

Council Chambers, 4:00 P.M.  
Monday, July 6, 1959

Council met in regular session. Present on roll call 9: Anderson, Bratrud, Easterday, Goering, Humiston, Perdue, Porter, Price and Mayor Hanson.

Mr. Anderson moved that the minutes of the meeting of June 29, 1959 be approved as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Easterday. Roll call: Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent

PETITIONS:

6 A. R. Capener, et al requesting a zoning reclassification of property located at the intersection of South 56th and So. Ferry Street from an R-2 District to a C-1 District.

Referred to the City Planning Commission.

COMMUNICATIONS:

8 Communication from the Tacoma Roller Bowl requesting that the Roller Skating Rinks in Tacoma be exempt from paying City Admission tax on the first 50% of any admission charge.

Dr. Humiston asked that further information be prepared for next week by the City Manager and the Director of Finance as to how many other amusement firms might possibly make a request for exemptions from the City's admission tax and what it might mean to the City financially.

Mr. Adams, representing the Roller Bowl, said skating rinks have always been classed with theatres in regard to taxes and felt it should continue this way. The Federal Government removed its tax on both theatres and roller rinks at the same time at the end of March of 1954. He said there are very few cities in the State of Washington that levy a tax against roller rinks. He asked that they be given the same consideration as the theatres in Tacoma.

Mayor Hanson thanked Mr. Adams and explained that the additional information requested by Dr. Humiston would be brought in and discussed at the next Council meeting on July 13, 1959.

RESOLUTIONS:

159  
118  
225  
Resolution No. 15752

(Postponed from June 8, 1959 meeting)

BY PRICE:

Setting forth the conditions and regulations under which firms, corporations and other agencies may connect to the City's fire alarm circuit.

Mr. Bratrud said it is apparent that so many of the people concerned are dissatisfied with this Resolution and related Ordinance and he felt that the matter should be postponed until it is worked out more satisfactorily. He thought more meetings should be held with the people concerned before any action is taken by the Council.

Mr. Rowlands said, under the circumstances, he was inclined to agree with Mr. Bratrud. He thought this has been the most controversial and frustrating proposition he has ever worked on. He agreed they should try to work out these conflicting view points.

Mr. Bratrud asked what prompted the change in the present fire alarm system.

Chief Harold Fisk explained that requests from private firms to hook-up to the City's fire alarm circuit were the reason for this Resolution.

Mr. Rowlands added that in the investigation of this matter, it was also found that other cities allow private concerns this hook-up privilege and in many instances charges are made for the service. The problem is to determine if other systems should be allowed to come into the City's fire alarm headquarters and also if individuals could "tie-on" to the system.

Chief Fisk said they have all worked hard on this problem in an attempt to satisfy everyone, but now it appears that has not been accomplished. A letter received from Gamwell Inc. states that the proposed charges are too high. Yet A. D. T. says why should the City system be used free when they are paying line charges to the telephone company.

Dr. Humiston said he felt there was one clear policy question -- under what circumstances should the City enter into competition with a recognized private business. The issue here is very clear cut between the fire department and its direct connection and the A. D. T. Fire Alarm system. The main reason for having a fire department, of course, is to control loss by fire. If the Council were to be presented with definite information that the fire alarms were going to be more efficiently turned in and more quickly handled by this new system, then this should probably be approved. If, on the other hand, it cannot be demonstrated that the coverage, counting all the angles of servicing the machinery, testing the fire alarm systems, etc., that the direct connection to the Fire Department is not superior from the standpoint of fire protection, then he would seriously doubt that the City would have any right to enter into this business except for the list of exceptions of schools, churches, hospitals.

Dr. Humiston said in the past the Council has received only the information "second hand" on this matter. He felt that, in future meetings with the interested parties, that the Council members or a committee from the Council should be present, in an attempt to work this problem out satisfactorily.

Mr. Rowlands said this could be arranged.

Mr. Todd of the Northern Pacific Railroad said they have been hooked-up directly to the City's Alarm System for several years and have been very satisfied with the procedure. He said, however, that they are not satisfied with the proposed Resolution. They feel that there are points that need to be clarified. He said he was in favor of a postponement in order to have another conference on the matter.

Mr. Dahl of A. D. T. said he would be in favor of having another meeting on this if possible. Also he would like to review a few points, to be studied before such a meeting. First he felt it was quite important why the Resolution was proposed. Was it because the City felt they would gain more revenue or because it was felt that the City of Tacoma could do a better job than the type of service A. D. T. is rendering. He pointed out that A. D. T. paid \$6300 to the City last year; fifteen people are on their payroll, who own their own homes in Tacoma and play an important part in their communities. As to the type of service rendered, the National Board of Fire Underwriters state that "the highest type of efficiency in fire alarm service is rendered by central station service." He said the fire alarm business is a specialized field. Normally a fire chief is trained in firefighting techniques. He is not a fire alarm expert. He added that A. D. T. has an investment in Tacoma at the present time of \$371,000. If this City is going into competition with A. D. T. they will be forced to conduct their operations from Seattle for financial reasons. A. D. T. is rendering the highest possible service and they feel it would be a mistake to pass this Resolution.

Mr. Marvin Mohl, Attorney for the Notifier Northwest Distributors, said they feel A. D. T. is asking for a monopoly and this should not be allowed. Neither do they think that the City is going to compete with private business as the City must

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accept fire signals on equal basis. The question here is where the City will accept the signals - at fire alarm headquarters or at street boxes by mechanical means. Once that question has been answered then the Ordinance regualting the practice will be easy to draw up.

Mr. Oliver of Gamwell Inc. said there were several sections of the Resolution which his company was not satisfied with. Therefore they too were in favor of a postponement.

Dr. Humiston then moved that the Resolution be postponed for four weeks until August 3, 1959. Seconded by Mr. Anderson. Roll call: Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0

Resolution No. 15804

BY PORTER:

Amending Resolution No. 15751 and signifying the City's acceptance of the apportionment of the total cost of the construction of an elevated structure on "A" St. from So. 14th to a southern terminus in the vicinity of the Pacific Ave. interchange on State Highway No. 1, the necessary funds for the City's participation are provided for in the newly revised "Capital Improvements Program 1960-1965."

It was moved by Dr. Humiston that the Resolution be adopted, seconded by Mr. Anderson.

Mr. Rowlands explained that the definite terminus of the project is not known yet and by including in this Resolution the southern terminus and also the fact that this is a 6 year program, it will meet with the requirements of the Public Roads Administration as well as the State.

Adopted on roll call July 6, 1959  
Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

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FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES:

Ordinance No. 16391

482  
267  
Vacating property on No. 15th Street from Pearl to Shirley, No. 16th from Pearl to Shirley, the alley between No. Pearl and No. Woodlawn from No. 14th to No. 18th, and the westerly 10 feet of Woodlawn from No. 14th to No. 18th Street. (Westgate Inc.) Read by title and placed in order of final reading.

FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES:

196  
217  
Ordinance No. 16350

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

Mr. Anderson moved that this be set over for four weeks until August 3, 1959. Seconded by Mr. Easterday. Roll call: Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

149  
Ordinance No. 16390

Vacating the easterly 2 inches of Pacific Avenue between South 13th and

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Resolution No. 15813:  
By Hanson:

Confirming appointment of Al A. Bradley to the Public Utility Board for a five year term commencing July 6, 1959 and ending June 30, 1964.

Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

with 14th Streets. (Petition of Western Greyhound Co.) Read by title and passed.

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

FINISHED BUSINESS:

The Director of Utilities presents the Assessment Roll for the cost of the improvement in L I D 5306 for cast iron water mains in No. Orchard from No. 18th to 21st Street. 49:57

It was moved by Mr. Perdue that August 11, 1959 be set as the date for starting on the assessment roll for L I D 5306. Seconded by Mrs. Price. Roll call: Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0. 247

The Director of Public Works presents the Assessment Roll for the cost of the improvement in L I D 4628 for concrete paving on the following alleys: Court "A" from So. 22nd to So. 23rd; Court "E" from So. 13th to So. 15th; Alley between I and J from So. 8th to So. 9th; Alley between So. 12th and So. 13th from Pine to Junett; Alley between Fife and Prospect from No. 11th to No. 12th Streets. 49:245

It was moved by Mr. Easterday that August 11, 1959 be set as the date for starting on the assessment roll for L I D 4628. Seconded by Mr. Anderson. Roll call: Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0. 247

Opinion from the City Attorney in reference to the awarding of licenses for exclusive Taxicab Stands adjacent to the Greyhound Bus Depot.

Mr. Rowlands said this opinion from the attorneys office is in answer to a request of the Council re granting exclusive taxicab stands. The opinion of the City Attorney is that the City Council does have the right to, under its police power, grant to one cab company an exclusive stand on the public street adjacent to the Greyhound Bus Depot.

Communication from Assistant City Attorney in reference to the time for starting office of Council members in 1960.

Mr. Rowlands said as stated in this communication from Mr. Chapin, Jr., Assistant City Attorney, according to the new 1959 state law, whereby the elected officials would take office on the first Monday in April, conflicts with the City's Charter provisions, but since cities are creations of the State the City must yield to the authority of the State and therefore the councilmen elected in the March election of 1960 will take office on the first Monday in April rather than the first Monday in June 1960 as specified in the Charter.

Mr. Easterday said he and Mr. Porter had attended the drag races in Shelton and found it to be very interesting and exciting. 184

Mr. Rowlands said at last week's meeting the matter of the City owned Dock property was inadvertently over-looked. The communication from the City Attorney pointed out that the City can legally transfer City owned dock property to the Port of Tacoma or to any other municipality or political subdivision of the State without a vote of the people. 194

Dr. Humiston said since it is well known that the Port of Tacoma is primarily engaged in selling property to private persons, he thought it would be best to take the necessary steps to prepare the proposition for the ballot for the next election and let the people vote on the disposition of the dock property.

Mr. Hamilton, Assistant City Attorney, said he did not think the prohibition contained in the Charter would have any bearing on what the Port might do once the title was transferred to the Port.

Dr. Humiston suggested that the Port Commissioners be asked if they desired to look into the matter.

Mr. Anderson said he thought it unwise for the City to transfer the property to the Port of Tacoma and then let them sell it. He felt that a change in the Charter should be proposed enabling the City to dispose of the property that they might benefit from it financially.

Mr. Anderson requested that an Ordinance be prepared providing for such a charter change.

Mr. Rowlands explained that Ordinance No. 16387, the Washington Natural Gas Franchise which was passed last week was passed in error. According to Sec. 8.1 of the City Charter it states that "a franchise shall not be passed before the second regular meeting of the Council or at least 15 days after its introduction." Therefore the Ordinance should not have passed before next Monday. The Ordinance will be put on the agenda Friday for passage on July 13th Council meeting.

Mayor Hanson said he would like to give a brief report on his trip to Japan at this time and that a more detailed report would be given later. He said the Japan Airlines arranged an exciting trip for them. The country of Japan was very beautiful. He said the City of Kokura is primarily industrial and is situated very similar to Tacoma. All the charm and culture of ancient Japan was in evidence as well as the western influence of the modern structures. The hospitality, friendliness and courtes experienced was wonderful.

The Sister City Plan has been most enthusiastically accepted by the entire City of Kokura. He said it was certainly incumbent upon Tacoma to do everything possible to make the Sister City program a success. The proposed Tacoma House in Kokura will be an area of 3600 square feet located on the Palace grounds. The first concern will be to plan the house properly and make arrangements to send them evidences of our community and our culture in order to give them a true picture of our living conditions etc. He asked the Council to consider gifts to be sent to them immediately to express the appreciation for the reception that was given to him as a representative of Tacoma.

Mr. Anderson said he thought it was wonderful that Mayor Hanson was given the opportunity to go to Japan as a representative of Tacoma at no cost to the City. He added that this November the Pacific Coast Chamber of Commerce and the Mayor's Conference will be in Japan and he felt that a representative from Tacoma's City Council should be sent.

Mayor Hanson said he also hoped this could be arranged. In the meantime, he said, suggestions in reference to the Sister City Program were invited.

Mrs. Price reported on the first teenage dance held Wednesday night. There were about 4 or 5 hundred young people present. The dance was very well conducted and the youngsters were all having a wonderful time. She said she hoped the rest of the teenage dances would prove to be as successful.

Mayor Hanson said he would like to submit the name of Al Bradley as his appointment to the Utility Board. Mr. Anderson moved that Mr. Bradley's appointment to the Public Utility Board be confirmed. Seconded by Mr. Easterday. Roll call: Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion duly seconded and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 P.M.

*Ben Hanson*