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CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City Council Chambers, 4:00 P. M.
Tuesday, January 14, 1964

Council met in regular session. Present on roll call 7: Bott, Finnigan, Haley, Herrmann, Murtland, Price and Mayor Tollefson. Absent 1, Cvitanich. Mr. Cvitanich coming in at 4:10 P. M.

Mr. Haley moved that the minutes of the meeting of January 2, 1964 be approved as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Finnigan. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

HEARINGS & APPEALS:

The City Planning Commission recommending the denial of the petition of John Nagle for the reclassification of property at 801 No. Grant from an "R-3" to an "R-4" District.

Mrs. Price moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission to deny the petition. Seconded by Mr. Finnigan. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATION:

Communication submitted by the City Clerk regarding the results of checking the sufficiency of signatures on an Initiative regarding the Fire Dept. employees. 101

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution No. 17731

Submitting to the voters of the City of Tacoma on March 10, 1964 election for their approval or rejection, the proposition to amend the City Charter of the City of Tacoma by adding thereto a new section specifying the minimum number of employees and the maximum work week in the Tacoma Fire Dept. 101
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Mrs. Price moved that the Resolution be adopted. Seconded by Mr. Bott.

Mr. Haley said, if this proposition goes to the vote of the people, it would appear that it would take the administration of City business out of the hands of the Council and administrators of the City.

Mayor Tollefson said he foresees policemen and other employee groups following the same procedure if the firemen are successful. He added, somewhere along the line the City Council is going to have to impose more taxes to pay for this. 'We have a situation in which the same people who are screaming about low manpower are also screaming about high taxes. Mayor Tollefson asked Mr. McCormick if the Council would ever be able to adjust the size of the department to fit new equipment or firefighting techniques which might develop in the future in the event the firemen's initiative is approved.

Mr. McCormick said the Council would not be able to reduce the number of men in the department without a subsequent charter amendment. He added, the City Council could not reduce firemen's salaries, in connection with the reduction in hours called for in the measure, but in the event City finances demanded an over-all cut in City employee salaries, he said firemen probably could be included.

Mayor Tollefson said this measure would cut the duty week of fire fighters from 56 to 48 hours in two annual steps, and this could mean that firemen would be required to work eight hours per day, six days a week.

Mr. Rowlands stated, the impact of this particular program would have an adverse affect on the budget and on all other departments of the City government, including the Parks and Libraries. It will mean that the City will have to forego some adjustments for various departments if the Council decides that adjustments in wages and salaries are necessary for the next three years. He added, additional funds from the State or any other source will not be forthcoming to take care of this expense.

He said a report will be submitted to the City Council at the end of the meeting from information taken from the Municipal Year Book. He said every city is included; these comparisons were made without influencing the results one way or another.

Mr. Rowlands added, there is a certain criteria for all departments as to the number of employees, which is established by various national organizations per 1,000 population. If the City were to attempt to meet all criteria established by national organizations the cost would be prohibitive. The City administration and Council determine the number of employees in various categories that should be employed. If funds were available, possibly more employees would be hired in various departments.

Mr. Rowlands stated he thought the Fire Dept. was doing an outstanding job which compares favorably with other Cities in the United States and the State of Washington.

Mayor Tollefson asked for an explanation of Sec. 6.19 where it reads: "Any adjustments necessary to place and keep in effect the provisions hereof shall be made without any reduction in salary of any employee".

Mr. McCormick said that refers only to Fire Dept. personnel. At present a fireman receives \$550.00 per month for working 56 hours per week, if this passes and is reduced to 52 hours, they will still receive \$550.00 per month. There will not be a cut in wages. He said, if there comes a time where all employees would have to take a cut in salary, it would apply to the Fire Dept. as well.

Chief Reiser of the Fire Dept. said if this proposition passed, the department would have to add 61 more employees, and 16 out of this would be firefighters.

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**The Resolution was passed unanimously by voice vote.
Ayes 8; Nays; Absent 0.**

Resolution No. 17732

Authorizing the proper officers of the City to enter into a reciprocal fire protection agreement with Gig Harbor & Lakeland. (District # 5 & # 39)

Mrs. Price moved that the Resolution be adopted. Seconded by Mr. Cvitanich.

Chief Reiser of the Fire Dept. explained this will be helpful for fire protection at the Airport as Gig Harbor has large tankers with adequate water supply in the event a plane crashes or there is a brush fire.

Mrs. Price asked the rate of pay for an off duty fireman when he is called in to fight a fire.

Chief Reiser replied that they are paid time and a half.

Mayor Tollefson congratulated Chief Reiser for his effort on the cooperative arrangement.

**The Resolution was passed unanimously by voice vote.
Ayes 8; Nays 0; Absent 0.**

Resolution No. 17733

Authorizing the sale of scrap Metal and Copper wire to General Metals of Tacoma, Inc.

Mrs. Price moved that the Resolution be adopted. Seconded by Mr. Fianigan.

**The Resolution was passed unanimously by voice vote.
Ayes 8; Nays 0; Absent 0.**

Resolution No. 17734

Authorizing the proper officers of the City to lease space at 1031 Dock St. in the Municipal Dock Bldg. to Arthur P. Erdahl, d/b/a Erdahl Bros.

Mrs. Price moved that the Resolution be adopted. Seconded by Mr. Haley.

**The Resolution was passed unanimously by voice vote.
Ayes 8; Nays 0; Absent 0.**

Resolution No. 17735

Authorizing the proper officers of the City to enter into an agreement with Johnny's Seafood Market for property located at 1109 Dock St. for a (15) year period.

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Mr. Finnigan moved that the Resolution be adopted. Seconded by Mrs. Price.

Mr. Rowlands stated, at the end of each five year period the rental fee is reviewed and this agreement increases the rent \$20.00 per month. He said this firm has spent approximately \$8,000 for improvements and were reluctant to do so unless they were assured of having the property for a long period of time.

**The Resolution was passed unanimously by voice vote.
Ayes 8; Nays 0; Absent 0.**

Resolution No. 17736

Fixing Monday February 10, 1964 as the date for hearing on L I D 5344 for cast iron water mains in the area bounded by No. 35th, Orchard St, No. 42nd and Mullen Streets.

Mr. Haley moved that the Resolution be adopted. Seconded by Mr. Finnigan.

**The Resolution was passed unanimously by voice vote.
Ayes 8; Nays 0; Absent 0.**

Resolution No. 17737

Approving the final plat of Mount-Narrow 2nd Addition in the vicinity of So. 16th and Meyers Sts.

Mrs. Price moved that the Resolution be adopted. Seconded by Dr. Herrmann.

**The Resolution was passed unanimously by voice vote.
Ayes 8; Nays 0; Absent 0.**

Resolution No. 17738

Authorizing the sale of property at the S. W. corner of So. 74th & Oakes to Milton Construction Co. in its bid of \$6,250.00.

Mrs. Price moved that the Resolution be adopted. Seconded by Mr. Murtland.

**The Resolution was passed unanimously by voice vote.
Ayes 8; Nays 0; Absent 0.**

Resolution No. 17739

Authorizing the proper officers of the City to execute a Project Application under the 1964 F. A. A. Program for Acquisition of Land Rights for clearing of obstructions in the No. Approach zone of the Tacoma Industrial Airport.

Mrs. Price moved that the Resolution be adopted. Seconded by Mr. Haley.

Mr. Rowlands stated that this was the usual procedure that has to be followed to obtain matching funds from the F. A. A. for the additional property that was acquired.

The Resolution was passed by voice vote.
Ayes 7; Nays 1, Cvitanich; Absent 0.

Resolution No. 17740

Authorizing the Utility Board to award contracts for the construction of Water mains in connection with the Fawcett Urban Renewal Project Wash. R-3.

Mr. Haley moved that the Resolution be adopted. Seconded by Mrs. Price.

The Resolution was passed by voice vote.
Ayes 7; Bott, Finnigan, Haley, Herrmann, Murtland, Price and Mayor Tollefson.
Nays 1, Cvitanich. Absent 0.

Resolution No. 17741

Authorizing the submission of a Workable Program of Community Improvement for the City of Tacoma for 1964 & 1965.

Mr. Haley moved that the Resolution be adopted. Seconded by Mrs. Price.

The Resolution was passed unanimously by voice vote.
Ayes 8; Nays 0; Absent 0.

Mr. Haley moved to suspend the rules to consider Resolution No. 17742. Seconded by Dr. Herrmann. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 17742

Accepting a sealed bid from Goodwill Industries of Tacoma, Inc. for the purchase of real property situated within the Center St. Urban Renewal Project No. Wash. R-1. 92

Dr. Herrmann moved that the Resolution be adopted. Seconded by Mrs. Price.

Mr. Finnigan said he was under the impression that the purpose for urban renewal was to remove blight areas and increase revenue for the City from taxes. He stated he was in sympathy with the work being done by the Goodwill Industry, but he felt that the redevelopment area should be primarily utilized for tax paying industries.

Mr. Cvitanich said he concurred with Mr. Finnigan's remarks.

Mayor Tolleson explained that the Council has a duty not only to promote new industries in Tacoma but to help industries already established in Tacoma. She thought this relocation of the Goodwill Industry in this Urban Retail area would benefit the City of Tacoma.

Mrs. Price pointed out that regardless of any location where Goodwill Industries might relocate in the City, that property would be taken off of the tax rolls. She thought their business would make a fine improvement in the Urban Retail area.

The Resolution was passed by voice vote.

Ayes 6, Ross, Haley, Herrmann, Martinson, Price and Mayor Tolleson. Nays 2, [Name] and Finnigan. Absent 0.

FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 1750

Amending Section 6-29-020 of the official code of the City by adding a ¹¹⁶ section 6-29-025 regulating Merchant Patrolman & Merchant Patrol Agencies ¹⁴¹

Roll call was taken on the Ordinance resulting as follows:

Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 0.

The Ordinance was declared passed by the Chairman.

COMMENTS

MC - 431

Mr. Rowlands distributed MC-431 to the members of the City Council which dealt principally with the strength and rating of the Tacoma Fire Dept. as compared with the departments of the 79 other cities in the nation with populations from 100,000 and 250,000. ¹⁰¹ ¹²⁶ ¹⁶⁵

Mr. Rowlands pointed out that (1) The Tacoma Fire Dept. has more full time employees than 65 cities in this group. (2) Tacoma has a fire insurance rating that is equal to or better than 72 other cities in this group. (3) Tacoma has a duty week which is equal to or better than 72 of the 80 cities in this group. He added that the fire employees are actually on duty fewer days than other city employees per year. (4) Tacoma pays a maximum salary for firemen, which is \$6,300 per year and is comparable to or better than 68 of the 80 cities. He added, it is interesting to note that out of the eleven cities showing a higher maximum salary, eight have a longer duty week than Tacoma's 56 hours. (5) Tacoma shows a high full-time employee ratio of 2.00 per thousand population than 61 of the 80 cities in this group. Among the larger Northwest cities, Seattle has a 1.76 ratio; Spokane has a 1.58 ratio; and Portland, Oregon has a 1.93 ratio. (6) Tacoma has more pieces of equipment (engines and truck companies) than 64 of these 80 cities.

Mr. Rowlands compared Tacoma's rating with nearby communities, stating that Tacoma had the best rating in comparison to other cities as they had to pay considerable more fire insurance premiums than the residents of Tacoma.

He further added that the proposed initiative would only increase fire protection by 16 firemen out of the 61 proposed to be hired and would not have any effect on the City's Class 3 fire grading. Mr. Rowlands said, as it now stands, 24 cents out of every tax dollar goes for fire protection. To increase that percentage to approximately 33% to the detriment of the General operating budget would work a severe hardship on the other City Departments and to the citizens of Tacoma. In effect, every cent that is received from property tax does not pay for the operation of the Fire Dept., he added.

Chief Reiser pointed out on the map the location of three fire stations that are to be constructed and how the City will eliminate deficiency points with the relocation of the three fire stations. He said the relocation of these fire stations have been approved by the National Board of Fire Underwriters. 125
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Mayor Tollefson asked what the deficiency point rating was at present.

Chief Reiser said at the last rating in 1961 it was 1100, which is in Class 3. They have estimated with the reduction of the force, the deficiency points were no higher than 1250 at present.

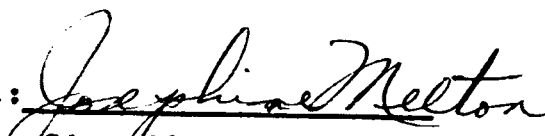
Mr. Cvitanich brought up that the piece of property that was sold to the Goodwill Industries cost the City \$159,000 and was sold for \$83,000 which was a loss to the City of \$76,000. He asked when does the City anticipate regaining that loss.

Mayor Tollefson said they do not anticipate regaining the loss from that property, however, they expect to regain some what from the area purchased by the National Bank of Washington and Carling Brewery.

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon motion duly seconded and passed, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 P. M.



Mayor of the City Council

Attest: 

City Clerk