staff accumulate the information on the cost of the various utilities to the town of Fife with comparative figures as to the effect of annexation on these costs. Seconded by Mr. Porter. Roll call: Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

Resolution No. 15584

BY ANDERSON:

Retaining Engineers for the purpose of preparing the necessary plans, specifications and design for the construction of a partial covering of the Hood Street Reservoir - Yakima Avenue Bridge.

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Mr. Easterday said that Mr. Benedetti, Superintendent of Water, told the Council a week ago that there were men on his staff capable of doing this job and Mr. Easterday felt that it would be to the best interests of the City of Tacoma for the Utility Department to do this construction if a partial covering of the Hood Street Reservoir.

Mr. Easterday made a motion that the Water Department be requested to prepare the necessary plans, specifications and design for the construction of a partial covering of the Hood Street Reservoir. Seconded by Mr. Anderson.

Mr. Anderson asked Mr. Benedetti if he had engineers capable of designing this covering.

Mr. Benedetti said they did have, but the reason this was not considered in the beginning was because it was thought that the contract with Mr. Whitacre included the bridge and appurtenances, and on that basis it was agreeable to the Water Department at that time that the engineering was to be performed by Mr. Whitacre and that he was to consult with the Water Department for their final approval of the plans and specifications. He said the Water Department had proceeded on this basis. The Water Department is primarily interested in some protective measure being taken and were very pleased that the Council saw fit to go along with their recommendation and that of the State Health Department to protect the Reservoir from contamination.

Mr. Rowlands said they have had many conferences with the Utility Board and there was no question that the Engineers were capable of handling this job, but thought due to their tight schedule that some other project would suffer.

Mayor Hanson asked Mr. Easterday if it would be acceptable to him and his second if his motion would state that a Resolution be drawn and be referred to the Utility Board for their consideration. This was acceptable to Mr. Easterday and his second.

Mr. Perdue asked what difference would the cost be if the Utility Department did this job. He wondered if it would run in excess to what it would be if Mr. Whitacre did the job.

Mr. Benedetti said they had not yet prepared an estimate. He said he couldn't say whether \$62,500 is too little or too much.

Mr. Rowlands, City Manager, said it was his understanding that the Utility Board and Staff would want to conceivably anticipate the complete coverage of the Reservoir in the future as he understands this question has come up periodically in the past eight or ten years as to the desirability of covering all reservoirs. Therefore, he felt there would have to be a differentiation of cost of what is involved, in anticipating the complete covering of the whole reservoir over a portion which would be done whether the Water Department staff is working with the consultants or not.

Mr. Easterday then restated his motion that the City Attorney draw up a Resolution requesting the Utility Board to have their staff prepare the necessary plans, specifications and design of the construction of a partial covering of the Reservoir. Seconded by Mr. Anderson. Roll call: Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

It was then moved by Dr. Humiston, seconded by Mr. Bratrud that Resolution No. 15584 be considered. Roll was then taken on the Resolution, resulting as follows:

Ayes 0; Nays 9; Absent 0  
Lost on roll call December 15, 1958

Resolution No. 15585

BY GOERING:

Resolution No. 15585

BY GOERING:

Approving the proposed grade elevations on the route of Primary State Highway No. 1 over-crossing the Freeway above South "M" St; between South Tacoma Way and So. 34th Streets.

Mr. Rowlands said the engineering staff of the Public Works Department and the Planning Department carefully checked this proposal.

Mr. Schuster explained that the highway department has asked the City to approve the grades on "M" Street between South Tacoma Way and South 34th so as to regrade it so the overpass can run over "M" Street and come down the hill to South Tacoma Way. He said their department is very anxious to get this going because they have anticipated the City spending some money on straightening the curve in the "M" Street hill but the State will be taking care of this now.

Dr. Humiston moved that the Resolution be adopted. Seconded by Mr. Easterday.

Adopted on roll call December 15, 1958  
Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0

Resolution No. 15586

BY BRATRUD:

Authorizing the payment of the sum of \$6,094.64 annually to Pierce County pursuant to the authority of RCW 35.21.430 for the benefit of all taxing districts within which the properties of the Puget Sound Power and Light Co., heretofore acquired by the City be paid out of the 8% gross earnings tax.

Mr. Rowlands, City Manager, explained that a couple of weeks ago the Council had directed two Resolutions to the Utilities Department with the recommendation that another Resolution be prepared indicating that this \$6,094.64 be absorbed by the Utility Department rather than to be taken out of the earnings going to the General government. These Resolutions were considered by the Utility Board and as a result this Resolution was passed by the Board and forwarded to the Council. Mr. Rowlands said he did not know what other information the Council desires. He said they have obtained some information from the legal staff on some of the legal aspects on making such a payment if the Council desires. Perhaps Council would like to hear from the Utilities Department as to what is being done in three or four other instances where a similar arrangement has been entered into in the past. He said he thought they would like to point out that there are other payments being made in lieu of taxes to other governmental bodies by the Utility Board so what the Council has here is unusual, in that it is a departure from the established practice that has been followed by them in the past.

Mr. Easterday asked how much will this bring the City by virtue of the Utility Department taking this additional load.

Mr. Barline said this load was bringing in an estimated \$200,000 gross revenue. There is an 8% tax on that which is bringing into the City in the way of tax some \$16,000 a year. He said the amount involved in this Resolution is \$6,000.

Mr. McCormick said he had prepared a ten page opinion concerning the validity of the payment of a tax of 8% from the gross revenues of the Light Division to the General Fund. In those instances where Tacoma City Light is making payments in lieu of taxes to other taxing bodies which will be distributed

to the Council members at this time. He said he felt this was entirely up to the Council if they wished to pay the \$6,000 out of the 8% gross earnings tax. If so, then the existing Ordinance would have to be changed.

Mr. Rowlands said he felt Council should have this other question answered: Are there any other agreements entered into by the Utility Board with other agencies, school districts, P.U.D.'s, etc, if there has been this same procedure in the past, or if this is a new procedure.

Dr. Humiston said he objected to the provision in the Resolution that originally came from the Utility Board which made this payment deducted from the 8% gross earnings tax. He said he felt this question is contrary to the language of the Charter. He said he checked the 1927 Charter which is the same as the 1953 Charter except the amount was 7½% instead of 8%. If it is contended that this 8% gross earnings tax is something that is paid in lieu of what we would receive if there was a property tax levied against the Utilities, that is one thing. However, that is not what the Charter says. He then read the following Section from the Charter: "The Council may by Ordinance impose upon any of the City operated utilities for the benefit of the general fund of the City, a reasonable gross earnings tax which shall not be disproportionate to the amount of taxes the Utility or Utilities would pay if privately owned and operated, and which shall not exceed 8%." He said the conception of this was that many years ago the City Fathers recognized that the property tax was to support the General Fund. They recognized that they had a municipally owned Water and Light Utility and that it was proper to levy on those two operations a certain gross earning tax. He said there is nothing in this language which would indicate to him this gross earning tax was for anything other than a way for the City to raise revenue for its general government. He said he did not feel that it was proper to take some one portion of the operation of the Utilities and separate it. The important matter is whether the Utilities are paying an amount disproportionate to what they would pay if they were privately owned and operated.

Mr. Hudson, Chairman of the Utility Board, said it was the desire of all the members of the Utility Board to cooperate and work harmoniously with the City Council in all matters that come up. He said the Utility Board feels that their responsibility is to protect the funds of the City Light and it is the unanimous opinion of all the members that this \$6094 in lieu of taxes be paid out of the 8%. He said he had asked Mr. Paul Nolan, Attorney for the Utility Department, for an interpretation of the Charter. He said he would like to have Mr. Murray go into more detail on how the Board based their conclusion.

Mr. Murray said he did have a part in drafting the 1927 Charter, and felt that the objective back of that Section, mentioned by Dr. Humiston, that the publicly owned utilities would pay the same amount of taxes as if they were privately owned was in order to destroy the argument made against Public owned utilities that they were tax favored.

According to studies made by the State Tax Commission and the Public Service Commission private companies are paying less than 8%. He said this is a new situation in part as the Utility goes outside of the City limits and acquires property that is entirely outside and from which the City has been getting nothing at all. By virtue of this, he said, they picked up an estimated \$200,000 worth of revenue which means the City's General Fund picks up some \$16,000. That "gross earnings tax", he thought, was intended to be in "lieu of the property tax." These property owners on the outside were paying some taxes because they were privately owned. They were paying this \$6,000 we are talking about. The legislature saw fit to say, when Seattle

acquired their Puget Sound properties a couple of years ago, that in such cases the City could enter into an agreement to pay the taxes that had been previously paid on that private property. He said it was very evident that this particular tax, like the Utility Tax, is one in lieu of property taxes the private owner would pay.

He said this is the first time the Council has been faced with the problem of the Utilities going out and acquiring property thereby increasing the City's revenues. As a matter of policy, and fairness he felt the Council should keep the Utilities on a parity with what they would be paying if they were privately owned. In other words to take the net in this case rather than the gross.

Mr. Bratrud said that inasmuch as Mr. Murray thought in "all fairness" this tax should be paid, why not increase the rates enough to take care of the \$6,000. If this amount is paid, regardless of who pays it, the City of Tacoma will be getting less net from servicing those outside users than what we are receiving in the City of Tacoma.

Mr. Barline said that by taking over these customers the City's General Fund is getting 8% or \$16,000 that it wouldn't otherwise receive. He then pointed out the City of Spokane as an example. It receives no portion of any of the revenue of the Washington Water Power outside of the City of Spokane. Here the City of Tacoma is getting revenue from an area outside of the City.

Mr. Bratrud then asked what is the question, is it the \$6,000 that the Utilities would like to save for the City Light?

Mr. Barline said the question is that they felt on these particular property that they are being required not only to pay the 8% to the City which is in lieu of taxes but they are also required to pay an additional \$6,000 to Pierce County.

Mr. Bratrud again mentioned that if the rates were raised 3% they could pick up this \$6,000. He said he didn't think the City should sell electricity to outsiders for the same rate anyone pays inside of the City. He felt they should make a better profit outside the City.

Inasmuch as the opinion prepared by the City Attorney was not distributed earlier for the Council members to study, it was moved by Dr. Humiston that the Resolution be set over one week, seconded by Mr. Anderson. Roll call: Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

Mayor Hanson thanked the Utility Board members for appearing before the Council on this matter and agreed with Mr. Hudson on his remarks previously made in the meeting that it was the duty of the Board members to protect the interests of the Utilities Department. "This is the reason our Charter has set up a separate Utility Board," he added.

#### FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES:

Ordinance No. 16236

Amending Sections 1.12.330 and 1.12.350 of the Official Code of the City in reference to the Pay and Compensation Plan for employees of the Belt Line Division. Read by title.

Mr. Rowlands explained that this amendment to the compensation plan makes it possible to pay the employees of the Belt Line Division, bi-weekly, the same as other employees of the City. The Ordinance was then placed in order of final reading.



Mr. Bratrud left at this time, 6:10 P.M.

FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES:

Ordinance No. 16231

Approving and confirming the assessment roll for L I D 2276 for the cost of grading and placing an oil mat surface on Tacoma Avenue from South 70th to So. 72nd. 465

Roll call: Ayes 8; Nays 0; Absent 1, Bratrud.

Ordinance No. 16232

Approving and confirming the assessment roll for L I D 4610 for storm sewers and curbs and gutters on No. 17th from James to Bridgeview Drive; No. 17th from Jackson to James St; also the alley between James and Narrows Drive from No. 17th to Bridgeview Drive. 465

Roll call: Ayes 8; Nays 0; Absent 1, Bratrud.

Ordinance No. 16233

Approving and confirming the assessment roll for L I D 5256 for the cost of the improvement of water mains in East 50th Street from East "B" to a point approximately 720 feet east, and in East "B" from East 50th to East 52nd Street.

Roll call: Ayes 8; Nays 0; Absent 1, Bratrud

Ordinance No. 16234

Providing for the improvement of L I D 1983 for sanitary sewers in the area from No. 46th Street, to No. 48th and from Frace Street to Bristol Street. 471

Roll call: Ayes 8; Nays 0; Absent 1, Bratrud. 50:172

Ordinance No. 16235

Providing for the improvement of L I D 1986 for sanitary sewers from No. 13th to No. 17th Street; alley between Cascade and Fir from No. 13th to No. 17th; Fir from No. 13th to 170 feet south of North 17th Street. 472

Roll call: Ayes 8; Nays 0; Absent 1, Bratrud. 50:172

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Director of Public Works presents the assessment roll for the cost of L I D 1972 for sanitary sewers from Olympic Blvd. to Woodworth Ave; Woodworth Ave. to Juniper St; north on Juniper St. to No. 17th; east on No. 17th to Jackson Ave; and north on Jackson Ave. 245

It was moved by Dr. Humiston that January 13, 1959 be set as the date for hearing on the Assessment Roll. Seconded by Mr. Anderson. 568

Roll call: Ayes 8; Nays 0; Absent 1, Bratrud.

The Director of Utilities presents the assessment roll for the cost of L I D 5290 for cast iron watermain in the area bounded by No. 46th; Pearl St; No. 49th and Orchard.

It was moved by Mr. Anderson that January 13, 1959 be set as the date for hearing on the Assessment roll. Seconded by Dr. Humiston.

Roll call: Ayes 8; Nays 0; Absent 1, Bratrud.

MC-236 - Organizations serviced by City's Fire Alarm.

Dr. Humiston said at the meeting of December 8, 1958 the Council had asked for this information on organizations serviced by the City's alarm system and it was supplied to them. He felt it was now at the point where Mr. Bratrud was going to look this over and confer with the Manager and then ask for an Ordinance to be brought in.

ITEMS RECEIVED FOR FILING IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

- Report from the Fire Department for the month of November 1958.
- Report from the Tacoma Police Department for the month of November 1958.
- Report from the Traffic Division for the month of November 1958.
- Report from the Personnel Department for the month of November 1958.
- Report from the Tacoma Municipal Court for the month of November 1958.
- Report from the Light Division for October 1958.
- Report from the Finance Department for the month of November, 1958.

Mr. Anderson said he received a letter from Mr. Fred C. Osmer, President of the Washington State Research Council, which stated they have a research council that would study Tacoma's financial problems gratis. They asked that this be put before the Council to see if they would desire this study.

Mr. Anderson then requested that a resolution be prepared authorizing the Washington State Research Council to make a study of Tacoma's financial problems.

Mr. Rowlands presented MC 237 in reference to the sanitary sewer program. He said meetings have been held with a number of industrial groups and representative of labor. He briefly summarized some of the answers and Questions on the MC. He pointed out that there is serious pollution of the waters about the City by discharge of sewage which is a menace to health. The treatment plant is designed to properly treat 13 1/2 million gallons per day, but is now receiving 26 million gallons per day. This overload prevents adequate treatment of the sewage. Also the plant is treating one-half of the sewage tributary to the plant because of its inadequate size and the remainder is dumped into the bay, thus polluting the bay killing large numbers of fish.

He pointed out there were still areas in Tacoma using septic tanks. Septic tanks being a temporary method of disposal could lead to contamination of the soil.

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Germs of a relatively new disease, hepatitis, is found in sewage.

Open outlets of many trunk line sewers permit rats to enter the sewer system. Rats are known to carry bubonic plague and germs causing intestinal diseases.

Tests in the waters of the bay show an excessive number of bacteria which are likely to cause infectious diseases to swimmers.

Mr. Anderson asked if the rat population was growing in Tacoma.

Mr. Lunetti, Health Department rodent control supervisor, said the complaints their department has received this year have been numerous, 900 compared to 400 in last years. He said they have been able to trace the rat source to the sewer lines. Consequently, his department has started a poisoning program in the sewer systems, killing hundreds of rodents.

Dr. Fargher said the water pollution problem is becoming so serious that the Commencement Bay area is becoming unsafe for swimming. He said the rat situation is also serious because they are coming up through the sewers from the laterals where they have been broken. This situation has grown worse since the last earthquake, which apparently had broken many of the sewer laterals.

Mr. Anderson asked if the Health Department had rat traps out at all times; if so how many and how often were the traps examined. He also wanted to know the percentage of rats caught as compared to two years ago.

Mr. Lunetti said the department had approximately 800 traps set which are investigated every day. A few years ago the City caught 1.1 rats per 100 traps per day. Last month this had risen to 6.6 rats per 100 traps per day. He said the sewer lines are a good place for the rats to harbor. The mild winter that was evidence last year was responsible in part for the rapid increase of rodents.

Mr. Wegner of the Citizens Sewer Committee said they had held many meetings on this subject and as far as industry is concerned they are all in accord with the fair method of establishing the rates and in going along with the complete City Sewer program.

Mr. Rowlands added that meetings have been held with the Citizens Committee in reference to rates and the general concensus was that the rates now established based on the sewage being discharged into the system is reasonable and equitable.

Mr. Schuster also reported that the industrial representatives are in favor of the proposed 12½ million dollar sewer construction program despite the fact that it will mean substantial sewer rate increases.

Mr. Rowlands mentioned the report prepared by Mr. J. Bronow of the Utility Department on the Impact of Sewer Construction Program on Local Employment and Economy and commended him and his staff on this report.

Mrs. Goering asked what the \$2.00 minimum basis residential rate actually meant in Mr. Schuster's report.

Mr. Rowlands said at least 90% of the people in residential areas will be paying the minimum rate of \$2.00. He said the people, knowing they are going to be

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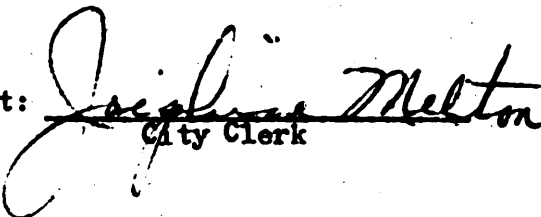
charged on water consumption, will exercise caution.

Mr. Schuster said it was actually based on 900 cubic feet of water per month during the winter months of December, January, February, and March which takes into account that the residents are not sprinkling their lawns at that time of the year. The average use in the City of Tacoma at this time is approximately 645 cubic feet per month. The equivalent water cost for 900 cubic feet per month is \$2.04. If you go from 900 to 1500 cubic feet per month the rate is \$2.95, but very few people are in that category, he added. The minimum rate is determined on the consumption of water during the winter months, not the summer.

Mayor Hanson said that he and Mr. Rowlands met with the legislative committee of the Central Labor Council on the City's legislative program and the response they received was very gratifying. He felt the City would receive support from the Labor Council in putting across this program in the next legislature.

There being no further business or comments from the audience, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 P.M.

  
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President

Attest:   
City Clerk