

Council Chambers, 4:00 P. M.  
Monday, October 5, 1959

Council met in regular session. Present on roll call 8: Bratrud, Easterday, Anderson, Goering, Humiston, Perdue, Porter, Price. Absent 1, Mayor Hanson. Mayor Hanson coming in at 4:10 P. M. In the absence of Mayor Hanson, Dr. Humiston, Vice Mayor, presided.

Mr. Easterday moved that the minutes of the meeting of September 28, 1959 be approved as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Bratrud. Motion carried: Ayes 8; Nays 0; Absent 1, Mayor Hanson.

Vice Mayor, Dr. Humiston, explained that Mayor Hanson would be a few minutes late and that the presentation of the "30 Year Service Awards" to City Employees will be taken up when he arrives, and the next order of business will be taken up at this time.

PETITIONS:

Chester A. Hogan, requesting the rezoning of the property located at North 45th to North 46th, North Pearl to North Visscher Streets to be rezoned from an "R-2" District to a "C-1 District. Referred to the Planning Commission. 351

Mike Nicholic, requesting the rezoning of the property located at the southeast corner of South Sprague and South 84th Streets be rezoned from an "R-2" District to a "C-2 District. Referred to the Planning Commission.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution No. 15894:

L I D 2257:

By Perdue:

Fixing Tuesday, October 27, 1959 at 4:00 P. M. as the date for hearing on L I D 2257 for sidewalks on South 72nd Street from Pacific to Sheridan Avenues. 352

It was moved by Mr. Anderson that the Resolution be adopted. Seconded by Mr. Easterday.

Adopted on roll call October 5, 1959  
Ayes 8; Nays 0; Absent 1, Mayor Hanson.

Mayor Hanson coming in at this time and taking over as Chairman.

Resolution No. 15895:

By Humiston:

Authorizing and directing the proper officers of the City to execute and

deliver to Herbert J. Hartzell and Joan Hartzell a local improvement assessment deed for the amount of \$20.00 for property located west of the alley between South Oakes and South Fife near South 58th Street.

It was moved by Mr. Anderson that the Resolution be adopted. Seconded by Mr. Bratrud.

Adopted on roll call October 5, 1959  
Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

Resolution No. 15896:

By Anderson:

Awarding contract to Lige Dickson Company in the amount of \$26,181.00 for the improvement of L I D 4658 which was determined to be the lowest and best bid.

It was moved by Mr. Easterday that the Resolution be adopted. Seconded by Mr. Bratrud.

Adopted on roll call October 5, 1959  
Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

Mayor Hanson said they will refer back to the first item on the agenda and make the presentation of the "Service Award Pins" and asked that Mr. Rowlands present the awards.

Mr. Rowlands said he was very happy to make the presentation of the "30 Year Service Award Pins" to the following persons, all of whom have 31 years of service with the City: Albert Ebel, Angel V. Fawcett, Manley M. Hess and Edward M. McGrath, all of the Public Works Department and Herman C. Schnugger and Harold F. Thore of the Police Department. Mr. Rowlands advised that Sgt. James F. White of the Police Department was not present to receive his pin.

Mayor Hanson and Mr. Rowlands both congratulated the men on their many years of service to the City.

The regular order of business was then resumed.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES:

Ordinance No. 16432:

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Authorizing the condemnation of property for the construction, maintenance and operation of sewers in the area known as 3616 Marine View Drive. Read by title.

Mr. Marshall McCormick, City Attorney, said this Ordinance should be stricken from the agenda as a previous ordinance, No. 16379 has already been passed authorizing the condemnation of the property in question.

Dr. Humiston then moved that the Ordinance be withdrawn from consideration. Motion seconded by Mr. Easterday and carried: Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES:

Ordinance No. 16428:

Vacating that portion of East I Street from East 27th Street to the alley between East 25th and East 26th Streets. (Petition of Oscar Kretschmer) 295  
Read by title.

Mr. Paul Benson, Assistant Planning Director, said at the last minute the question of a small gas main running through this street was raised. However, checking further with the Gas Company, they reported that the matter would be resolved by negotiations with the property owner. At this time both parties are satisfied with the arrangements brought about by these negotiations.

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

Ordinance No. 16429:

Vacating the north 15 feet of North 10th Street between the west line of Winnifred and the east line of the alley between Highland and Winnifred Streets. 295  
333  
Read by title and passed. (Petition - William Schultz)

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

Ordinance No. 16430:

Amending Chapter 13.06 of the Official Code relating to zoning by adding a new section to be known as Sec. 13.06.030 (1). to include property on Bayview and Panoramic Drive between Brown's Point Boulevard and Scenic Drive N. E. Tacoma in the "R-1" One Family Dwelling District. (Potucek petition) 295  
Read by title and passed.

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

Ordinance No. 16431:

Authorizing the issuance of \$3,000,000. Sewer Revenue Bonds to provide part of the money necessary to acquire, construct and install such additions, improvements and extensions to the Municipal Sewer System. Read by title.

Marshall McCormick, City Attorney, said there was an amendment to the Ordinance that should be made on page 12, first paragraph 14th line-- the words "through the month" should be stricken and the words "to within two months" should be inserted. Also in the 15th line of the same paragraph the word "issued" should be changed to read "sold".

Dr. Humiston then moved that Ordinance No. 16431 be amended on page 12, the first paragraph, 14th line, the words "through the month" be stricken and the words "to within two months" be inserted therefor. Also in the 15th line of the same paragraph the word "issued" be changed to read "sold". The motion was seconded by Mr. Anderson and carried on roll call: Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

Mr. Rowlands said the actual money would be available about four weeks after the bonds are sold.

Roll was called on the Ordinance, as amended, resulting as follows:

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

MC-275 - Street Plans - Vicinity of the Public Safety Building.

Mr. Rowlands said about six weeks ago the City Council asked the Traffic Engineer for a report on whether or not the Public Safety Building would have to be removed to make way for an extension of A Street to Stadium Way.

This M-C indicates that there will be no change for some years, if then. It is also conceivable that if plans were made to connect these streets, the building could be avoided all together.

Inasmuch as some time will elapse before this becomes necessary, consideration should be given to the alternative here, of not going thru the building at the present time, but if it should become necessary, any money donated by any group might be reimbursed in the amount of the depreciated value of the grant, computed on a straight line basis.

Mr. Rowlands explained that before too long there are two questions the Council will probably be faced with: One, if there are a number of organizations occupying the building and having the responsibility of taking care of their own utilities, "will the City be in a position to take care of the maintenance of the building"; Two, "if a large amount of money is spent for the rehabilitation of this building and if in 20 or 30 years the City has to raze the building for road purposes, would there be some consideration to reimburse groups who contributed to the building, the amount of money donated less the number of years they occupied the building".

A brief discussion by the Council members resulted in Mayor Hanson summing the matter up by saying it was agreed that the City proceed to negotiate some kind of an agreement with this group giving them the assurance that the City, at the present time, has no plans to remove this building, but if it should become necessary in the future to do this the City would reimburse the donors in the amount of depreciated value of the grant, computed on a straight line basis.

Dr. Humiston said the Manager raised two points, however, only one of which has been commented on. The other is the willingness of the Council to commit the City to the furnishing of certain maintenance, which he believes is beyond the power of any Council to do for a period longer than a year. He said he does not see how this can be considered until it is determined what the plans are for the building.

Mr. Rowlands replied that this would have to be by intent only.

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31b  
Mr. Bratrud said before taking up the matter of the budget, he would like some information on Tacoma's position in changing its fire rating classification from a Class 3 to a Class 4.

Dr. Humiston said the Council was told last year there was a fair chance of Tacoma being raised from a Class 3 to a Class 2 rating the next time the City

was graded. But a Summary Grading Sheet from the National Board of Fire Underwriters dated September 24, 1959 shows a total of 1617 points against the City which places it in the 4th Class.

Mr. Rowlands said they were dumbfounded when they were notified of Tacoma going from a 3rd to a 4th Class rating, as they had every indication that the City would be raised to a 2nd Class.

The City was given very little credit for its inspection service, expansion of the hydrant systems, the water main installation program and the revision of the codes. As a matter of fact some points were even taken away because of some of this work.

Mr. Rowlands said it was made clear to Mr. Weir, of the Fire Underwriters, that we were very much disturbed and chagrined at their rating.

A staff meeting has been held and it is felt that the 117 points needed to restore Tacoma to a 3rd Class can be picked up quite readily with the program they have in mind.

We have contacted the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau and they have agreed to hold the change in classification in abeyance. He said the Rating Bureau did not feel it would be in order to change the premium rates, which would be about a 20% increase, if Tacoma plans to be restored to a 3rd Class. A couple of years ago Seattle was faced with the same problem and the Bureau gave them a year's time in which to be restored to their former classification. As he understands it, the Bureau will hold in abeyance any wholesale change in rates until Tacoma has an opportunity to make up these points and again will be surveyed by the National Board of Fire Underwriters, to determine if Tacoma can retain its Class 3 rating.

Dr. Humiston said this letter makes the flat statement that Tacoma is in a 4th Class, which means if the rate is adjusted to the class, they say we are in this means a 20% increase in fire insurance for everybody. He said he felt that what was done in Seattle or Spokane is of little consequence. There are still a few days in which the Council could adjust the budget if necessary to take care of the Fire Department. He asked who had the say in raising Tacoma's rates?

Mr. Rowlands answered that it was up to the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau, and as he mentioned previously they feel that Tacoma could have six months to restore the 3rd Class rating before any raise in rates will be considered. Mr. Rowlands said it might be said the City is in Class 4 on a probationary period.

Mr. M. S. Erdahl, representative of the Chamber of Commerce Insurance Committee said to re-rate Tacoma to a Class 4 and increase the insurance rates 20% would take several months. In the case of Seattle and Spokane, the Bureau granted them a grace period only upon the assurances from those respective City Councils that funds were available to take the necessary steps to correct the situation. He said he was present today to emphatically encourage the City Council to take the necessary steps to place the City in a position to assure the Bureau that this can be accomplished.

Mayor Hanson asked Mr. Rowlands how much money would be needed to accomplish this.

Mr. Rowlands replied they feel they can pick up 150 to 200 points in the Building Inspection field, the Fire Inspection field, the Fire Prevention Bureau and in the Fire Alarm program by spending very little money. The Fire Chief presented a list a few days ago in which 175 points were picked up by making changes in certain procedures under which the City lost points, such as the vacation schedules in the department and making certain there was sufficient

man power on duty. We feel it can be done without budgeting any more money, he added. A more detailed report for the Council either Tuesday or Wednesday before the final adoption of the budget to show more specifically where they expect to pick up these points will be submitted, he added.

Dr. Humiston said he felt that before the Budget is adopted, the City should have in writing the assurance of the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau that if we do accomplish this in a certain length of time that Tacoma will stay in Class 3. He said he would also like to have Mr. Bratrud, who has knowledge of this particular field to sit in on these negotiations. If we do not have these assurances the Council should not pass the Budget without allowing the Fire Department sufficient money to keep the City in a Class 3.

Mayor Hanson said as he understands it each point that has been taken away are specifically described and also their reasons for giving demerits. Therefore if these reasons can be removed these points can be picked up. He said he assumed the report that Mr. Rowlands proposes to submit would list all the reasons for the demerits and how the City could remedy this.

Mr. Rowlands said this was correct. He said he hoped to get something in writing this week.

Mr. Anderson asked if there was adequate money in the budget to pick up enough points to place Tacoma in a Class 3.

Mr. Rowlands said he believed there was.

Mrs. Goering said it looks as though the National Board of Fire Underwriters is the last word and nobody questions them. She said she has noticed there is a lot of resentment of having to force a City to accept a report from these people without any recourse. She was told that almost every time a City requests a survey from these people they are downgraded to another Class. Consequently cities wary of asking for a survey. She felt this was wrong because if there were proper working relationships, it would be very helpful for a City to check to see where they have fallen behind. Apparently, Tacoma would not have had to have this survey if they had not requested it. It is getting to the point where Cities will not request this, but will wait until forced to do so. She asked what was the normal procedure.

Mr. Rowlands said a City was required to have such a survey every ten years, but the Underwriters did have the right to check any time.

Mrs. Goering said the Underwriters appear to be the top authority and in view of this it is important that the Association of Washington Cities review the surveys.

Mr. M. Erdahl explained that the Board of Fire Underwriters consisted of Fire Insurance Companies in business in the United States. As their local agents, he said, they have what is called a Fire Contact and make representation to these same companies. If they passed an unjust rating on Tacoma, that is something we want to know more about, he added.

If we did not have the National Board of Fire Underwriters, Insurance rates would be much higher.

Mrs. Goering said she still felt better relationships could be had so that the Cities would welcome a survey as an assistance and feel they were being fairly treated.

Mr. Erdahl said the Committee he served on recommended to the City Council three years ago that they not make application for a Class 2 rating as it was not possible without the expenditure of much money.

Mr. Rowlands said before this survey was requested the matter was gone into quite thoroughly by all the departments concerned and everyone was certain

that the City could meet all requirements for a Class 2 with very little cost to the City.

Mr. Perdue said it appears to him the Board of Underwriters is not an unbiased judge. They are the Insurance Companies and it is to their profit to downgrade cities and it does seem as if there should be some means of checking them.

Mr. Erdahl said an appeal can be made to the Fire Contact Committee who meets with representatives of Insurance Companies twice a year. Also, he said, the Insurance Companies would much rather have a City rated as a Class 3 than a Class 4 as the risk is not as high.

Mr. Perdue said he appreciated this but even so the appeal would be made to the same organization which actually represents the Company, and who stand to profit by this.

Mr. Anderson moved that Mr. Rowlands and Mr. Bratrud meet with the Insurance Agents Association and to bring into the Council recommendations as to what action is necessary to bring Tacoma back to a Class 3 rating. Motion seconded by Mr. Easterday.

Dr. Humiston said he thought the Chief of the Fire Department should also be present at this meeting. He added that he thought it should also be brought to light that the decision requesting this survey should not be placed entirely upon the Manager's shoulders as the material was all presented to the City Council repeatedly and while there was no official action, as he recalls, by the Council, there certainly was a concurrence from the members that this examination be requested.

Roll was called on the motion, resulting as follows: Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

This is the date set by State Law for the hearing on the budget for 1960.

Mr. Rowlands said the complete presentation of the Budget showing the changes made in the revenue for 1960 will be presented on Tuesday. Thirty to thirty-five citizens have received special invitations to attend the meeting and any other member of the public who desires to attend is welcome. Any further changes to be made in the Budget should be discussed today, he added. One point that should be decided is whether or not the Clerical workers will receive an adjustment in wages. This is tentatively reflected in the budget but the final determination should be made by the Council. He said the Council last week made a study on this question and the only area where support was given for the adjustment was determined where the County employees work a 35-hour week compared to the City employees' 40-hour week. The adjustment indicated that it would bring the City employees closer into line with the County, considering they are working 5 hours a week longer.

Mr. Bratrud asked how much money would the raise entail and from where would the money come.

Mr. Rowlands explained that the raise would total approximately \$12,000 and has already been tentatively provided for in the budget.

Dr. Humiston moved that there be no increase in range for the clerical workers. Motion seconded by Mrs. Goering.

Dr. Humiston said he felt the City Council had an obligation to the City's employees to see that they are paid equivalent to a cross section of other industries doing the same type of work in this area. He said, the County employees have the highest rate of pay of all those that have been surveyed. The Council faced this same problem last year involving the same group of people and elected to raise their pay. Nevertheless, there is a proper way of paying public employees and in this group where the cross section and experience of employees in the Tacoma area does

not support a raise, it is an improper appropriation of public money.

Mr. Perdue said he agreed that the City was abandoning its principle of paying the going wage by using an isolate example and did not feel this was the proper method.

Mr. Porter said he felt that a morale problem was involved here.

Mr. Easterday pointed out that the City employees are working almost side by side with the County employees who work from 8:30 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. while they work from 8:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M.

Dr. Humiston said the Council should accept the responsibility for running its own house in the manner in which they <sup>choose</sup> If the City and County salaries are to be equated, the City might consider cutting Police salaries down to Deputy Sheriff levels.

Mr. Al Disbro, representing the City Employees Joint Labor Committee said the County is attempting to bring their employees who are receiving lower salaries up to City levels and he thought the City should do the same in the areas where they are lower.

Robert Shapley, Manager of the local chapter of the Associated General Contractors said he thought City salaries should be based on private salaries and not on another governmental unit.

Dr. Humiston said in view of the fact his former motion brings up a subject which relates to employees who have representation, he moved that action on the motion be postponed until Tuesday and in the meantime a meeting be held to discuss the matter. Motion seconded by Mr. Bratrud.

Mayor Hanson said such a meeting has already been held and as he understands it a postponement will complicate matters for the staff in preparing the final draft for the budget.

Mrs. Price said she could not see that anything would be accomplished by a postponement as a previous meeting gave everyone concerned an opportunity to express themselves.

Roll call on Dr. Humiston's motion to postpone action resulted as follows: Ayes 3; Nays 6, Easterday, Goering, Perdue, Porter, Price and Mayor Hanson. The motion was lost.

Roll was then called on Dr. Humiston's motion to not grant a salary raise to the 233 employees concerned. Ayes 2; Nays 7; Anderson, Bratrud, Easterday, Goering, Porter, Price and Mayor Hanson. Absent 0. Motion lost.

Mr. Rowlands, City Manager, explained that the pension boost proposed for employees who have retired prior to the time that the City workers were covered by Social Security as well as the City Pension system should be considered at this time.

Mr. Easterday moved that these retired employees be given a pension increase as tentatively provided for in the budget. Seconded by Mr. Porter.

Mr. Bratrud said the \$8,500 which is concerned here is not a large sum but he feels that the principle involved is wrong, many private tax payers have been caught in the rising cost of living with inadequate pensions and felt it wasn't fair to use their tax money to boost the pension of City employees. He said he would vote to remove this from the budget.

Mayor Hanson said this subject has been discussed many times previously and he was in favor of the boost. It is a sum that will decrease with the years and feels it is needed now.

Dr. Humiston said he agrees with Mr. Bratrud. He felt this is an improper charge against the City funds and he cannot see any justification in the City Council taking on a function which has been completely taken over by the State of Washington.



He added that he cannot see an end to this if it is started.

Mayor Hanson said he did not feel this would set a precedent which would affect pensions generally. This is an exceptional instance involving a few people caught in an unusual situation.

Mrs. Price pointed out that the voters approved a similar pension boost in the case of school teachers a few years ago.

Roll call was then taken on Mr. Easterday's motion to grant the pension boost. Ayes 4; Nays 5; Anderson, Bratrud, Goering, Humiston and Perdue. The motion was declared lost.

Mr. Porter said he noticed that the data sheet submitted to them on October 1st regarding the Police Department, under "item 5" - "Allowance for Uniforms for Police Personnel" omitted 9 men who, he understands, are Identification and Records Assistants in the Department and wondered if this was justified.

Mr. Rowlands said he does not believe they are classed as Police Officers and do not come under the Police Pension System.

Mr. Bixel, Director of Personnel, said these men are members of the Police Service.

Mayor Hanson said as he sees it then the question is are they Policemen or are they not. The Council certainly does not want to extend the Uniform allowance to any other area than the Police and Firemen.

Mr. Bales of the Police Department said these men have always enjoyed the rights and privileges of a Police Officer. They are commissioned as such, and receive the same pension rights.

Mr. Porter said under these circumstances he would move that these nine men be included in the Uniform Allowance. Seconded by Mr. Easterday. Roll call: Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

#### ITEMS FOR FILING IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK:

Report by the Tacoma Employees Retirement System for the month of September, 1959

Report from the Tacoma Transit Company for August, 1958 and 1959.

#### COMMENTS:

Mr. Rowlands said a meeting would be held at 2:00 P. M. Wednesday, October 7, 1959 with the Port Commissioners in the Conference Room regarding the Airport. The additional costs involved will be discussed and the direction and advice of the Council is desired on how to proceed in the matter. 341

Mayor Hanson said Rosy Ryan of the "Giants" arrived today and was taken to view the developments of the baseball park. Mayor Hanson said he thought Mr. Mills was doing a wonderful job with the plans. Mr. Ryan was quite pleased and had a few suggestions which will be incorporated in the plans. 294  
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Mr. Anderson moved that the Council recess until 4:00 P. M., Tuesday, October 6th at which time the budget hearing will be continued. Motion seconded by Mr. Bratrud. Motion carried: Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

Council then recessed at 6:10 P. M. to convene again at 4:00 P. M. October 6th.

  
Mayor of the City Council

Attest:

  
City Clerk