

Council Chambers, 4:00 P.M.  
Monday, December 29, 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 29, 1958 be approved as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Bratrud; carried unanimously. Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0;

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution No. 15592

BY EASTERDAY:

50:8

Fixing Tuesday, February 10, 1959 at 4:00 P.M. as the date for hearing on L I D 2291 for grading and oil mat on East F Street and East G from East 84th to East 86th Street.

It was moved by Mr. Easterday to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Anderson.

Adopted on roll call December 29, 1958  
Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

Resolution No. 15593

BY ANDERSON:

Authorizing a temporary loan in the sum of \$200,000 from the City Street Fund to the Public Works Revolving Fund.

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

Adopted on roll call December 29, 1958  
Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

Resolution No. 15594

BY GOERING:

Authorizing the proper officers of the City to enter into a supplemental agreement with McChord Air Force Base for furnishing electric services.

Mr. Barline said this is a routine contract similar to the one that Utilities entered into last year. Since then the loads have grown making it necessary to increase the amount of money for installation and in annual payments. These contracts are required by the government before they can make any payments for services.

Mr. Anderson asked if the electric rates had to be raised, "what effect will it have on this contract?"

Mr. Barline said in that event the rates would have to go up.

Vote was then taken on the resolution resulting as follows:

Adopted on roll call December 29, 1958 .  
Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

Mayor Hanson asked for a motion to suspend the rules in order to take up a matter not on the agenda. Dr. Humiston moved that the rules be suspended to take up a matter that does not appear on the agenda, seconded by Mr. Anderson. Roll call: Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

Mayor Hanson then introduced Mr. A. Rasmussen who was representing employees of the Northern Pacific Locomotive shop, South Tacoma.

Mr. Rasmussen read a statement, in which the help of the Council was solicited in an effort to retain the present employment at the Northern Pacific Locomotive Shop. He said from information received, it indicated that a large part of the work is to be transferred to their Livingston, Montana shop. This means that a great amount of machinery and tools designed and made by the employees at the South Tacoma plant are also to be transferred. A great number of employees who will be affected by this transfer have from fifteen to forty years of service with the Northern Pacific Railway Company. This transfer of work to Livingston will mean a loss of jobs to about two hundred employees. This transfer of work away from Tacoma is not because of loss of business, as the Northern Pacific Railway Company has just recently declared a 20% stock dividend in addition to the regular dividends.

Mr. Rasmussen explained the purpose of bringing this before the Council was that a Resolution presented by the Council to the Railway Company might make the difference of whether they transfer the company out of Tacoma or not.

It was mentioned that the Chamber of Commerce would be of the greatest assistance in this matter and Mayor Hanson said the resolution, if passed, would be forwarded to the Chamber of Commerce and to the officials of the Northern Pacific Railway Company. Resolution No. 15595 was then read:

Resolution No. 15595

BY REQUEST OF HANSON:

Requesting and urging the Northern Pacific Railroad Company to continue its operations at its South Tacoma Repair Shops without any curtailment whatsoever, and that the Northern Pacific Railroad Company take all steps necessary to insure the maintenance of such operations at the highest level possible.

It was moved by Mr. Bratrud that the Resolution be adopted, seconded by Mr. Porter.

Adopted on roll call December 29, 1958  
Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES:

Ordinance No. 16238:

Amending Sec. 1. of Ordinance No. 16186 by changing the clerical error of interest rate from 5% to 4% on L I D 1921. Read by title and placed in order of final reading.

387  
544

Ordinance No. 16240 :

Vacating property located in Olympic Blvd. abutting Block "D" Highlands, Narrowview Addition between Howard and Skyline Drive. Read by title and placed in order of final reading.

527  
544

FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES:

Ordinance No. 16237:

Creating a new fund in the Treasury of the City of Tacoma to be designated as the Airport Construction Fund; specifying the purposes for which said fund is to be used: providing for the deposit of certain moneys into said fund; and for the keeping of records and accounts thereof.

524  
588

Mr. Rowlands said this fund was being created for expenditures to be paid out for any airport improvements that might develop as a result of the program that is being carried out by the C. A. A.

He said a letter was received today stating that it would probably be two weeks before the Peninsula site would be considered by the authorities in Indianapolis. Any monies received will be put into this fund.

Mrs. Goering asked if this fund could receive earmarked funds or if it was for any airport.

Mr. Rowlands said this was not restricted.

Mrs. Goering asked "out of what funds are the principalities paid?"

Mr. Rowlands said the Council passed a Resolution two or three months ago authorizing the appropriation of \$1000 for that purpose and there will be about \$1500 more expenses.

Mayor Hanson said this Resolution was authorizing whatever steps necessary to proceed with the airport project and with the hiring of the Buckley Firm for additional work.

Mayor Hanson said the only thing the Ordinance does is create a fund or a book keeping entry wherein funds as they are received for this project, can be deposited; so it would be available for proceeds from bond issues or contributions from the Federal Government.

Roll call: Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

**Ordinance No. 16238:**

Relating to the licensing of Amusement devices and repealing all ordinances in conflict therewith.

Mr. Easterday said he would like to speak on the history of this ordinance. He said, no doubt the Council will remember that last summer when the budget was being prepared there was a shortage of funds and it was necessary to trim the budget in order to give the Park Board \$32,500. He said he anticipates next year that the Council will have to participate in the Park activities again. He felt that in 1960 the Park Board would go to the people for permission to levy millage in excess of the one mill that they can levy now. It was pointed out during the budget hearings that unless they City received substantial aid from the legislature they would have to economize and discontinue many services that they are now participating in. In an effort to help in this matter, he contacted several members of the legislature and told them of the City's plight and asked their help. Several members told him that the City of Tacoma had not availed themselves of all the sources of revenue that most other communities did and suggested to him that the City proceed as other municipalities and place a license upon the pin ball machines.

He said he didn't realize the furor that this Ordinance could create. The ordinance was drawn up to discuss whether this act was proper or not. He said he was greatly impressed last week by the protest made by organizations, almost to the point of being willing to withdraw the Ordinance, but some one called threatening him if he voted for this ordinance. He said he refused to let this person feel he had been intimidated.

Mrs. Price said she would like to thank people for their interest in City government and hoped they would continue this interest.

Mr. Anderson said he felt matters such as these should be brought before the study sessions first so all members could express their views. He felt that if this had been done, this Ordinance would not have been presented, thus saving the City such unfavorable publicity.

Dr. Humiston said he agreed with Mr. Anderson that if there had been these preliminary discussions all of this would have been unnecessary.

Mr. Perdue said it has become very evident that the majority of the people are opposed to this ordinance and it was his hope that this Council will unanimously vote it down.

Mayor Hanson said to make matters clear he did not draft the ordinance. He then asked for comments from the audience.

Mr. Howard Lindholm, downtown restaurant owner, said he could not see where pin ball machines could harm anyone. He has no personal interest in the machines but was in favor of their return. He mentioned Dr. Humiston's and Mr. Anderson's comment on being proud of Tacoma. He said he also was proud of the City; he was born and raised in Tacoma. He said the empty buildings in the downtown area and the Unemployment were nothing to be proud of and there was no City in Washington that looked to Tacoma as a leader in regards to business. He said the City is losing a lot of revenue. The last time the pinball machines were in town the yearly revenue was \$40,000. He said he hoped for the sake of the City the Council would vote in favor of this ordinance.

Mr. Andrew Games, attorney, said since this matter was brought to the attention of the public an effort has been made by a tax-exempt minority group with the aid of the daily newspaper and several news commentators to delude the public into believing that a great moral issue is at stake and that this ordinance is merely the first step in a plan to throw the town wide-open. This ordinance is a far different matter as he sees it and the furor created by it is what would be expected by a "Carry Nation" who would bring back prohibition, close all the movie theatres and enforce Sunday blue laws.

First on the practical side can the City afford to turn down an opportunity to receive a revenue of \$40,000. With the tax structure being what it is in the state and with the tax problems confronting our legislature it is not likely that our City lobbyists will be successful in getting legislation passed enabling them to levy a city sales tax. Is the revenue that would be received from the passage of this ordinance so small that the Council can vote against it, he asked.

Secondly, Tacoma and Olympia are the only two major cities in this state that do not allow pinball machines. Apparently these other cities are interested in the revenue.

Thirdly, he asked how could this horror stricken attitude be justified when card games, punch boards, football pools, etc. are tolerated.

Lastly, he reminded everyone that there was a tremendous vote in this last election which made it obvious that the public wanted a change. This could be one of these changes and perhaps this will be manifested in the next election, he added.

He asked how long are we going to let minority groups push us around and indirectly deter the industrial growth of this city. How long are we going to be a "hick town" in attitude and atmosphere, if not in size. He suggested that it was time to do something constructive and practical without fear of reprisal.

James Crawford, a Tacoma Smelter employee suggested that the ordinance be changed to allow proprietors to own their machines with 50% of the take going to the City to finance a youth program. He suggested the City lobby for a tax on church properties to raise additional revenue.

Mr. Pardue said the revenue taken in by pin all machines would not be clear revenue because as it was mentioned in last week's meeting it would undoubtedly mean the expansion of welfare rolls. The trade stimulant argument is unsound because the money spent on the machines is simply taken away from legitimate trade channels.

Mr. Porter said he agrees with Mr. Easterday's remarks that the City needs more revenue and will need more revenue in the future. Being a member of the Legislative Committee, he had contacted many of the Legislatures and had received the same reaction. He said he feels the City will be very lucky if they get any help from the State Legislature, altho he will try to do his best to get what aid he can. He said he has had the same questions and answers thrown at him and it still seems rather amazing, the feeling on one hand, opposing pin ball machines and on the other the tolerance that is had for other things that are definitely gambling. This matter was brought to his mind by an article in the Sunday, Tacoma News Tribune by a comment by Mr. Mason Halligan and also by Mr. Games. On one hand we are opposing licensing something called amusement devices which some people think are gambling devices. On the other hand we have evidently been tolerating for many years things that definitely are gambling in the opinion of many people which do not pay any license to the City. Therefore, the people who have those gambling devices including the non-profit organizations and churches that allow gambling are making a profit from them or they wouldn't be going into it as was stated regarding pin balls. They are paying no tax to the City. He said he hasn't heard any of the

ministers, who appeared before Council last week, oppose these methods of gambling. suggested before they condemn the way some people would like to amuse themselves by playing pinballs that they clean their own skirts and eliminate gambling from their churches and organize to eliminate it completely. He said he did not want to be hypocritical as he was not opposed to gambling, as he enjoys playing pinochle and poker and bridge in the homes of friends for money, evidently that is against the law, he said, as that is gambling. As the matter has been brought out in the open he does see how the City Council, the Manager, Police Chief, or City Officials can any further condone the tolerance. It seemed to him that it is certainly catering to special groups not by law but by allowing something. If we are going to have a tolerance program why not bring it out in the open and establish it for everybody so it will be fair to all

Mr. Bratrud then moved that the Ordinance be tabled, Seconded by Mr. Anderson.

Mayor Hanson pointed out to the audience that a motion to table an ordinance killed further debate on the matter. Roll was then called on the Ordinance resulting as follows. Ayes 5; Nays 4; Easterday, Goering, Perdue, & Porter. Absent 0.

Mayor Hanson read a prepared statement in regard to the pinball issue which stated in part that he would resist any effort to resurrect the issue. "It is my conviction that one who holds public office must, if he is to be honest to the public who elected him, attempt to follow the point-of-view and policies he expounded publicly when he presented himself for election. My position was taken on a result of this effort. I will not now discuss this position in its narrow sense, but rather in the broad sense which, to me, is of far greater consequence." In my campaign for election I promised to work towards unity. In taking what I felt to be a consistent position on the pinball issue, public reaction has proven that I failed in my promise to work for unity. No action of this nature can be regarded as in the best interest of the City if it breeds disunity and suspicion. My thanks go to you citizens who responded so promptly. If you had failed to respond promptly, an action may have been taken which would have been a constant source of irritation and controversy. It is my feeling that this response proven the wisdom of my policy of public disclosure in advance of action- no matter how inexpedient the policy may be politically.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

This is the date fixed for hearing on Work Order 73158 for the reconstruction and repair of sidewalks, gutters and curbs in various parts of the City. Mrs. Riese residing at 4109 So. Thompson, asked if the price stated to them was simply an estimated cost or the total cost of fixing the sidewalks.

Mr. Schuster said that was the estimated cost. Bids would be called to get the exact cost from the contractor in the near future. He said these costs were based on experience and should be quite accurate.

Mr. Rowlands mentioned that 25% of the cost would be borne by the City.

Mr. Riese questioned the matter of the arrows painted on the sidewalks. He said the arrows extended about two feet into his neighbors property and wondered if this meant the cost of that portion of the sidewalks would be charged to him.

Mr. Schuster said each property owner would pay only for that portion of sidewalk on his property. The reason the arrows had been painted was to give the people an idea of the portions of sidewalk that needed repairing.

Mr. A. B. Melleken residing at 1310 So. 41st and a representative from the Myholme Nursing Home at 402 No. J Street were also present with questions regarding the assessment for sidewalk repairs and reconstruction.

Dr. Humiston suggested that a representative from the Public Works Dept. contact these property owners in regard to their complaints.

Dr. Humiston then moved that an Ordinance be brought in providing for sidewalk improvement. Seconded by Mr. Easterday. Roll call Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

195  
479  
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SD 421

This is the date set for hearing on the petition of W. H. Potucek, et al <sup>543</sup>  
for the annexation of Scenic View Heights Plat in Pierce County - N.E. Tacoma.

Dr. Humiston asked Mr. Potucek why he felt that this area would be in a better position as part of the City of Tacoma rather than remaining in the County.

Mr. Potucek said that by annexation the area will be eligible for sewers, water mains, etc., in the City.

Mayor Hanson said the reason this question was asked was that the Council regards this as a milestone in the development of the City and want to thank him for his request of annexation. This is the first such request the City has had for some time and the Council hopes that this established a trend.

Mr. Russ Buehler, Planning Director, said that the State Law requires a check as to the assessed valuation in the area and this had been done and proven satisfactory. He said the boundary description was also checked and was found to be in order.

Mr. Easterday moved that an Ordinance be brought in for the annexation of Scenic View Heights Plats. Seconded by Mr. Perdue. Roll call: Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

This is the date set for hearing on the appeal filed by Harold E. Wagner, et al for the reclassification of property at 6th and Huson Streets to be rezoned from an R-3 District to an R-4 District. <sup>504</sup>  
<sub>50:14</sub>

Mayor Hanson explained that at the hearing held before the Planning Commission it was recommended by a 6 to 0 vote to deny the application.

Mr. Don Sherfy, attorney for Mr. Wagner, asked that the Council postpone the hearing as Mr. Buehler and Mr. Wagner have been discussing the possibility of a R-4-L classification in this area in place of the R-4 that Mr. Wagner has previously asked for. He said that further discussion was desired and asked the Council to grant this extension. If something is worked out at the outcome of these discussions the petition would be amended.

Mr. Buehler said he would like to clarify a point. He said he had talked with Mr. Wagner in reference to this and explained to him that any such action would have to be taken by the Council or the Planning Commission.

Mr. Garen, a member of the Planning Commission said this point was raised before the Planning Commission meeting and it was explained to Mr. Wagner that if he decided to change his petition from an R 4 to an R-4-L classification, he would have to go through the entire process again. He said there would be nothing gained by an amendment to the petition. The matter of the filing fee would be up to the Council.

Mr. Sherfy explained the reason for the continuance was to see if an agreement could be reached on the R-4-L classification. If none can be reached then there would be no point to proceed with this but to have the petition heard on its merits.

Mr. Bratrud moved that the hearing on Mr. Wagners appeal be postponed to March 2, 1959. Seconded by Mr. Porter. Roll call: Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

This is the date fixed for hearing on the petition of A. F. Gratzner, for the vacation of streets and alleys in the area bounded approximately by the freeway, So. 48th Street, So. Pine and So. 43rd Streets.

Mr. Rowlands explained that there is a relationship to the area in this petition and the planned shopping Center district and since there is an amendment coming up in regard to the Shopping area he felt this hearing should be postponed until a decision is reached on the proposed amendment to the Official Code.

Dr. Humiston moved that this hearing be set over to January 5, 1959. Seconded by Mr. Porter. Roll call: Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

REPORTS:

472  
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The City Planning Commission reporting back on the hearing held on December 19, 1959 in reference to the proposed amendments to Sec. 13.06.375 of the Official Code Zoning regulations for planning shopping center district.

Dr. Humiston asked that the material he recommended for amending Sec. 13.06 as outlined in Resolution No. 15543 be brought in as an Ordinance for first reading at the January 5, 1959 Council meeting, and in the meantime the Council will have a week to study the very complete presentation submitted by the Planning Commission. He said he has not studied the report himself yet, but discussion can be held on the Ordinance before it is passed.

MC-242 - Accomplishments in 1958 - Plans for 1959

MC-243 - L I D Accounting and Investment Changes.

51  
Mr. Bratrud said he thought that the rules governing the Council should be amended so that the appointed City Boards and Commission members could be heard first on the agenda instead of at the end of the meeting. He said this would enable them to then return to their other duties as soon as possible.

ITEMS FOR FILING IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

Report from the Tacoma Transit Company for November 1958.

Report from the Water Division for the month of November 30, 1958.

Report from the Belt Line Division for the month of November 30, 1958.

There being no other business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

*Ben Hanson*  
President

Attest:

*Joseph Melton*  
City Clerk