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Mayor Urges Prompt Tax Levy

Authorizes Collector Gorter to Prepare \$1.81½ Rate for Early Passage.

There is evidently a warm time brewing for the city council solons tomorrow evening when Mayor Hayes sends up his message with a certified copy of the Court of Appeals' decision in the tax levy case. The valuable document will be accompanied by copies of a new ordinance, the tax rate of which has been fixed at \$1.81½.

It is believed the mayor will call the attention of the council to the necessity for a prompt passage of the bill. The measure will be introduced in the two branches by Councilmen Sudler and Guyton.

What action the council will take is not known. Although no opposition is expected as regards the tax rate, an opinion is abroad that everything will not be clear sailing for the mayor's sewerage system plans. A number of councilmen have expressed a determination to be heard in the matter, and the measure will meet with some lively discussion.

Mayor Hayes yesterday said that he did not expect any opposition as to the tax rate. Although the city council has the power to increase the rate, he did not think it would be done. The mayor, in anticipation of the prompt passage of the measure, has instructed City Collector Gorter to prepare the plates for the tax bills on a basis of \$1.81½. It is hoped that the department can begin the collection about March 15.

Major Venable will very likely lead whatever opposition there may be to the mayor's sewerage plans. He is chairman of the special committee on the question, and yesterday said that he believed the council was entitled to some say in the matter.

"I am determined," he said, "that the bill to be passed at the extra session of the Legislature shall be correct. I see the mayor has appointed a commission for his bill. I will use every endeavor to have other names substituted. It's my opinion and those of the councilmen that such a commission should include prominent business men as well as engineers.

"It will be found that a great deal of money must be handled, and competent men should therefore be at the helm. The special committee, which Mr. Morgan and myself represent, is ready to confer with the city law department, as we were directed, or with the mayor. I see, however, that he has prepared his own enabling act. I favor a sewerage improvement, and would like to see it passed."

It is understood that City Councilman Sproesser intends to make an effort at tomorrow evening's session of the council to have a joint resolution passed authorizing the law department to prepare an enabling act. It will be requested further that provision be made for the cost to be borne by direct taxation and not by the property assessment plan approved by Mayor Hayes.