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Solons Bow To Defeat And Begin A New Fight

Mayor's \$1.81½ Levy Ordinance Introduced

Sewerage Snags Arise

Council Favors Direct Tax to Meet Loans

Sproesser's Resolution

Ordinance to Abate Smoke Nuisance

Anti-Secret Session Measure Favorably Reported

With rare good grace the council last night acknowledged its defeat at the hands of the mayor by assisting, as much as it could, the progress of a \$1.81½ levy ordinance, and with equal good humor it fired the first gun in a contest regarding the proposed sewerage system.

Accompanied by a brief message of transmittal and a copy of the Court of Appeals decision, the mayor sent the levy ordinance to the solons. In the second branch it was introduced by Mr. Guyton, and there, by unanimous consent, it was read three times. Then it was conveyed to the first branch, where, owing to the absence of Mr. Megenhardt, it could be read but once.

Tonight the council will meet again and it will be read a second time. Tomorrow night it will be finally passed and Thursday morning the mayor will sign it.

By March 15 the collection of taxes will have begun.

In neither branch last night was the Court of Appeals decision read. Mr. Brown, in the first branch, moved that it be "spread upon the minutes," and President Wilmer, in the second, announced that there was "no necessity for reading it." Thus the solons escaped hearing the saddest words that tongue or pen ever produced for their edification.

Mayor Hayes Courteous

Mayor Hayes' message of transmittal was an exceedingly reserved and courteous document. In part, he said:

"I would respectfully ask your honorable body, at the earliest possible moment, to pass the proper levy ordinance. The city has since January 1 been able to conduct the public business without attempting to borrow money, but I fear that unless the legislative department acts promptly in the matter of passage of the levy ordinance the city will be in great embarrassment because of a want of the needed money to run the city government. I doubt if the city could

borrow money on a temporary loan, if the necessity arises, when the taxes have not been levied. I have taken the liberty to place in the possession of a member of your honorable body a draft of the proposed levy ordinance, prepared by the comptroller, and would most respectfully request the prompt passage of this ordinance.”

Sewerage Fight Begins

Mr. Sproesser, in the first branch, opened the sewerage contest by offering a resolution “recommending the Legislature to pass an enabling act.” This paper set forth plainly the councilmen’s contention that the cost of the system should be met by general taxation. Mayor Hayes’ enabling act provides for a special assessment of property owners. Mr. Sproesser’s resolution was referred to the special sewerage committees, which has in hand the council’s campaign.

Against Secret Sessions

Mr. Howser’s anti-secret session ordinance was reported favorably, with a recommendation that it be amended so that municipal boards may hold private sessions for the consideration of charges against a person or corporation, provided they define, in public session, the nature of these charges and their reasons for wishing to consider them in secret. This amendment if adopted, will modify the effects of the ordinance but little.

School Buildings

The committee on police and jail made a favorable report with slight amendments upon the ordinance providing for the fireproofing of school buildings. The committee on city passenger railways favorably reported the Forest Inn-West Arlington Railway franchise ordinance. Mr. Howard Bryant urged the committee to recommend an amendment requiring the railway company, on pain of forfeiting the franchise, to run cars at 15 minute intervals upon its present West Arlington line, but this suggestion was not adopted.

To Reduce Water Rents

In the second branch Mr. Guyton introduced ordinances reducing the water rent charges for dwelling houses and abolishing the charges for hose attachments. By the former measures the cost of water service will be as follows: For a dwelling house not over 14 feet front, \$3 per annum; for a hose from 14 to 15 feet \$4; 15 to 16 feet, \$5; 16 to 17 feet, \$8; 17 to 18 feet, \$10, 18 to 19 feet, \$11; 19 to 22 feet, \$12; over 22 feet, \$13. Both ordinances were referred to the committee on water.

Mr. Guyton also introduced an ordinance designed to suppress the smoke nuisance. It was prepared by Building Inspector Preston, and provides that all steam boilers shall have adequate smoke consumers. The Municipal Art Society recently began a vigorous campaign for the adoption of such a law.

Other Measures

Among the other new measures introduced were the following:

By Mr. Couglar—An ordinance to condemn and open Aiken Street, from Lafayette to North avenues.

By Mr. Grecht—An ordinance for repairing Hanover street, from Fort avenue to the water front, with Mosaic blocks, and an ordinance for repairing Fort Avenue from Hanover Street to Light with Belgian blocks.

By Mr. Reinhart—An ordinance abolishing No. 6 chemical engine company and providing for the consolidation of other chemical engine companies with truck companies.

By Mr. Guyton—An ordinance to regulate the introduction of electric wires into buildings, and an ordinance to regulate the framing of joists.

To Meet Again Today

The council will meet again tonight to facilitate the passage of the levy ordinance.