

Council Chambers, 4:00 P.M.
Monday, August 3, 1959

Council met in regular session. Present on roll call 8: Bratrud, Easterday, Goering, Perdue, Porter, Price and Mayor Hanson. Absent 1, Anderson. Anderson coming in at 4:10 P.M.

Mr. Easterday moved that the minutes of the meeting of July 27, 1959 be approved as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Bratrud. Roll call: Ayes 8; Nays 0; Absent 1, Anderson.

HEARINGS:

James M Healy and Theresa M. Healy, requesting the rezoning of property located at the southeast corner of So. 9th and K Streets to be rezoned from an "C-1" district to a "C-2" district. 271

Referred to the Planning Commission.

Mr. Anderson coming in at this time.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution No. 15752: BY PRICE:

Setting forth the conditions and regulations under which firms, corporations and other agencies may connect to the City's Fire Alarm circuit. 196
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Mr. Dahl representing the American District Telegraph, said that at the July 6, 1959 Council meeting this Resolution was heard, and at that time no action was taken as it was recommended that a committee be appointed to review all phases of the alarm service in order that the Council might have the assurance of what would be best for the City. This meeting was held on July 17th, but no discussion was had regarding central station service, whatsoever. The only discussion was on how the wording of the present Resolution could be improved before presenting it to the Council again.

Mr. Dahl said he had prepared a brochure for the Council that will outline in detail his brief comments. He pointed out that the American District Telegraph has been in business in Tacoma for over thirty years and have an investment of over \$300,000 in the central station and equipment. Last year American District Telegraph paid a franchise tax of \$6000 to the City.

He pointed out that there were several letters in the brochure concerning privately owned auxiliary alarm systems connecting to a municipal system - letters from Spokane, Seattle, Portland, Vancouver B.C. and Calgary, Canada - which stated they had found this connection of auxiliary systems to be most unsatisfactory and therefore had discontinued them. "Why should the City of Tacoma try to put into effect a system that other neighboring cities have found from experience to be unfeasible."

Mr. Dahl added that the major problem is, if the Council passes this Resolution, the American District Telegraph Co. will have no other alternative than to ask that they be allowed to connect all their present subscribers to the Tacoma Fire Alarm Headquarters and then maintain supervision from A. D. T's central station in Seattle. If this happens the Fire Department personnel will not only

be confronted with their own problems but with test signals, trouble signals and all of the headaches that accompany direct fire alarm services. Also there are 19 approved companies qualified to ask the City of Tacoma to allow them to make connections to the fire alarm headquarters. If this should happen, he felt certain it would not be long before the Council would be asked to rescind this Resolution.

In conclusion, Mr. Dahl called the Council's attention to the excerpts in the brochure from the National Board of Fire Underwriters' booklets. One states the weaknesses of auxiliary service; the other makes reference to central station service as the highest type of service that can be rendered. Mr. Dahl extended his thanks to the Council for their tolerance and kind consideration of his company's problems.

Mr. Rowlands, City Manager, said their chief concern is to obtain the best possible fire protection for the City, and felt that this Resolution and Ordinance would accomplish this means. He said the information requested by Dr. Humiston some time ago regarding the time involved in transmission of fire alarms by American District Telegraph and direct alarm is contained in MC 268 - Review of Automatic Fire Alarm Systems, which was passed out to the Councilmembers. This test shows that it took A. D. T. 42.4 seconds longer to complete the first round than the City.

Mr. Oliver of the Gamewell Co. said he believed that the Council had before them a very excellent Resolution which governs the installation, maintenance and supervision of fire alarm systems. Furthermore, he added, his company has had system in Tacoma for over 30 years and the record shows that their system is faster and less prone to false alarms, which seems to be a very great disadvantage with the central station operation. Basically all these companies concerned are a communication center for the City's Fire Department. The fastest alarm is the one that will reduce the fire hazard. Mr. Oliver added that the letter presented by Mr. Dahl from Portland stating that no further connections to the Portland Fire Alarm system were allowed must be from 1958, as his company recently sold equipment to a Portland Warehouse for this purpose.

Mr. Marvin Mohl, attorney for Northwest Notifier, said several meetings have been held on this matter with all the interested parties present. Everyone but American District Telegraph favors the proposed Resolution, he added.

Mr. Bratrud said he felt both sides had arguments in their favor, but inasmuch as this was such a controversial subject, he felt that those firms already connected to the City's fire alarm system should be allowed to continue as well as permitting hookups to all hospitals, nursing homes and schools. Other than that, he said he would vote "no" on both the Resolution and Ordinance.

Mrs. Goering asked why is it generally acknowledged that it is safe and satisfactory for schools and hospitals to be connected to the City's fire alarm system and not for hospitals.

Mr. Dahl said possibly schools, etc., are in more financial straits than industry and cannot afford to install a fire alarm system and consequently this is a cooperative gesture on the part of the City.

Mrs. Goering said it was far more vital to have proper notification from a hospital or school than from a warehouse so if this isn't the best method why should it be used.

Mr. Judd Young, foreman of the Tacoma Fire Alarm System, said every school in the City of Tacoma has direct City fire alarm connections inside the school which, in case of fire, will not only blow the horns to evacuate the students but also will bring the Fire Department to that exact location. He added that they desire to have an operation in Tacoma so that those who did not want to purchase fire alarm protection from one company would have another company to choose from.

American District Telegraph supplies a very excellent service - they are the "Cadillac" of the business, but many people cannot afford this. Therefore the City would like to have other companies come in here and sell their service providing it is reliable and meets the approval of the National Board of Fire Underwriters.

Mr. Porter said there were several points he would like to have cleared up which would take some time. First of all he felt the matter of the recent installation in a Portland warehouse in relation to the letter submitted by Mr. Dahl should be checked. Also that Mr. Rowlands or Chief Fisk should obtain letters from some cities that favor this type of system and why. Last of all he would like to have information on what percentage of false alarms are received from regular City fire boxes, from American District Telegraph's system and from these types of installations now in existence. He said he would like to have this data before voting on the Resolution and thought it would be well to postpone the Resolution for three weeks.

Dr. Humiston moved that action on the Resolution be postponed three weeks to August 24, 1959. Seconded by Mr. Porter. Roll call: Ayes 8; Nays 1, Perdue, Absent 0.

Resolution No. 15828:

L I D 4532

BY PORTER:

Fixing Tuesday, August 25, 1959 at 4:00 P.M. as the date for hearing on L I D 4532 for grading and paving including concrete curbs and gutters on various streets between So. 36th and 55th Streets and between So. Ash from So. 35th to So. 36th; also on So. Prospect from So. 68th to So. 72nd Streets, and rescinding Resolution No. 15820. 220
402

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

Adopted on roll call August 3, 1959
Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0

Resolution No. 15829:

BY REQUEST OF EASTERDAY:

Urging that the Congress of the United States pass immediately all proper and necessary legislation for the financing of an adequate and suitable highway construction program sufficient to complete without delay the projects undertaken by the State of Wash. and particularly the Tacoma-Seattle-Everett Freeway.

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

Dr. Humiston moved that line 3 in paragraph 2 on page 2 be amended by adding "on a pay as you go basis" after "highway construction program". Seconded by Mr. Anderson.

Mr. Rowlands pointed out that Mr. Bugge of the State Highway Department has recently returned from a meeting of the State Highway Directors in Chicago and is very pessimistic about the outlook. The House Ways and Means Committee is now considering this proposition. In a recent test vote the result was 9 to 9. The

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American Municipal Association has submitted some Resolutions to the effect that they would like to have Congress take some action, whether it be on a pay as you go basis or some other means.

Mayor Hanson said this program is so vital to our ultimate ability to pay for some of these other programs that are not pay as you go that he felt the Resolution should be passed whether it is or is not taken from the tax increase on gasoline.

Mr. Easterday said it was very distressing to think of delaying a program that has been so well planned and with which the City has done its best to cooperate and to synchronize its construction program with the freeway.

Dr. Humiston said there is no question of the importance of the program and also the advisability of the City Council to call it to the attention of its representatives in Washington that the City wants this program put through; but he did feel that it should be recognized that the question is "how this is to be financed" - whether it will be on a pay as you go basis or whether we should disinterest ourselves in that particular problem of inflation. As far as he was concerned, when there was this much money involved and when the City is possibly going to send a communication to representatives in Washington, the City should give some indication as to how it feels on the importance of this inflation. That is why he made such a motion.

Mr. Porter said he agreed with the pay as you go basis but he would move that the word "preferably" be added to Dr. Humiston's amendment. Seconded by Mr. Bratrud. Roll call: Ayes 8; Nays 1, Humiston; Absent 0.

Vote was then taken on the amended amendment that the phrase "preferably on a pay as you go basis" be added to the third line of the second paragraph on page 2. Roll call: Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

Roll call on the Resolution as amended resulted as follows:

Adopted on roll call August 3, 1959
Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

Resolution No. 15830:

BY EASTERDAY:

Providing that the facilities existing in that portion of the jail wing of the Tacoma Police Department be used for quarantine purposes.

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

Adopted on roll call August 3, 1959
Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

Resolution No. 15831:

BY GOERING:

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Authorizing and directing the proper officers of the City to execute a written lease with the Tacoma Youth Center for the occupancy of the property formerly known as Fire Station No. 3 located at No. 13th and J Streets.

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

Mr. Rowlands said this agreement was worked out with representatives of the Tacoma Youth Center Organization and the legal staff. It is felt the City is adequately protected by this Resolution.

Adopted on roll call August 3, 1959
Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

Resolution No. 15832:

BY PERDUE:

Authorizing and directing the proper officers to execute a quit claim deed to Beebe Realty Inc. successors in interest to Earl A Wetrich, to correct the description for property located within 660 feet of Jackson Ave. and within 1614 feet south of Sixth Avenue.

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

Adopted on roll call August 3, 1959
Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

Resolution No. 15833:

Dr. Humiston leaving at this time.

BY HUMISTON:

Authorizing the proper officers of the City to execute and deliver to Denton D Sherry a local improvement assessment deed for property located on Brown's Point Blvd. at Silver Bow Road intersection for the amount of \$2,818.24.

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

Adopted on roll call August 3, 1959
Ayes 8; Nays 0; Absent 1, Humiston.

FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES:

Ordinance No. 16350:

Amending Sec. 6.75. of the Official Code of the City relating to licensing ¹⁹⁸ those engaged in the business of selling, installing, maintaining or repairing of ²¹⁷ fire detective and/or fire alarm devices and equipment. Read by title. ²⁵⁶

Mr. Bratrud moved that the action on this Ordinance be postponed until August 24, 1959. Seconded by Mr. Anderson. Roll call: Ayes 8; Nays 0; Absent 1, Humiston.

Ordinance No. 16401:

Providing for the improvement of L I D 4636 for widening of Stevens St. ¹⁸⁶ From 6th Avenue to No. 11th Street. Read by title and passed. ³³⁰

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

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Ordinance No. 16402:

87 Providing for the improvement of L I D 6768 for modern street lights on existing wooden poles on East T from Wright Ave. to Sherman and Roosevelt Aven. from East 32nd to Gregory Street. Read by title and passed.

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

Ordinance No. 16403:

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12 Providing for the improvement of L I D 5309 for cast iron water mains in Melrose Street from Cedar to Lawrence Street. Read by title and passed.

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

Ordinance No. 16404:

Appropriating the sum of \$17,000 or so much as may be necessary from the General Fund for the purpose of repairing the City Fireboat and moorage facilities. Read by title.

Mr. Rowlands said this Ordinance is an emergency which was made necessary to put the fire boat into condition. The Boat will be in drydock approximately a year and a half. He reminded the Council that they had requested that a qualified individual make an inspection of the boat to determine what repairs had to be made. Captain Buckner, a marine surveyor, drew up the bid specifications and will also be present to ascertain that the repairs are properly made.

Fire Chief Fisk said as the Council recalls a previous call for bids resulted in only one Seattle firm bidding on the job. It was decided that a new call for bids should be issued after an inspection was made by an expert surveyor and more detailed specifications were drawn. The low bidder this time is the Cummings Boat Company who has the recommendation of being a reliable firm.

Chief Fisk explained that once the boat is in drydock they may find that some of the repairs that were anticipated may not have to be done. Only those repairs necessary will be taken care of, he added.

Adopted on roll call August 3, 1959
Ayes 8; Nays 0; Absent 1, Humiston.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

238 An opinion from the City Attorney regarding the procedure for initiating Local Improvement Districts.

Mayor Hanson said Dr. Humiston wished to participate in the discussion of this and inasmuch as Dr. Humiston is not present, he asked that it be placed on next week's agenda.

ITEMS FOR FILING IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK:

Transit System report for June of 1958 and 1959.

Belt Line Division monthly report for June 30, 1959.

Water Division report for the month of June 30, 1959.

Light Division report for the month of June, 1959

COMMENTS:

Mr. Rowlands said a telegram was received from Senator Magnuson stating he had talked recently with the Federal Aviation Agency assistant director, Mr. James Pyle who informed him that the analysis on the Tacoma Airport was taking longer than anticipated but that an answer could be expected within the next two weeks.

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Mr. Rowlands explained that phase two of the one-way street program went into operation Sunday, August 2nd, making "J", "K", "L" and "M" one-way streets. One modification will be made in phase three of the program.

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Mr. Kosai, Traffic Engineer, said after careful study of the existing one-way streets, it has been found that 11th and Market is not wide enough to accommodate double right hand turns. Therefore he has recommended that the third phase be altered so that Market will be one-way northbound, Jefferson to 11th St. and two-ways from 11th to 7th Street.

Mayor Hanson said he felt Mr. Kosai and his staff should be congratulated on the fine work they have done so far in regard to this new one-way street program.

Mr. Porter said he recently attended a meeting in Olympia in regard to choosing an engineering firm to make a survey on the Naches tunnel. Everyone was much concerned that the firm chosen be one of national repute and had experience on a similar project if possible. A subcommittee of 5 were picked to meet with the Highway Department to examine the qualifications of all the firms submitting brochures. He said he was informed today that a decision should be reached within the next two weeks.

49:595
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Mr. Bratrud left at this time.

Mayor Hanson informed the Council that his recommendation for the member of the Planning Commission was Roger W. Crusan, business representative of the Carpenter's Union.

Mr. Anderson moved that the nomination be approved. Seconded by Mr. Masterday. Roll call: Ayes 7; Nays 0; Absent 2, Bratrud and Humiston.

Mayor Hanson said he also had recommendations for the two vacancies on the Dance Board Committee. He said if the Council desires he would be willing to delay this one week.

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234-5

Mr. Perdue moved that this be taken up at next week's meeting. Seconded by Mr. Anderson. Roll call: Ayes 7; Nays 0; Absent 2, Bratrud and Humiston.

Mr. Anderson said out of courtesy to the absent members of the Council perhaps the appointment of Roger Crusan should be reconsidered and also taken up at next week's meeting. Mr. Anderson then moved to reconsider his motion and to delay action on Mr. Crusan's appointment until next week. Seconded by Mr. Masterday. Roll call: Ayes 7; Nays 0; Absent 2, Bratrud and Humiston.

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There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion duly seconded and passed, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 P.M.

Ben Hanson
President of the City Council

Attest: *Caroline Meeter*