

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City Council Chambers, 4:00 P. M.
Wednesday, September 12, 1962

Council met in regular session. Present on roll call 9. Bott, Cvitanich, Finnigan, Haley, Herrmann, Murtland, Price, Steacie and Mayor Tollefson.

Presentation of 20 and 35 year Service Awards to City Personnel.

Mayor Tollefson said there are 27 City employees who are to be presented with service awards.

Mr. Rowlands, City Manager, presented two employees with 35 year service award pins and 25 employees with 20 year service award pins.

Mayor Tollefson and Mr. Rowlands both congratulated the employees.

Don Hager, Chief of Police presented a plaque to the Council, which was received as an award from the National Safety Council for their Pedestrian Protection Program that was conducted in competition to Cities of 100,000 to 200,000.

Mayor Tollefson thanked Chief Hager for the award stating this was a real honor for the people of Tacoma.

Mayor Tollefson also commended Mr. Kosai, Traffic Engineer, for receiving an award from the National Safety Council for his engineering services.

HEARINGS AND APPEALS:

This is the date fixed for hearing on the vacation of East "J" between East 25th and Puyallup Avenue which was submitted by Savage Lumber Company 314

Mr. Steele moved that the Council concur in the recommendation of the Planning Commission that the vacation be denied. Seconded by Mr. Murtland. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution No. 17192: (Postponed from the meeting of Sept. 4th)

Authorizing the proper officers of the City to execute and deliver to the Public Works Dept. a local improvement assessment deed upon payment

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of the sum of \$1,328.79 for unimproved property located in the Pt. Defiance School area near No. 42nd and Pearl Street.

Mr. Steele moved that the Resolution be adopted. Seconded by Mr. Murtland.

Mr. Rowlands said this Resolution was held over for one week at the request of the Public Works Department so that a further check could be made on the property and added, this has been accomplished.

Voice vote was taken on the Resolution.

The Resolution was then declared adopted by the Chairman.

Resolution No. 17195:

Commending the members of the City of Tacoma Sister City Committee and its chairman, Dr. John Moore, for the fine work of the committee in the People-to People Program.

Mr. Haley moved that the Resolution be adopted. Seconded by Mr. Steele.

Voice vote was taken on the Resolution.

The Resolution was then declared adopted by the Chairman.

Resolution No. 17196:

Awarding contract to Morris Construction Co. for Schedule B on IMP. No. 3031-K-2, Unit B, on their bid of \$174,990.17 and rejecting all bids submitted on Schedule A since the lowest bid is 16% over the engineer's estimate.

Mr. Steele moved that the Resolution be adopted. Seconded by Mrs. Price .

Voice vote was taken on the Resolution.

The Resolution was then declared adopted by the Chairman.

Resolution No. 17197:

Fixing Monday, October 1, 1962 at 7:00 P. M. as the date for the first hearing on the 1963 Budget.

Mrs. Price moved that the Resolution be adopted. Seconded by Mr. Steele.

Mayor Tollefson said the Council will meet at 7:00 P. M. for the budget hearing so not to conflict with the Planning Commission meeting that is scheduled for the afternoon of the same day.

Voice vote was taken on the Resolution.

The Resolution was then declared adopted by the Chairman.

Mr. Rowlands asked if the Council would consider the adoption of the proposed Preliminary Budget at this time.

Mr. Steele then moved to adopt the proposed preliminary budget in the amount of \$40,770,409.00. Seconded by Mr. Haley. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES:

Ordinance No. 17162:

Vacating No. 13th St. between I and the alley between I and Yakima Avenue. (Lowell Elementary School) 114
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Mr. Rowlands stated, for the benefit of the new Council members, he would like to give a brief resume of what has transpired to date. On March 27, 1962, the Council held a hearing on the proposed vacation of North 13th Street between North "I" Street and the alley between North "I" Street and Yakima Avenue. This vacation was requested by the Tacoma School District #10 and was approved by the Planning Commission with a vote of 7-0 (2-absent). The City Council at this hearing, by a unanimous vote, requested that an Ordinance be prepared confirming the vacation. The Legal Dept. on March 28, 1962 notified the Tacoma School District #10 by mail that certain conditions would have to be met prior to the drafting of the Ordinance, a copy of which has been furnished each Council member.

Mr. Rowlands added, the reason for this vacation was so that the two portions of the Lowell School could be connected to make a larger and safer play ground and passageway for the school children to get to the other side.

Mr. James Hopkins, Assistant School Superintendant, explained that the plans for the proposed vacation have conformed to all specifications, and if an error has been made by the School District, it was largely his fault as he had not notified the Legal Dept. that all of the conditions had been met.

Mr. Rowlands said, he did not think it was an error, but an oversight.

Mrs. Herrick Allen, 1308 North Yakima Ave., protested the vacation of the property, stating she did not think this vacation would solve the safety problem for the children as it would divert more traffic into the alley.

Judge Stone, appearing as an interested citizen and former Safety Chairman of the Lowell P. T. A., said everyone involved with the School is concerned primarily with the safety of the children.

This problem was presented to the City Council and it was determined by the Planning Commission, Traffic Dept. and the School officials that the solution would be to vacate the property. This hearing was held on March 27, 1962 and the Council requested that an Ordinance be brought in for the vacation.

Mr. Murtland asked if there was any property on the alley belonging to the school district that could be widened.

Mr. Hopkins said he did not believe there was.

Mr. Bott asked if the street could be barricaded during the school hours if the street were not vacated.

Mr. McCormick said that technically such a barricade would be illegal unless it was found necessary for traffic control, because you cannot block off a public street for a private purpose or use.

Mr. Herrick Allen said that the land, construction etc. is costing over \$10,000.00 and he thought it was too much money for the taxpayers to pay. He suggested putting up spot posts so the area could be chained off. He hopes that the Council will turn down the vacation and come up with something more feasible.

Mr. Murtland asked if this \$10,000.00 mentioned, was an estimate for improving the street and constructing the playground.

Mr. Hopkins said it will cost approximately \$13,000.00 for the playfield. The reason for this additional cost is because of the slope, thereby necessitating a concrete wall which is one of the requirements.

Mr. Steele said this vacation has been before the Council on more than one occasion. It has been approved by the Planning Commission and the City Council, he could see no reason for all of the discussion at this time.

Mayor Tollefson asked the Council if they wished to have Mr. Kosai, Traffic Engineer, present at the next meeting regarding the traffic problem. It was decided that Mr. Kosai should attend next week's meeting.

Mayor Tollefson said the School officials and the Planning Commission have all studied this problem and this seems to be the only way out. He felt Mr. Kosai might be able to give some answers on the traffic problem next week.

Dr. Herrmann asked if some report could be submitted at next week's meeting relative to a street vacation, whether it can be vacated during school hours or must be vacated all together.

Mr. McCormick said that this question has come up before in other instances, and the Supreme Court has held that when a street is opened it is dedicated to the public for vehicular and pedestrian traffic on a 24-hour basis and cannot be barricaded except where necessary to control traffic and/or protect the public. If it is found that the street is not needed, then it can be vacated to the abutting property owner.

The Ordinance was then placed in order of final reading.

Ordinance No. 17163:

Amending the official code of the City by adding a new section 13.06.065-374 24 to include property on the west side of Steele St. between So. 41st and 42nd Sts. in the "R-4-L" Low Density Multiple-Family Dwelling District. (Petition of Worthen, Wing, Seifert and Forbes)

The Ordinance was then placed in order of final reading.

Ordinance No. 17164:

Repealing Section 6.28.075 of the Official Code of the City relating to Music Machines.

The Ordinance was then placed in order of final reading.

FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES:

Ordinance No. 17159:

Amending the Official Code of the City by adding a new section 13.06.065-23 to include property on the east side of Tacoma Ave. between So. 38th and So. 40th Sts. in the "R-4-L" Low Density Multiple-Family Dwelling District. (petition of Alvin Morris). 345

Mr. Bott asked if there were any objections to this rezoning.

Mr. Rowlands said no objections were raised at the first reading of the Ordinance.

Mr. Bott said Tacoma Avenue is a narrow and dangerous street and asked if there are plans for the widening of the street or making it a one-way street, as something should be done.

Mr. Schuster, Public Works Director, said this was brought up during the discussion of the 6-year Program, but this street was not included in the plan. The program is flexible however, and if it is the desire of the Council to change the priority of these projects, it is up to the Council.

Roll call was then taken on the Ordinance resulting as follows:

Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

The Ordinance was then declared passed by the Chairman.

Ordinance No. 17160:

Amending the Official Code of the City by adding Section 13.06.065-22 to include property on the north side of 6th Ave. between Orchard & Huson Streets in the "R-4-L" Low Density Multiple-Family Dwelling District. (Planning Commission Request)

Roll call was then taken on the Ordinance resulting as follows:

Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

The Ordinance was then declared passed by the Chairman.

Ordinance No. 17161:

Amending Section 6.70.040 of the official code of the City relating to Utilities gross earnings tax. 349
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Dr. Herrmann moved that the Ordinance be set over for one week, until September 18th, to give the Council an opportunity to meet with the Utility Board to discuss these items. Seconded by Mr. Steele. He would also like to announce he would not be able to attend next week's meeting. Voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

The Ordinance was postponed until September 18, 1962.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The Director of Public Works presents the assessment roll for the cost of the improvement of the SCF No. 61 for the construction, reconstruction of sidewalks in various sections of the City.

Mr. Finnigan moved to fix Tuesday, October 9, 1962 at 4:00 P. M. as the date for hearing on SCF No. 61. Seconded by Mr. Steele. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

COMMENTS:

Mr. Rowlands said he would like to make a brief report of the Fire Defense Com. meeting held in Philadelphia. He pointed out that the A. M. A. Fire Defense committee recommended to the Executive Board, a program of appointing a full time Fire protection engineer on the staff of the A. M. A., and the dues received from the A. M. A. which come from the Cities and State Associations, would underwrite the program. This would have a tremendous impact on all the Cities throughout the Country. It would be a long range program affecting not only the National Board, but also the Fire Insurance Industry and Fire Insurance Commissions in various States in checking various insurance aspects. As he understands, the Executive Board is to review the matter at the next meeting and if it is adopted, then beginning next year the program should be supported by all members of the A. M. A. rather than just those who subscribe only to the Municipal Fire Defense Institute. The National Board has 37 other recommendations plus the rating schedule which should be changed. They will be coming through with some conclusions and suggestions on a portion of those 37 recommendations following the meeting that was held at a summit conference in New York, whereby the president of the National Board met with the president of the A. M. A. He said he not as yet has heard the results of that meeting.

Mr. Cvitanich brought up that the contractor who is doing the work on an LID at Sherman School started approximately 3 weeks before the school opened and the work is not yet completed. He stated, this is posing quite a traffic problem, it is also very distracting to the school children.

Mr. Rowlands said he has prepared a memo which will be distributed to the Council members incorporating the feeling of the City Council in the preparation of future plans and specifications in the advertising of bids. He said, perhaps, the Council may want to add Schools to the list whereby the contractor must move along with the work so that it will not constitute a hardship on the business.

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Mr. Steele said he would make a report on the A. M. A. convention. He thought the Airport Sub-Committee of the General Transportation Committee of the A. M. A. would be of interest to the Council. The General Transportation Committee is split into four committees: Airport, Parking, Mass Transportation and Urban Transportation. He said, as a member of the Airport Sub-committee, the big issue before the committee was the implementation by the Civil Aeronautics Board of a joint policy statement made by the administrator of the C. A. B. and the administrator of the F. A. A. with reference to the regional airport concept. This concept was stated in a simple publicity release of May 1961 in San Francisco. The F. A. A. would not spend Federal funds on future airport development until investigation had been made as to the question whether the airport, proposed, adequately served the area and that there would not be a necessity for two airports in a compact area. This is of no interest to Tacoma, but it is of particular interest to Dallas, Texas because of the fact that just a few days before a directive was submitted to the staff of the C. A. B. stating they should begin an investigation as to whether Ft. Worth, Texas should not be called a Regional Airport and that any further assistance be withheld from Dallas, Texas. The Dallas Airport has had very little Federal Aid except in the navigational area.

The upshot of the Committees' action was to recommend to the A. M. A. Congress that a definite criteria be established by the C. A. B. before they would initiate any of these airport studies, apparently they have quite a few areas in the country that are quite concerned about cutting off allocation of funds for construction or development of an airport until a determination has been made by the C. A. B.

Mr. Murtland and Mr. Bott joined with Jim Buckley and myself on a discussion of the matter of the City of Tacoma proceeding with its application to the C. A. B. for certification for airline service to the airport. It was emphasized that processing of the application and the carrying it through should, by all means, be done by the Municipality exclusively because of the fact that whatever airline and air service we would obtain, or from whatever service company would be in a tenant landlord relationship with the City, we should not try to secure airline assistance in obtaining certification. Mr. Steele thought this should be taken up at the Study Session next Monday.

He added, the Airport subcommittee report went to the General Transportation Committee and was unanimously approved with reference to the policy that the Federal Aviation agencies would urge extreme careful judgment before cutting off any funds. It was decided that this simple intention of having a regional airport study made would have to be somewhat more formalized than an actual hearing, before the F. A. A. would cut off the funds to the Municipality for airport construction, and to further emphasize the difference between the F. A. A. as the agency charged with responsibility of airport construction, with the C. A. B. charged with the responsibility of meeting the economic needs in relation to airline service to the community. He stated, it was a very interesting committee session. That same day the Transportation committee met and they adopted the recommendations of the Airport sub-committee.

The motion to urge the Congress of the United States to pass the mass-transportation bill went through the transportation committee hastily and they

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passed a Resolution directing it be sent to the Speaker of the House and the Vice President as well as the Chairman of the House Rules Committee to get the bill out of the Rules committee so as to put it on the floor of Congress for a vote. This particular legislation is a matter of top priority with the A. M. A.

Mr. Steele further added, that Urban Renewal in Philadelphia is really an eye-opener as far as re-development. The work that has been done is just fantastic. He thought the City of Philadelphia has a smooth operation so far as their re-development authority is concerned. The Planning Commission makes the determination and certifies to the City Council that a certain area is a blight area; the Council by Resolution refers it onto the Re-development Authority, which is a separate agency that processes these Urban Renewal Projects.

He thought a Study Session should be held next Monday regarding the C. A. B. application.

Mr. Bott said he wanted to present a comprehensive report to the Council, however, due to the late hour his report would be given at a later date.

Mr. Murtland said he would also make a report on the convention in Philadelphia at another time.

Mayor Tollefson explained that since the millage proposition for the Parks was lost at the election held on Sept. 11, the Budget of the City will have to be revised to reflect funds for the Parks; thus keeping in mind that the employees must be paid wages comparable to those paid to outside industry. If cuts are to be made in the Budget that it be in the areas of Capital improvements or contributions toward improvements. Mayor Tollefson asked that the City Manager submit to the Council members a wage study comparing the types of fringe benefits to those given in private industry.

Mr. Rowlands said there will be a meeting with the Library Board to discuss their budget on Monday noon. He also suggested that the Council have two or three noon meetings next week with the Unions regarding salaries and wages. A meeting should also be set up with the Park Board members.

Mayor Tollefson asked Mr. Rowlands to work out dates to meet, which would be satisfactory with the various groups and advise the Council members.

It was moved by Mrs. Price that the Budget Hearings be held at 7:00 P. M., commencing October 1, 1962. Seconded by Mr. Steels. Voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

Mr. Murtland said he would have to be excused Monday and Wednesday, however, he said he would try to attend the final hearing of the Budget.

Douglas Cowling submitted a communication from Mr. McGinnis explaining the offer made on the airport at the previous week's meeting. He said at last week's meeting Mayor Tollefson instructed Mr. Rowlands to look into the matter regarding Mr. McGinnis' offer to the City of Tacoma and to date they have not heard from him.

Mr. Rowlands said he had had no contact with Mr. McGinnis. Mr. Cowling said, then perhaps, there has been a misunderstanding.

Mr. King again asked the Council if they had considered issuing a publication similar to the Official Gazette published by the Spokane Council.

Mrs. Price announced that Mayor Ramsdell of Fircrest has invited the City Council to attend the dedication of the swimming pool in Fircrest on Sunday afternoon at 1:30 P. M.

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon motion duly seconded and passed the meeting adjourned at 6:50 P. M.

AAA Tollefson
Mayor of the City Council

Attest: *Josephine Melton*
City clerk