

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City Council Chambers
Tuesday, May 27, 1969

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rasmussen at 4 P.M.

Present on roll call 8: Banfield, Bott, Cvitanich, Herrmann, Johnson, Murtland, Zatkovich and Mayor Rasmussen. Absent 1: Finnigan.

Dr. Herrmann moved that Mr. Finnigan be excused from the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Cvitanich. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

The Flag Salute was led by Mr. Bott.

Mayor Rasmussen presented Charles D. Evans of the Fire Dept. with an award of \$25.00 for his suggestion that the fittings at the end of the breathing tube be so constructed as to make the face pieces on the Scott and the Mine Safety Appliance self-contained masks interchangeable.

Mr. Evans was congratulated by Mayor Rasmussen, Mr. Rowlands, City Manager and Council Members.

Mayor Rasmussen asked if there were any omissions or corrections to the minutes of the meeting of April 22, 1969. Dr. Herrmann moved that the minutes of April 22, 1969 be approved as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Cvitanich. Voice vote taken. Motion unanimously carried.

Mayor Rasmussen asked when the report relative to the bank deposits which he had requested is to be submitted.

Mr. Rowland, City Manager, stated if it is agreeable it will be submitted to the Council on Friday in the agenda.

HEARINGS & APPEALS:

The City Planning Commission recommending denial of the petition submitted by Hoops Inc. for rezoning of the N. E. Corner of So. 90th & Hosmer from an "R-2" to an "R-4" District.

An appeal was filed by Earl U. Hoops, Brian O'Neill, Byron Keely and Markt Richard.

The suggested date for hearing before the City Council is July 15, 1969.

Dr. Herrmann moved that Tuesday, July 15, 1969 be set as the date for hearing on the above appeal. Seconded by Mr. Cvitanich. Voice vote taken. Motion unanimously carried.

Resolution No. 20205 (postponed from the meeting of May 20, 1969)

Awarding contract to Industrial Electronic Systems, Inc. on its bid of \$9,572.36 for the furnishing of Video Recording Equipment.

Mr. Murtland moved that the resolution be adopted, Seconded by Dr. Herrmann. Voice vote was taken on the resolution, resulting as follows:

Ayes 8: Banfield, Bott, Cvitanich, Herrmann, Johnson, Murtland, Zatkovich and Mayor Rasmussen.

Nays 0: Absent 1: Finnigan.

The Resolution was declared passed by the Chairman.

Resolution No. 20210

Fixing Monday June 23rd at 4 P.M. as the date for hearing on L I D4895 for paving in the alley between Pacific Ave. & A St. from So. 26th to 28th and other nearby streets.

Mr. Cvitanich moved that the resolution be adopted. Seconded by Mr. Murtland. Voice vote was taken on the resolution, resulting as follows:

Ayes 8: Banfield, Bott, Cvitanich, Herrmann, Johnson, Murtland, Zatkovich and Mayor Rasmussen.

Nays 0: Absent 1: Finnigan

The Resolution was declared passed by the Chairman.

Resolution No. 20211

Fixing Tuesday, June 10th at 4 P.M. as the date for hearing for the rezoning of the east side of Orchard & So. 40th extended from an "R-2" to a "C-1" District. (petition of R. J. Sproul & Associates)

Mr. Cvitanich moved that the resolution be adopted. Seconded by Mr. Murtland. Voice vote was taken on the resolution, resulting as follows:

Ayes 8: Banfield, Bott, Cvitanich, Herrmann, Johnson, Murtland, Zatkovich and Mayor Rasmussen.

Nays 0: Absent 1: Finnigan.

The Resolution was declared passed by the Chairman.

Resolution No. 20212

Approving proposals from Ford, Bacon & Davis, Inc. and requesting the Public Utility Board to take formal action to accept the proposals and commence management and audit reviews.

Dr. Herrmann moved that the resolution be adopted. Mr. Cvitanich seconded the motion.

Mr. Cvitanich explained he had contacted Knight, Vale and Gregory this afternoon and the suggestions and proposals of that firm are to be in the agenda this coming Friday relative to the above matter. He, therefore, requested that the resolution be continued for one week.

Dr. Anderson, Chairman of the Utility Board, noted he had explained to the Council in his letter of April 24, 1969, the outline for the proposed General Management Survey of the Dept. of Public Utilities as required by the City Charter and Section 12, of Ord. 16463, the Cowlitz Bond ordinance. He had also explained, the two requirements could be met in one survey which would completely satisfy the Charter requirement, the bond requirement, and it would also avoid duplication and result in maximum benefits at the least possible cost to the City.

Dr. Anderson continued, the Council had approved the Board's recommendation last June. However, during the recent joint meeting a few weeks ago, they discussed the possibility of attempting to include the City Charter requirement for an annual running audit in this same survey. The general consensus of the Board and City Council was that they should explore the possibility of meeting all three requirements under one survey. Subsequently, a recommendation is being made to the Council on the matter at this time.

Dr. Anderson therefore stated it is the unanimous recommendation of the Public Utility Board that the City Council approve the acceptance of the Ford, Bacon & Davis, Inc. recommendations which will satisfy the City Charter provisions and Ord. No. 16453, Sec. 12 by combining these requirements into one survey and at the same time will centralize all phases of these studies. Therefore, one firm will provide a thorough, coordinated and economical review of the Dept. of Public Utilities' operations.

Dr. Anderson further explained that the final estimate on the combined study is between \$43,500.00 and \$47,500.00. This is considerably less than the earlier estimate for just the management study alone, he added. He urged the Council to act favorably on their recommendation.

Mr. Cvitanich requested a continuance of this resolution because Knight, Vale and Gregory have contacted several auditing firms as well as the representatives of Ford, Bacon and Davis relative to this matter. He stated a report will be submitted this Friday and urged the Council to continue the resolution.

Mr. Johnson moved to postpone the action on the resolution for one week, until June 3, 1969. Seconded by Mr. Cvitanich. Voice vote was taken. Motion unanimously carried.

The Resolution was postponed until June 3, 1969.

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Resolution No. 20213

Instructing the City Attorney to declare a forfeiture of the interests of Pacific Cascade Properties, Inc. in the agreement of Sale dated June 17, 1968 regarding property in the Center St. Urban Renewal Project.

Dr. Herrmann moved that the resolution be adopted. Mr. Zatkovich seconded the motion. Voice vote was taken on the resolution, resulting as follows:

Ayes 8: Banfield, Eott, Cvitanich, Herrmann, Johnson, Murtland, Zatkovich and Mayor Rasmussen.

Nays 0: Absent 1: Finnigan.

The Resolution was declared passed by the Chairman.

Resolution No. 20214

Awarding contract to Morris Construction Co., on its bid of \$11,385.17 for W. O. No. 91130.

Dr. Herrmann moved that the resolution be adopted. Seconded by Mr. Johnson. Voice vote was taken on the resolution, resulting as follows:

Ayes 8: Banfield, Eott, Cvitanich, Herrmann, Johnson, Murtland, Zatkovich and Mayor Rasmussen.

Nays 0: Absent 1: Finnigan.

The Resolution was declared passed by the Chairman.

Resolution No. 20215

Adopting a uniform CATV franchise ordinance for governing and granting of individual franchises in the City of Tacoma.

Dr. Herrmann moved that the resolution be adopted. Mrs. Banfield seconded the motion.

Mr. Hamilton, Acting City Attorney, explained this resolution would adequately express the intention of the Council to adopt a model ordinance. This would eliminate the publication of the entire franchise ordinance and the cost thereof. In the event the Council at some later date wishes to amend the franchise ordinance, the same can be amended more expeditiously if adopted by resolution.

Mr. Hamilton also explained once the Council determines who is going to be the grantee or grantees of the franchise, then of course, the ordinance will be submitted to the Council once again for adoption, with the proper names, rates and other information properly inserted.

Voice vote was taken on the resolution, resulting as follows:

Ayes 8: Banfield, Eott, Cvitanich, Herrmann, Johnson, Murtland, Zatkovich and Mayor Rasmussen.

Nays 0: Absent 1: Finnigan.

The Resolution was declared passed by the Chairman.

Mayor Rasmussen asked that the Council suspend the rules to consider Res. No. 20216, commending the Tacoma Police Dept. for their action during the recent civil disturbances.

Mrs. Banfield moved to suspend the rules so that Res. No. 20216 could be considered. Seconded by Mr. Zatkovich. Roll call was taken, resulting as follows:

Ayes 5: Banfield, Bott, Cvitanich, Zatkovich and Mayor Rasmussen. Nays 3: Herrmann, Johnson and Murtland. Absent 1: Finnigan. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 20216

Commending the Tacoma Police Dept. for the outstanding manner in which it responded to the recent civil disturbance which took place within the City, and further commending officers James McDonough and Herman Knaack for service to their community through carrying out their duties as police officers.

Mr. Cvitanich moved that the resolution be adopted. Seconded by Mrs. Banfield.

Mayor Rasmussen requested that copies of this resolution, when adopted, be forwarded to his office.

Mr. Johnson explained he was in favor of commending the Police Department but he felt there was one name in the resolution which is still in controversy.

Mr. Murtland thought further information should be made available to the Council and a meeting held with the arresting officers and particularly with the officer in question. He also asked that the tape of the meeting be played for the Council's information. Until this matter is further studied, he felt the Council would, perhaps, be doing a disservice to other members of the Police Dept. if this resolution is passed.

Mayor Rasmussen explained that Police Chief Zittel had reviewed the circumstances on Monday after the incidents and had felt that all the officers had performed to the highest degree. He hoped that this resolution would pass unanimously.

Mr. Cvitanich hoped that the entire Council would support this resolution as he was satisfied that all police officers had performed in the highest tradition of the department. He asked that his name be included on the resolution.

Mr. Zatkovich pointed out that the people who were involved in the incident on May 11th are people who have been involved with police many times. He assured the Council as far as the woman is concerned in the arrest, she was treated well. No one was injured. He felt only militants, obviously interfering with the restoration or order were responsible.

Mrs. Banfield said she was satisfied with the resolution and would feel it was an honor for her name to be placed on it.

Dr. Herrmann felt the resolution should commend the Police Dept. and not single out just two individuals.

Mr. Johnson felt since there had been complaints, the entire Council should have received an official report of the controversy before such a resolution was presented to be passed.

Mr. Murtland explained that all the Councilmen heard last summer was that the Police Dept. would not be able to handle a situation such as has just been experienced. The emergency occurred and the Police Dept. performed the job well. Therefore he would include the two men who are named in the resolution.

Charles Littel, Chief of Police, explained that over two weeks has been ample time for formal complaints to be filed, but none have been received. He stated that several written grievances against the police have been made to school officials but have been found to contain only minor accusations, and mostly hearsay. To the offset, oral complaints were of police brutality, particularly toward James McDonough. He read from a report filed today, stating, in part, that Mr. McDonough had provided firm and effective leadership under the most difficult conditions at a time when such leadership was vitally needed.

Dr. Herrmann stated he had not realized that the investigation had been completed.

Mr. Cvitanich moved that all Council member's names be included on the resolution. Seconded by Mr. Murtland. Voice vote taken. Motion unanimously carried.

Voice vote was taken on the resolution, resulting as follows:

Ayes 8: Banfield, Bott, Cvitanich, Herrmann, Johnson, Murtland, Zatkovich and Mayor Rasmussen.

Nays 0: Absent 1: Finnigan.

The Resolution was declared passed by the Chairman.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES:

Ordinance No. 16836

Amending Section 1.12.628 of the official code relative to the pay and compensation by adding a new category - 8010 of Police & Fire Trainee.

Mr. Rowlands, City Manager, explained this ordinance would increase the monthly salary for a Police or Fire Trainee from approximately \$391.00 to \$478.50. It is felt the salary increase would attract more candidates to the Trainee Program.

Mayor Rasmussen felt the suggestion by the manager at a previous meeting that black trainees be allowed to stay in the trainee corps as paid members for a second chance, if failing their first police examination, was not proper.

Mr. Rowlands explained the Trainee Corps organization was organized to make it possible for some young people to obtain training so they would have an opportunity to pass an examination.

Mayor Rasmussen felt that local colleges have numerous black students with qualifications to apply for taking the required examination through the procedure already established.

Mr. Cvitanich stated he was opposed to this program for several reasons. He felt that it would lower the civil service standards, as well as being a gradual erosion of civil service.

Mr. Rowlands wished to make it clear that he had no intention of lowering civil service standards. He also reiterated that in order to take the civil service examinations, a person must meet the requirements as any other candidate.

Mr. Johnson said there are two parts to the program, one is enforcing the law, which he felt must be done. Secondly, he hoped that the Council, in part, could cure the cause by some intelligent means to offer some help in obtaining employment for the people who have requested help.

Mr. Mel Jackson, 1209 So. I, felt the problems that the community is facing are problems that should have been looked into a number of years ago. He also felt a Black person should be on any advisory board who makes decisions in City government or otherwise.

After some discussion, Mr. Cvitanich proposed that Mr. Johnson and Mr. Murtland resign from the City Council since they have announced they were not seeking re-election, and be replaced with Black appointees.

The Ordinance was placed in order of final reading.

Mayor Rasmussen moved that Mr. Rowlands, City Manager, be suspended for thirty days pending an investigation by the Council. Seconded by Mr. Cvitanich.

Mayor Rasmussen mentioned that he had explained last week that Mr. Rowlands had held a letter from the Council which was addressed solely to the Council, and it had been turned in by a firm of prominent lawyers in this City, on April 16, 1969. The attorneys had stated their client wanted the Council to hear his appeal of assessments levied by the Tax & License Dept.

Mayor Rasmussen then called the Council's attention that under the First Reading of Ordinances, Ordinance No. 18837 was missing on the agenda. He said it was held up by direct orders of the City Manager. This ordinance was requested by himself in line with the promise that was made to the firemen at the time the Council considered the budget in 1968. He stated it was necessary for the Council to act on the ordinance so it can become effective by July 1st. It is not within the province of any appointed official to withhold an official request of an elected official, he added.

Mr. Rowlands explained he was attending a meeting in Yakima on Friday, so did not give any orders to hold this ordinance off the agenda. The only explanation he could give for the delay was undoubtedly the request of a Department Director, who had to obtain necessary information for the ordinance. He also had noticed that it was not on the agenda and had found that the Personnel Dept. through the Legal Dept. is preparing an ordinance so that the Council will know the exact amount of money involved in this particular program. It is necessary to have a special appropriation to pay for the fourteen or sixteen officers required, which amounts to approximately \$69,000 for the last six months of this year. Therefore, both the appropriation of the money, and this ordinance will be on the agenda next week.

Mayor Rasmussen felt that Ordinance No. 18837, reducing the hours of work of the firemen does not require an appropriation and the budget is sufficient to carry this program for six months.

Mr. Rowlands explained the budget is not sufficient to carry the program for the balance of this year, and the Mayor and Council had made it very clear earlier this year, when at all possible, they would like to have an ordinance introduced to underwrite the cost before five or six months goes by.

Mr. Rowlands stated he had not seen the letter the Mayor had spoken of, and he did not know why the letter had not been placed on the agenda like any other letter.

Mayor Rasmussen stated the letter was held up by the Manager's office and under his direct orders.

Mr. Rowlands stated if it was addressed to the City Council he knew it should have been normally reproduced. The point he was making was that he did not know what the Mayor was referring to. He stated he had not seen the letter and did not know where it had been directed.

After further discussion, roll call was taken on the motion to suspend the City Manager for thirty days pending an investigation by the Council, resulting as follows: Ayes 4: Banfield, Cvitanich, Zatkovich and Mayor Rasmussen. Nays 4: Bott, Herrmann, Johnson and Murtland. Absent: 1, Finnigan. Motion LOST.

Mayor Rasmussen moved to suspend the Rules so that Ordinance No. 18837 could be placed on the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Cvitanich. Roll call was taken, resulting as follows: Ayes 4: Banfield, Cvitanich, Zatkovich and Mayor Rasmussen. Nays 4: Bott, Herrmann, Johnson and Murtland. Absent 1: Finnigan. Motion LOST.

Mr. Cvitanich requested that Ordinance No. 18837 be brought in for next Tuesday's Council meeting pertaining to a reduction in hours for the Firemen. Seconded by Mr. Zatkovich.

Mr. John Willis, Business Representative for the Firefighter's Union, spoke relative to the cost item for employing twelve, thirteen or fifteen men.

Mayor Rasmussen asked what would it cost to employ these men for the next six months.

Mr. Willis explained that twelve firefighters and six appointed lieutenants would cost \$54,117.96; thirteen men which would fill all the batallions with 96 men equally, would cost \$58,459.61. He had concurred with the Fire Chief when asking for more men, however, if cost is a real problem, twelve men will be sufficient as far as adequate manpower to fill in for the extra days off.

Mayor Rasmussen felt since the Council had promised shorter hours they should keep faith.

Mr. Zatkovich moved to suspend the rules. Seconded by Mrs. Banfield. Roll call was taken on the motion, resulting as follows: Ayes 4: Banfield, Cvitanich, Zatkovich and Mayor Rasmussen. Nays 4: Bott, Herrmann, Johnson and Murtland. Absent 1: Finnigan. Motion LOST.

Mr. Cvitanich felt, at the budget hearings last year the Council said the firemen's hours would be reduced if the City received Legislative aid of the same or more funds than at the last biennium.

Mr. Rowlands said that because of the new formula for distribution of the funds, Tacoma would not be receiving as much state aid this year. He further explained that negotiations are held each year with the unions for salaries and wages and also fringe benefits. He had told Mr. Willis last August or September if there is a substantial increase in the amount of money received from the State by the city, he would certainly recommend that a reduction of two hours in the Firemen's work week be made. Then, at a study session the Firefighter representatives were told that if the City received monies of an equal amount, or more, a reduction in hours would be made.

Voice vote was taken on the motion requesting that Ordinance No. 18837 be placed on next Tuesday's Council agenda. Motion was declared passed.

Ordinance No. 18838

Amending Title 13 of Section 13.06.010 of the official code relative to zoning Ordinance text changes for Building & Vehicles.

Mr. Cvitanich asked Mr. Murtland if he had requested this ordinance.

Mr. Murtland noted he had not requested the ordinance and his name must have been inadvertently placed on it.

Mayor Rasmussen asked that Mr. Murtland's name be removed from the ordinance before the final reading.

The ordinance was placed in order of final reading.

Ordinance No. 18839

Amending Sec. 8.96.040 of the official code relative to Termination of Proclamation.

Mayor Rasmussen explained he had requested this ordinance so that instead of three members of the Council being able to terminate, modify or amend any written proclamation of a state of emergency in the City, it should be the Mayor, Deputy Mayor or a majority of the Council.

Mr. Cvitanich felt that the Deputy Mayor need not be pointed out in the ordinance.

Mr. Cvitanich then moved to amend Ordinance No. 18839 so that it will read, "The Mayor or a majority of the Council". Seconded by Mrs. Banfield.

Mr. Murtland spoke against the motion and noted in all types of organizations there is always some one to act in the absence or inability of the principal member of the organization.

Roll call was taken on the motion, resulting as follows:

Ayes 4: Banfield, Cvitanich, Herrmann and Zatkovich.

Nays 4: Bott, Johnson, Murtland and Mayor Rasmussen. Absent 1: Finnigan. Motion LOST.
The ordinance was placed in order of final reading.

FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES:

Ordinance No. 18831

Granting a nonexclusive Franchise for a CATV Cable to Tacoma Cable Company.

Dr. Herrmann moved that the ordinance be removed from the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Murtland. Voice vote was taken. Motion unanimously carried.

The ordinance was removed from the agenda.

Ordinance No. 18833

Adopting the 1967 Uniform Building Code of the City of Tacoma.

Mayor Rasmussen stated that a question had been raised as to whether this ordinance conformed with the Federal Law on public buildings, relative to access for the physically disabled.

Mr. Ron Button, Chief Building Inspector, explained he had tried to obtain a copy of the Federal law, and could not, therefore he had written the United States Institute of Standards in New York for such a copy.

Mayor Rasmussen stated that when the copy is received an amendment can be submitted to this particular ordinance.

Mr. Button stated he would submit a request to the Council for the amendment when the information has been received and reviewed.

Roll call was taken on the ordinance, resulting as follows:

Ayes 7: Banfield, Bott, Cvitanich, Herrmann, Johnson, Murtland and Mayor Rasmussen.
Nays 0: Absent 2: Finnigan, Zatkovich (temporarily)

The ordinance was declared passed by the Chairman.

Ordinance No. 18834

Repealing Ordinance No. 18593 adopted June 4, 1968.

Roll call was taken on the ordinance, resulting as follows:

Ayes 7: Banfield, Bott, Cvitanich, Herrmann, Johnson, Murtland and Mayor Rasmussen.
Nays 0: Absent 2: Finnigan. Zatkovich (temporarily).

The Ordinance was declared passed by the Chairman.

Ordinance No. 18835

Appropriating the sum of \$4,750.00, or so much thereof, as may be necessary from the General Fund for the purchasing, constructing and installing of new transmission facilities in the radio division of the Tacoma Police Dept.

Roll call was taken on the ordinance, resulting as follows:

Ayes 7: Banfield, Bott, Cvitanich, Herrmann, Johnson, Murtland and Mayor Rasmussen.
Nays 0: Absent 2: Finnigan. Zatkovich (temporarily).

The Ordinance was declared passed by the Chairman.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A letter dated May 22, 1969 was read from Frank A. Ruffo, Sr., President of the Tacoma Boys' Club and Camp, stating they would be most happy to meet with Mr. Cvitanich and Mr. Finnigan, Council representatives, relative to extending the Boys' Club services to the K Street District. ✓

Mr. Cvitanich explained he had met with two members of the Board and discussions are proceeding as rapidly as possible on this matter.

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Mr. Cvitanich stated he had requested a report on the expenses of the Legislative Committee but it has not been submitted and he hoped to have the financial statements by next Tuesday so that he might report it to the citizens of the community.

Mr. Cvitanich explained the Legislative Session is very unique and if he had to make a criticism on the session he felt it was one of the worst and most disgraceful that he had ever attended. He noted this session was dominated by the Governor and unfortunately it created a very poor situation for legislation. It would be his recommendation after having the opportunity to observe the Association of Washington Cities, operating in Olympia, to recommend to the Council when the budget is discussed next year that they take a long, hard look at what is contributed in dues to that Association for the benefit derived. He felt that the City representatives should work with the Representatives and Senators from Tacoma and Pierce County. He further felt that the City Council should formulate between now and the next Legislative Session, policies and plans for legislation which would affect Tacoma and discuss them with the elected officials. ✓

Mr. Cvitanich said that SB-468, the Chief of Police Bill, was of great concern to him. As Chairman of the Legislative Committee he had to testify against that bill and in addition he had to testify against two fellow police officers from Tacoma. He found this extremely difficult but he wanted the record to show that he spoke against it. They eliminated the disabled policemen from SB-468, but a deal was made and the bill passed the Senate and House and was signed into law by the Governor.

Mr. Cvitanich continued, on the other hand they discussed the Omnibus Pension Bill #74, which is going to eliminate leapfrogging on the pensions. It seemed to me that the Legislators were inconsistent in their approach and it boiled down to organized pressure groups. He felt good legislation, unfortunately, was tied up in committee.

Mr. Cvitanich mentioned SB 516, which granted the right of condemnation to private firms, was an extremely dangerous bill, fortunately was tied up in committee.

Mr. Cvitanich stated that the desire of the Governor for the Dept. of Transportation took precedence over everything else and much good legislation died in committee.

Mayor Rasmussen complimented Mr. Cvitanich and the Committee for their excellent work in behalf of the City of Tacoma at the Legislative Session.

REPORTS BY THE CITY MANAGER

Mr. Rowlands, City Manager, elaborated on Mr. Cvitanich's remarks, that through the efforts of a number of persons, the Transit Act was passed in Olympia and in the year 1971 it should mean that the City of Tacoma would receive approximately \$400,000. This will be of tremendous help to the General Fund.

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Mr. Rowlands explained, relative to the resolution commending the Police Dept. for their actions during the recent disturbances, that the Police Dept. had checked out four reports from citizens as to what took place on the second floor of the County-City Building.

Mayor Rasmussen stated he had received just two reports and they had also been checked. He noted there have been letters coming in commending the police for their actions.

COMMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Mr. Zatkovich read the letter received by the Council from the "K" St. Booster's Club dated May 20, asking that the City Council give consideration to the recommendations proposed by the concerned Black citizens of the Hilltop area. Mr. Zatkovich felt the demands issued to the Council members on May 12 had not been drawn up and issued by the real responsible, concerned Black citizens who generally represent the Hilltop group. Therefore, he wished to take issue with the "K" St. Booster's Club on their recommendation.

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Mr. Murtland mentioned that during the Council's recess he found that the representative from Pacific Cascade Properties, Inc., who was interested in Resolution No. 20213, was late in arriving at the Council meeting. He wished to speak on the resolution, therefore Mr. Murtland explained he might move for reconsideration of Resolution No. 20213 at the next Council meeting, to allow the gentleman to speak.

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Mr. Bott suggested that the Council might appeal to the Downtown Merchants, and perhaps some of the Service Clubs, to sponsor small eating areas on some of the vacant lots downtown. This would help in the appearance of the City. Mayor Rasmussen thought this was a very good suggestion.

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Mayor Rasmussen asked that Mr. Rowlands, City Manager, direct the Public Parks Dept. to check vacant areas in the K St. area, as well as all over the city, to see if they might be converted for play areas. There is a complete listing of the property in the Planning Dept.

Mr. Rowlands said the staff would check into this matter. He further stated that the Park Dept. might have some suggestions where these might be temporarily located.

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Mrs. Banfield asked Mr. Rowlands, to submit a written report to her relative to the suspension of two policemen which he had mentioned in his confidential letter dated April 15, 1969.

Mr. Rowlands said he would do so.

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Mayor Rasmussen requested that Mr. Rowlands furnish the Council with a copy of the appeal letter dated April 16 from attorneys representing Value Village, which had previously been mentioned.

Mr. Rowlands explained he would have to track it down as he did not have it, and did not know where it was. If he had received it, he would have certainly sent it to everyone.

Mayor Rasmussen stated it would be on the agenda next week.

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Mr. Cvitanich stated upon reviewing the last National League of Cities publication, he had noted that the City of New York is having their Sanitation Dept. pick up abandoned cars, which relieves the Police Dept. for other matters. He suggested that a letter be written to them and determine how it is working, as perhaps the City may utilize such a procedure.

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Mr. Cvitanich noted that in reviewing the Planning Commission's minutes, the attendance of the commission keeps diminishing. He suggested that the Council give serious consideration to including a member of the School Board and Park Board as members of the Planning Commission.

Mayor Rasmussen asked if the ordinance could be amended as suggested.

Mr. Hamilton, Acting City Attorney, explained that his recollection was, that the Charter prohibits any officer of the City from holding any other public office. However, he would check into the matter.

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Mr. Cvitanich informed the Council that he felt one solution for the 'generation gap', as it were, would be to involve young people on boards, etc., within the City government. He suggested, since the City has a Teenage Board, perhaps representatives from the high schools and colleges in the area should be appointed to some of the Boards in the City. This would not necessarily mean they could vote, but it would give students first hand experience.

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Mr. Bott inquired as to which departments can be contacted relative to dangers that can ensue when property owners allow grass to grow which makes it so unsightly, particularly to the nearby property owners.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the Health and Fire Departments can be contacted, but unless the property becomes a danger to life or property, there is not a great deal the City can do.

Mr. Hamilton also explained that the procedure that comes from the State Law, as well as the City ordinance, is a very cumbersome one as many steps have to be taken, and if the matter goes to Court, the cost usually exceeds the amount recovered.

Mr. Rowlands remarked that many cities throughout the Country control the overgrown lots by simply notifying the owner to clean up the lot and then giving him ten days or two weeks to do so. If this is not done, the City will clean it up and charge the owner. This, of course, would require a change in the State Law, as well as the City ordinance, he added.

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Mayor Rasmussen asked Mr. Rowlands to discuss with Chief Reiser the possible use of City Firemen in public relations, particularly in getting to know the children, so as they grow older, they will not be placing false alarms. He had discussed the matter with different firemen and they felt it was a good suggestion.

Mr. Cvitanich mentioned that last year the Annual Fire Report was a year late, and he wondered if this year's report would be submitted soon.

Mr. Rowlands explained this has been discussed and it is just a matter of getting the report reproduced.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mr. Floyd Davis, 2101 So. Eye St., stated he was speaking this evening as a representative of the concerned Black citizens of the Hilltop Community, and Tacoma in general. He noted there are many problems in the Hilltop area and they demand that the City Government become responsive to these problems and needs. He outlined particularly five demands: the hiring of ten Black policemen; conversion of city-owned lots into small parks for the Hilltop district; a Hilltop-based office manned by Blacks to assure annual enforcement of the building code so that rental homes are properly repaired by absentee owners; a greater allocation of park funds to improve recreational facilities in the central area; and a minimum of (200) city jobs for Black residents.

He noted these demands must be solved as quickly as possible.

Mayor Rasmussen stated the enforcement of the city code comes directly under the City Manager and it has been requested that the code be enforced. He also asked Mr. Davis if the Black community wished urban renewal in their area.

Mr. Davis stated he was in no position to give views on this matter.

Mayor Rasmussen also asked that Black leaders continue to turn in names of vandals to the Police Dept. He also stated that vandalism will not be tolerated in the City, and such vandals will be placed in jail. He said the Council will do everything they can to assist the Black citizen to come up to the standards for City employment, but they will not lower civil service standards.

Mr. Zatkovich explained that Mr. Davis says he represents the concerned Black citizens. But, in checking this evening, Mr. Zatkovich did not see any of the old, reliable Black citizens who have represented their area for years.

Mr. Davis left the meeting.

Mr. Cvitanich asked that Mr. Davis return to the Council meeting. He also felt if the Council had made commitments at the study session, they should let the Black citizens know what their position was.

Mr. Davis did not return to the meeting.

Mr. Rowlands stated that last week he had given the Council a report showing the number of demolitions and inspections, etc. in that area. Following the Council's request there will be a stepped up program relative to code enforcement.

Mr. Zatkovich felt that Mr. Davis represents a small minority of his own group but not the overall Black community. He also felt that Mr. Rowlands, who had suggested that the City find 200 jobs, would delete the Civil Service System, which took years to build. He also read an article from a newspaper deploring the present condition of riots and protests sweeping the United States.

Mrs. Banfield felt the Council's first duty was to the citizens of the entire community, and hoped that the Civil Service System would not be infringed upon.

Mr. Bott felt that a better line of communication between the Black community and the Council must be achieved.

Mr. Cvitanich asked Mr. Rowlands whether an ordinance is contemplated declaring moratorium on the hiring of city employees, freezing positions so that two hundred Black people can be put to work for the City of Tacoma.

Mr. Rowlands, explained the only ordinance that has been contemplated is one to establish the administrative aid position.

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A number of Council members expressed their support for strict code enforcement, better recreation areas, street improvements and any steps the Council can take within the framework of present laws and civil service.

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The following persons expressed their views on various subject matters to the City Council:

- Mr. John C. Frai, 1423 South 43rd
- Mr. Leon M. Jacobs, 808 South Hawthorne
- Mr. D. R. Nicholson, 6735 So. Mason

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Mr. Cvitanich suggested that the Legal staff study the matter for amending the Council Rules so that appearances of individuals requesting to speak at Council meetings every week be limited to, perhaps once or twice a month.

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Mr. Bott, Dr. Herrmann and Mr. Johnson left the meeting at 10:15 P.M.

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Mr. Cvitanich requested that Mr. Rowlands have the Public Works Dept. check the street on North Lexington, between No. 46th and 48th, as a resident of that area had called him stating the streets were badly in need of repair. He thought, perhaps, an opinion survey could be obtained.

Mayor Rasmussen asked Mr. Rowlands to check as to whether or not stop lights could be erected at 13th on K and J Streets.

Mr. Rowlands stated he would look into these matters.

ITEMS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

- a. Minutes of the Civil Service Board of May 6, 1969.
- b. Minutes of the Human Relations Commission for April 17, May 1, May 12, 1969 and Agenda for May 15, 1969 meeting.
- c. Minutes of the Board of Park Commissioners of May 12, 1969.
- d. Report from the Tacoma Employees' Retirement System for May, 1969.
- e. Report of Traffic Activities for the months of April, 1969.

- f. Report from the Tacoma Police Dept. for April, 1969.
- g. Report from the Director of Finance for April, 1969.
- h. State Auditor's report of the Tacoma Industrial Airport of Jan 1, 1968 to Dec. 31, 1968.

Placed on file.

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Mr. Cvitanich moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Mr. Zatkovich. A voice vote was taken and the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 P. M.

A. L. Rasmussen - Mayor

Attest: Josephine Melton
Josephine Melton - City Clerk