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Council Chambers, 7:30 P. M.

Monday, September 16, 1957

Council met in regular session. Present on roll call 8; Battin, Bratrud, Goering, Humiston, Jensen, Perdue, Stojack and Mr. Tollefson. Absent 1, Mayor Anderson. In the absence of Mayor Anderson, Dr. Battin presided.

It was moved by Dr. Humiston, seconded by Mr. Bratrud, that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved and the reading thereof be dispensed with. Motion carried. Ayes 8; Nays 0; Absent 1, Mayor Anderson.

PETITIONS:

11-7 Johnnie Babnick, et al, for rezoning from an R-2 District to an R-4-L District property located on the south side of South 56th Street from South I Street to South J Street. Referred to the City Planning Commission.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution No. 15106: \* W. O. 7707 - Units 301 to 336:

By BRATRUD:

Fixing Monday, October 14, 1957 as date for hearing on W. O. 7707 for repair and construction of curbs, sidewalks, driveways, etc. on Court "C" from South 6th Street to South 13th Street.

Adopted on roll call, September 16, 1957

Ayes 8; Nays 0; Absent 1, Anderson

11 Dr. Humiston asked if future Local Improvement Districts involving City participation are being held up until a policy is adopted by Council, and what portion of next year's funds has already been committed to certain projects. Mr. Staman advised that 6 or 7 projects for permanent pavement have already been approved from next year's funds or approximately two-thirds of the appropriation. Mr. Rowlands advised that there are sufficient funds budgeted to take care of all previous commitments and possibly some additional projects depending on the policy adopted by Council. Dr. Humiston said he would not like to see any more commitments made until the Council adopts a policy on Local Improvement District participation. Mr. Staman pointed out that this Resolution involves sidewalk participation and there is sufficient money in the Sidewalk Participation Fund to take care of this project.

Resolution No. 15107: \*

L I D 2278:

By BATTIN:

Fixing November 5, 1957 as date for hearing on L I D 2278 - oil mat surface on South Thompson Avenue from South 61st Street to South 64th Street, also storm drains on South Thompson Avenue from South 61st Street to South 64th

Street, and in South 64th Street from Thompson Avenue to J Street.

Adopted on roll call September 16, 1957  
Ayes 8; Nays 0; Absent 1, Anderson

Resolution No. 15108: X      L I D 5287:

By HUMISTON:

49:497

Fixing October 15, 1957 as date for hearing on L I D 5287 - cast iron water mains in South 12th Street from Pearl Street to Woodlawn Street; in South 19th Street from Pearl Street to Woodlawn Street; in Pearl Street from 6th Avenue to South 19th Street, in South 15th Street from Pearl Street to Woodlawn Street and in Woodlawn Street from South 11th Street to South 19th Street.

Adopted on roll call September 16, 1957  
Ayes 8; Nays 0; Absent 1, Anderson

Resolution No. 15109: X      L I D 5292:

470

By PERDUE:

Fixing November 5, 1957 as date for hearing on L I D 5292 - cast iron water main in Spokane Street from East 40th Street to East 43rd Street, in East 43rd Street from Spokane Street to McKinley Avenue.

Adopted on roll call September 16, 1957  
Ayes 8; Nays 0; Absent 1, Anderson.

Resolution No. 15110:

By TOLLEFSON:

Authorizing execution of an easement agreement with the State of Washington covering right of way over Light Division property for State Highway No. 5, just south of the town of Elbe.

Dr. Humiston said he would like to have this Resolution explained. Mr. Harold Johnson, Chairman of the Utility Board said that this was a little highway improvement at the east end of Alder Lake just south of the Town of Elbe, which needs to be improved as it is the approach to a road on the south side of the Lake. Dr. Humiston said he would like more information before voting. The question was called for and roll was taken on the Resolution.

Adopted on roll call September 16, 1957  
Ayes 7; Nays 1, Dr. Humiston (not voting);  
Absent 1, Mayor Anderson.

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**FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES:****Ordinance No. 15945:**

Amending Section 13.06.050 and 13.06.120 of Official Code - Zoning Ordinance, by including south side of Center Street from South Madison to South Gunnison in a C-1 Commercial District. (Petition of Investment Exchange Development Corporation. Ordered by Council on appeal from Planning Commission denial of the petition.) Read by title and placed in order of final reading.

**Ordinance No. 15946:**

Amending Sections 13.06.050 and 13.06.120 of Official Code - Zoning Ordinance, by addition of 50' on the north and east sides of existing "C-1" District of the N. E. Corner of South 66th and Tyler. (Petition of James, Lawrence and Clarence Healy, et al 8-5-57) Read by title and placed in order of final reading.

**FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES:****Ordinance No. 15944:**

Authorizing City Attorney to purchase and/or condemn certain property to acquire right of way for the purpose of grading Orchard Street from North 9th Street to North 16th Street. Read by title.

Mr. Rowlands pointed out that on first reading last Monday night an amendment was submitted to Section 4, providing that in the event the City Street Fund is insufficient, payment would be made from the General Fund. Moved by Dr. Humiston, seconded by Mr. Tollefson that Section 4 be amended to include the addition submitted last Monday. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Jensen asked if a private developer or the City was going to pay for the cost of putting in this street. Mr. Staman replied that the street would be put in by a Local Improvement District to be paid for by abutting property owners, but they are acquiring the necessary right-of-way first. Roll was then called on the Ordinance, resulting as follows:

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

The hearing on the petition of Commercial and Industrial Development Corporation, et al, for vacation of the half-street abutting the west side of Block 5, Edward P. Miller's 1st Addition located near South 17th and Sprague Streets, was considered at this time. The Clerk reported the posting of the notices required by law and the filing of an affidavit of such posting. She also reported that a fee of \$100.00 had been paid by the petitioner and that no remonstrances had been filed against the proposed vacation. Mr. Bratrud called attention to the footnote at the bottom of the map furnished by the Planning Staff, in which it states the Commission recommends that the vacation be granted on condition that the petitioner deed to the City 10' of property for street right of way from the frontage it controls along Sprague Avenue, and asked what this would do to the property. Mr. Buehler advised that they would still have a 20 foot front yard, but it would push the sidewalk

close to the property line. This 10 foot strip is being acquired now for a right of way to widen Sprague Avenue in the future, as it will undoubtedly have to be done because of the heavy traffic, and it can now be secured without cost to the City. Mr. Rowlands said it was good planning to acquire right of way for future widening of the street in advance whenever possible. Mr. Buehler stated that the petitioner has advised him the deeds are ready to file after the vacation has been approved by Council. Mr. McCormick advised that the ordinance vacating the street would not be prepared until these deeds have been filed. In reply to a question from Dr. Humiston, Mr. Buehler advised that no remonstrances had been filed at the Planning Commission hearing and that this was a 100% petition.

Mr. Rowlands commented that this is a case where a special permit was granted for a utility facility of the Telephone Company, by the Planning Commission without being referred to the City Council. He suggested that possibly the Council might want to have more specific conditions set forth in the zoning ordinance in connection with special permits, which would have to be met by a Public Utility before the permit is issued. This angle was discussed by Council but it was decided it should be considered by Council at some future date, as it had no bearing on the vacation petition. It was moved by Mr. Stojack, seconded by Dr. Humiston that the petition be granted subject to the stipulated easements and the City Attorney be instructed to draw an ordinance vacating the street. Motion carried on roll call: Ayes 7; Nays 1, Tollefson; Absent 1, Anderson.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

371

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Dr. Battin made a progress report on the Parking Program at this time. Sometime ago a suggestion was made relative to using "Flat Tops" for off-street parking, and the Staff has investigated this possibility, Dr. Battin said. A communication has been received from Federal Officials advising that this was not possible, he added. The committee from the Council appointed by Mayor Anderson at the request of the Chamber of Commerce and Retail Trade Bureau to work towards a solution of the parking problem held a short meeting last Tuesday evening, and selected the following as a nucleus committee: L. B. Macdonald, H. F. Syford, Henry O. Wheeler, R. A. Mueller, Robert R. Stoaks, W. P. Fitpold, D. A. Anderson, Forrest M. Rodgers, together with the Council members, Dr. Homer Humiston, Harold M. Tollefson and Dr. Battin as Chairman, he advised Council. They will hold their first meeting at 3:30 P. M. Thursday, September 26th in Room 100 of the City Hall. The Committee is interested in ideas and particularly in people who want to work as there is much to be done and they need the best thinking available to formulate a constructive program, Dr. Battin stated. He suggested that Council might want to approve the Committee by motion. Mr. Bratrud asked if there was not going to be a representative from Garage interests on this committee. Dr. Battin said that this had been discussed and it was the intent to add more members to the committee at a later date. The garage people would be welcome to send a representative to the meeting, he added. Dr. Humiston suggested that official action be held up until after the first Committee meeting and this was agreeable to Dr. Battin.

X Dr. Battin asked if anyone wished to take up any matters with Council. Mrs. J. H. King, 809 North Grant, complained that the people living on the north side of her, allow weeds and dandelions to grow wild and to go to seed, which blows over her lawn and parking. She also complained of people tramping down her parking strip. She has made these complaints to City officials, who have told her there is no ordinance against allowing dandelions to go to seed and she urged Council to pass legislation

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covering this. The neighbors have also created a fire hazard between her garage and theirs by allowing weeds to grow and dry up, and asked that someone be sent to see the condition. Dr. Battin asked the City Manager to have someone check into the situation and thanked Mrs. King for bringing the matter to Council's attention.

Mr. Edwin Hubble thanked Council for the recent action, which placed his name back on the Civil Service list.

Dr. Battin read a letter to Council from Greater Tacoma Inc., reminding the Council members of the luncheon meeting on Friday, September 20th at the Olympus Hotel, for purpose of discussing informally some plans for constructive progress in the City of Tacoma. Dr. Humiston, Mrs. Goering and Mr. Tollefson said they planned to attend.

Mr. Rowlands advised Council that another hearing is to be held before the U. S. Army Engineers on September 28th, 1957 on the construction of a bridge or bridges across Puget Sound to Vashon Island. On February 1, 1954 the Council, by Resolution No. 13848, took action opposing this bridge, and in view of the action previously taken Council will probably want to again express its opposition. As time is of the essence, since all data should be in the hands of United States Army Officials by September 23rd, they have prepared a Resolution for Council's consideration at tonight's meeting, Mr. Rowlands stated. This Resolution sets forth that the Council is opposed to any bridge which does not provide adequate horizontal and vertical clearances for the unrestricted flow of marine traffic to the Port of Tacoma and other ports affected, and is of a more general nature than the former Resolution, Mr. Rowlands advised. The Chamber of Commerce has taken the position that it is not opposed to the bridge if adequate clearance is provided, Mr. Rowlands stated.

It was moved by Dr. Humiston, seconded by Mr. Tollefson that Rule 7, relative to filing of new matter, be suspended in order to consider Resolution No. 15111. Motion carried unanimously on roll call.

Resolution No. 15111:

By BRATRUD:

Opposing the construction of any bridge or bridges across Puget Sound from the peninsula to Vashon Island or between Vashon Island and Fauntleroy unless it shall be definitely determined that the construction of such bridge or bridge is necessary to the economy of the State, is feasible both financially and engineeringwise, and the plans provide adequate horizontal and vertical clearances for the unrestricted flow of marine traffic to the Port of Tacoma and other ports affected thereby.

Dr. Humiston said this was a very well prepared Resolution, which although general in scope, clearly set forth the position of the Council, and he would like to see it adopted. Mr. Tollefson asked what position the Port of Tacoma had taken. Mr. Rowlands said he was not advised of the position taken by this group, but he felt that the Port of Tacoma, as well as any other interested group or Board would want a bridge that did not interfere with the free passage of all ships. Roll was then called on the adoption of the resolution.

Adopted on roll call September 16, 1957

Ayes 8; Nays 0; Absent 1, Anderson.

\* The joint meeting with the Utility Board and Utility Staff members, which had been scheduled for 8:30 P. M. for the purpose of a discussion of the 1958 Budget and other matters convened at this time. Dr. Battin called upon Mr. Harold R. Johnson, Chairman of the Utility Board, who stated that the Board Members and Department Heads were present to answer any questions Council members wished to ask about the 1958 Budget. Mr. Barline, Director of Public Utilities, briefly compared the 1956, 1957 and 1958 budget figures for the Light, Water and Belt Line Divisions, stating there was very little difference in the three budgets. The main difference in the Light Division Budget for this year is that no funds are budgeted for the Cowlitz Project in 1958, Mr. Barline stated. Mr. Bratrud asked the reason for this omission, and Mr. Barline replied that the Court does not give them the legal right to spend any funds after December 31, 1957. Mr. Bratrud then asked what will happen if the Cowlitz Construction is approved by the Courts, and Mr. Barline replied that in order to obtain funds to proceed with construction it would be necessary to issue bonds which would require the approval of the City Council.

Mr. Tollefson asked if any anticipated increase of light or water rates had been considered in the 1958 budget figures, and Mr. Barline replied in the negative. Mr. Barline advised that if any additional revenue is realized in 1958 it would be expended for Capital Improvements in both departments. City Light Superintendent J. D. Ferguson said they will probably not ask for a light rate increase this year, although such a request may be made early next year.

Mr. Tollefson asked about feasibility reports on the Mayfield and Mossyrock sites, and Mr. Barline advised that such a report had been made by Ford, Bacon and Davis on the Mayfield site, and that a feasibility study had been made on Mossyrock. However, complete feasibility reports on both projects would have to be made or former reports brought up to date before bonding houses would be interested in purchasing bonds, Mr. Barline added.

Mr. Bratrud asked if the 1958 Light Budget included any amount to pay liquidated damages to Arundel-Dixon, the Contractor on the Cowlitz Project, to cover the claim filed by the Company against the City for alleged damages resulting from legal delays. Mr. Barline said no funds have been budgeted as they did not have any definite figure, and that should a judgment be rendered by the Court in favor of the claimant, they would have to take the money to pay same from current funds or any other available funds.

Dr. Humiston asked if the Utility Board would present an ordinance outlining how this money would be spent should water rates be raised after the Budget is adopted. Mr. Barline replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Tollefson asked about the percentage increase in operating costs for salaries over the last 10 years. Mr. Ferguson said that in the last 10 years salaries in the Light Division have increased 57% and that material costs have increased from 3% to 5% a year. Mr. Barline reported a recent check showed that the Water Division now has fewer employees than it had six years ago in spite of additional customers. He gave as a reason for this more efficient operation, mechanized operations, and the replacement of old wooden watermains by cast iron pipes. The wooden watermains have been decreased from 40 miles to 18 miles which cuts down maintenance costs considerably. Mr. Jensen said it seemed that water sales have not increased in the last three years, although many new customers have been added. Mr. Barline replied that this is for the most part due to the fact that this summer has been a very poor year for sprinkling, and the residential water consumption depends for a large part on the weather over which they have no control.

Mr. Perdue asked what the cost is to maintain the parks around the various pumping stations and substations. Mr. Barline said these are all maintained

by one crew, which cuts the grass, etc., on all light and water department facilities. Mr. Edward Faker, Supervisor of General Services advised that the Department has 300 acres of landscaped properties and \$102,571 is budgeted for this purpose in 1958.

Mr. Barline stated that the Belt Line hoped to receive an increase of revenue in 1958 amounting to about 5% as they are entitled to the same increase as was granted trunk lines by the Interstate Commerce Commission last year. They are negotiating with the railroads to have them pass this increase in rates on to the Belt Line and if they are not successful, they plan to take the matter before the Interstate Commerce Commission, he added.

3/1 Dr. Battin asked if the cost of the expansion of track layout of the Belt Line, resulting from the elimination of the Lincoln Avenue crossing when the Port Industrial Waterway is widened, had been figured in the Belt Line budget. Mr. Barline advised that the added costs are approximately \$590,000, but this has not been included in the budget. The Water Department will have to install a submarine crossing for a 36" watermain at a cost of approximately \$150,000 and the Light Division will have to relocate a 55,000 KV and 110,000 KV line bringing power from Nisqually at a cost of between five hundred/six hundred thousand dollars, Mr. Barline stated. Mr. Neil Kime, Superintendent of the Belt Line was called upon and by means of a map showed Council the route that it would be necessary for the Belt Line to follow should they be unable to cross Lincoln Avenue. They will have to make a five-mile detour around the waterway and lay 20,400 feet of track of which the Port is willing to pay for 300 feet, Mr. Kime stated. The Belt Line would have to pay about \$600,000 in Capital Outlay for track, two new locomotives and an air system, plus approximately \$200,000 a year in increased operating costs, Mr. Kime added. Utility Board Chairman Harold Johnson said the Board plans to appear at the hearing on the extension of the waterway scheduled by the Army Corps of Engineers on September 26th, to present the facts and figures of the cost to the Light, Water and Belt Line Divisions of this proposed improvement.

City Manager Rowlands said the City was involved in this problem because of the traffic problem, and should be represented at the hearing. Council should decide whether they want Lincoln Avenue bridged or whether they favor the new proposed alternate route around the head of the waterway, which will have access to the new Free-way. The matter was discussed and a number of Council members felt there was not enough information available for them to take a position on the issue. Mr. Stojack said he felt the Council should meet with the Port Commission to ascertain what their plans are before he will make any commitment. Mr. Tollefson said he thought the Council must be in a position to protect the property owners in that part of the City relative to egress and ingress. Mr. Jensen said the Council should be furnished factual information by the Staff, such as a report from the Traffic Engineer, Belt Line and Public Works on what the closing of Lincoln Avenue will mean. City Manager Rowlands agreed to have something along this line ready before next Monday. It was moved by Dr. Humiston that the Port Commission be invited to meet with Council next Monday night at 8:00 P. M. to discuss the problems involved in the extension of the Port Industrial Waterway. Motion seconded by Mr. Perdue and carried on roll call. Harold R. Johnson, President of the Utility Board and Neil Kime, Superintendent of the Belt Line were also asked to be present.

† Mr. Bratrud brought up the matter of I. B. M. charges by the Utilities Department for Garbage and Sewer billings for which it is claimed by the General Fund there is an overcharge. Mr. Rowlands referred to the report of

Lybrand, Ross Bros. and Montgomery, dated August 8, 1957, entitled "Report on Joint and/or separate accounting and billing costs for Utilities" which shows that an annual adjustment of \$34,000 should be made on these charges. Mr. Johnson said the Board had not received copies of this report and they would like to have this held up until they have more information. Mr. Rowlands promised to have copies of this report furnished each member of the Board.

**ITEMS RECEIVED FOR FILING IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK:**

- a. Fire Chief - report of the Fire Department, Fire Prevention Bureau, Fire Alarm and Radio for the month of August, 1957.
- b. Police Chief - report of Police Department for month of August, 1957.
- c. Record of cases in Tacoma Municipal Court during month of August, 1957.
- d. Harbor Master - report for the month of July, 1957.
- e. Director of Finance - report for the month of August, 1957.

Upon motion, duly seconded and carried, Council adjourned  
at 10:12 P. M.

Oliver T. Belton  
Vice President of City Council

Attest:

Josephine Melton  
Deputy City Clerk