

March 1, 1960

THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA, met in the Council Chambers in City Hall, on Tuesday, March 1, 1960, at the hour of seven-thirty o'clock (7:30 P.M. C.S.T.) in regular session with Mayor Thos. L. Lemon presiding.

Members present: Sikes, Chitwood, Peace, Graves, Stikeleather, Faucett, and Marxson.

Members absent: None.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Council man Graves.

Councilman Sikes moved, seconded by Councilman Marxson that the minutes of the last regular meeting of February 16, 1960 be approved as submitted to each individual Councilman; motion unanimously carried.

Councilman Sikes presented Ordinance No. 9, 1960 for second reading by the Clerk-Treasurer. After second reading by the Clerk-Treasurer, Councilman Graves moved, seconded by Councilman Stikeleather that Ordinance No. 9, 1960 with reference to Bruner Courts be duly adopted. Upon a roll call vote Ordinance No. 9, 1960 was unanimously adopted.

The Clerk-Treasurer read the following recommendation from the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce:

STATEMENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BLOOMINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, MADE TO THE BLOOMINGTON COMMON COUNCIL, MARCH 1, 1960

As citizens and taxpayers, we rely upon our city government to perform certain services for us which we cannot provide for ourselves. Some of the most important of these, which can be performed only by our city government are law enforcement, fire and police protection, street maintenance, planning, disposal of wastes, and park and recreation facilities.

In addition to these primary services, there are several other activities conducted in the community in which there is a public interest. The city may engage in these activities, or it may protect the public interest by regulating the conduct of the activity by private operators. The operation of a cemetery falls within the latter category of services which may be performed either by the city or by private operators, rather than in the former category of services which can be performed only by the city.

One factor which must be taken into account in considering whether the city should use its bonding power to buy and develop a new cemetery is the 2% constitutional debt limit which is imposed on all units of local government. At the present low ratio between assessed valuation and true market value of real and personal property, a limit of 2% is unrealistic. It is, however, a very real limit upon the city's ability to finance capital improvements.

The debt limitation, therefore, becomes a major factor in determining which services of the city should be expanded at any given time. Were there no limit, each new proposal could be considered solely on its own merits. Since there is a limit, a system of priorities, must be set up to make certain that the remaining bonding capacity is used for the most important needs which may be facing the city, and not for a secondary need. The question then becomes, not, "Should the city buy a new cemetery?" but rather, "Is the use of the city's bonding capacity for a new cemetery more important than any other need for bonds?"

Today, the city's bond limit is approximately \$560,000. Outstanding bonds total \$379,000. On July 1st, 1960, the city will retire \$13,000 of bonds, leaving an unused bonding capacity of \$193,000. Should \$165,000 of bonds be issued for a cemetery, this would leave only \$28,000 of bonding capacity for all other needs which the city may be required to meet.

It appears that the city may need to use its bonding powers in the near future for more adequate police quarters, a new fire station and fire fighting equipment on the east side, land for park use in newly developing areas and possibly an incinerator. These are facilities which only the city can provide, and which the city can provide by use of its bonding powers. Developing a new cemetery at this time, a service which, at the most, might serve 200 - 300 families per year, would eliminate the possibility of the city's making capital improvements for these other services.

Because of the greater importance of some of the other needs for bonds, it is the conclusion of the Board of Directors of the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, upon recommendation of the Chamber's Taxation Committee, that it would be an injudicious use of the city's extremely limited bonding capacity to use it up for a cemetery, so long as there is another way to protect the public interest in the matter.

Therefore, we urge the Common Council to make every effort to reach an agreement with Valhalla Memory Gardens which will protect the public interest without exhausting the city's bonding capacity.

Councilman Peace read the following list of traffic emergencies that have been in effect for several months on an emergency basis and moved, seconded by Councilman Graves that the Traffic Schedule of the Traffic Ordinance be amended to include the following amendments; motion unanimously carried:

- Stop sign on Longwood at Hillside
- Stop sign on Nancy on each side of Hillside
- Stop sign on Clifton at Hillside
- Stop sign on Viva Drive at High Street
- Stop sign on Marilyn Drive at High Street
- Stop sign on Covenant Drive at High Street
- Stop sign on Ruby Lane at High Street

- Yield sign on Nancy Street at Ruby Lane
- Yield sign on Marilyn Drive at Nancy Street.
- Yield sign on Viva Drive at Nancy Street
- Yield sign on Mark Street at Nancy Street
- Yield sign on 1st at Eastside Drive

- Stop on 8th St. at Jefferson
- Stop on University at Lincoln
- Yield on Washington at 17th
- Yield on Lincoln at 17th
- Yield on Grant at 17th
- 2 Yields on Both Side of Washington on 16th

Reports for the month of February, 1960 were received from the Water Dept., Sanitation Dept., and the Plumbing Inspector, and placed on file.

Councilman Graves reported that he had received several requests from the citizens of the newly annexed areas as to when garbage and trash pickup would be available. The Mayor informed Mr. Graves that garbage and trash pickup had been started in these areas February 15, 1960.

Messages from the Mayor:

Mayor Lemon announced that a group of law students under the direction of Prof. F. Reed Dickerson has prepared a committee survey on private swimming pools, completely informative as to manufacturing specifications, problems involved in construction, problems involved in health and safety, and a model ordinance for regulation of private swimming pools in municipalities. The survey and ordinance is the first of its kind and has gained national attention and will be reported in the Swimming Pool Aid which is the national magazine dealing with swimming pools. The report will be available in the near future.

Councilman Chitwood moved, seconded by Councilman Stikeleather that the claims presented for payment March 2, 1960 be allowed as submitted; motion unanimously carried.

Meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

Mary Alice Doolan
Clerk-Treasurer

Thos J. Lemon
Presiding Officer