

THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLANDEXECUTIVE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

MAY 13, 1968

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mayor Miller	City Administrator Pridgen
Councilman Forshee	Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Smith
Councilman Geib	Corporation Counsel Gingerich
Councilman Hutmire	Fire Chief LaScola
Councilman Jones	Police Chief Foster
Councilman Kennedy	Dir. of Public Works Rhodes
Councilman Roth	Deputy Fire Chief Fickes
Councilman Turner	Asst. Bldg. Inspector Wollner

The Mayor and Council for the City of Takoma Park, Maryland, convened in Executive Session in the Council Room, 8 Columbia Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland, on May 13, 1968 at 8:09 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Mayor Miller.

Mayor Miller called for a motion to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the meeting held on April 22, 1968. The motion was presented by Councilman Kennedy, seconded by Councilman Jones and the minutes were approved as submitted.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Smith reporting

1. Mr. S. W. Parrish, Director, Department of Community Development, Montgomery County Office Building, Rockville, Maryland: Notification of Application for recognition of a Local Community Action Agency. (Civic Improvements) (Public Welfare)
2. Mr. Alexander J. Greene, Chairman, Housing Authority of Montgomery County, County Office Building, Rockville, Maryland: Request for City participation in the leasing of 100 dwelling units through the Housing Authority. (Civic Improvements) (Public Welfare)
3. Hon. Gladys N. Spellman, Chairman, Prince George's County Board of Commissioners, Upper Marlboro, Maryland: Acknowledgement of Resolution regarding the conditions at 1111 Sligo Creek Parkway. (Civic Improvements)
4. Mr. John M. Riecks, Asst. Superintendent of Schools, Business, Plant Planning and Construction, Prince George's County Board of Education, Upper Marlboro, Maryland Letter in regard to City's request for lease of park land at J. Enos Ray Elem. School. (Parks and Recreation)
5. Residents in area of Juniper Street Bridge, Takoma Park, Maryland: Letter and petition requesting the closing of the Juniper Street Bridge to vehicular traffic other than emergency vehicles. (Law Enforcement) (Public Welfare)
6. Mr. John W. Coffman, 7412 Birch Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland: Letter of appreciation for get-well remembrance during hospital confinement. (Council Files)
7. Mr. John S. Koontz, Co-Chairman, Fair Committee, J. Enos Ray Elementary School, Takoma Park, Maryland: Invitation to attend Fair, May 25th, and request for publicity. (Council Files)
8. Mr. John H. Carter, Publicity Chairman, Silver Spring Intermediate School, Silver Spring, Maryland: Invitation to attend Annual Spring Carnival and request for publicity in the Newsletter. (Council Files)

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9. Montgomery County Department of Public Welfare, Child Day Care Advisory Committee, Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, Takoma Park, Maryland: Invitation to attend Open House at the Takoma Park Day Care Center on May 18, 1968. (Council Files)
10. Mr. and Mrs. Morrison, Takoma Park, Maryland: Letter of appreciation for Police assistance in locating their lost child. (Law Enforcement)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Smith reporting (See last page)

Mayor Miller welcomed those present to the meeting of the Mayor and Council and spoke regarding the invitations received from the elementary schools to attend their Spring Fairs. Mayor Miller urged everyone to attend in support of the excellent work carried on by the P.T.A.'s of the local schools. He further remarked on the invitation received from the Takoma Park Day Care Center located at the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church and stated that this program was initiated to enable mothers of young children to work when necessary and be assured that their children are receiving proper care and training. He further noted that this is a very worthwhile endeavor and urged everyone to make an effort to observe this operation.

Mayor Miller spoke regarding the Annual Sale of Buddy Poppies conducted by the Takoma Post #350 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, located in Takoma Park. He noted that in addition to proclaiming May 13-18 as Buddy Poppy Week, the Buddy Poppy Princess would be crowned at this meeting. Mayor Miller read a Proclamation which set aside the week of May 13-18 for the purpose of "Honoring The Dead by Helping The Living" by the sale of Buddy Poppies and crowned the Princess which began the Annual Sale of Poppies to benefit the widows and orphans of deceased veterans as well as disabled and needy veterans. Mayor Miller introduced the Post Commander as well as previous Post Commanders and noted their various charitable projects conducted during the year. Mayor Miller noted that Memorial Day Services will be held again this year in Memorial Park.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

1. Mr. Harry Leiberman, 400 block of Philadelphia Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland; (representing a group of residents in 400 block of Philadelphia Avenue): Registered complaint of conditions at 410 Philadelphia Avenue where all utilities have been disconnected and is presently owner-occupied. Mayor Miller referred the matter to the Public Welfare Comm.
2. Mr. Norman Oehlke, 7204 Flower Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland; (representing a group of residents from same area): Registered complaint against persons residing at 7209 Flower Avenue. Stated that many undesirable conditions are in existence and requested that the Police force be increased, if necessary, to eliminate this problem. Mayor Miller referred the matter to the Law Enforcement Committee and requested that Chief Foster assign personnel to the area.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PUBLIC WELFARE COMMITTEE: Councilman Hutmire reporting

1. Report on Winchester-Takoma conditions: Stated that we may be experiencing an improving trend with the installation of a large trash container outside and the repair of the furnace and burner recently. Noted that the owner is attempting to locate a husband-wife team to manage these apartments.

2. 410 Philadelphia Avenue: Stated that these conditions have not gone unnoticed and due to the utilities being disconnected, the house could not be fit for human habitation. Referred to a letter from Mr. Williams, the City Building Inspector, wherein it stated that an inspection had been made and notice given that the house must be put in conforming condition by May 17th or the owner would be charged with a Code Violation. Referred to a letter also from Corporation Counsel Gingerich recommending that the owner be charged with Violation of Article 13 of the Municipal Code. Presented a motion that the property located at 410 Philadelphia Avenue be declared as unfit for human habitation under Article 13 of the Municipal Code (1961) and the Corporation Counsel be authorized to proceed with the necessary legal action. The motion was seconded by Councilman Geib and duly carried.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Councilman Forshee reporting

1. Approval of expenditures: Presented a motion for the approval of expenditures for the month of March in the amount of \$83,914.59. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kennedy and duly carried.

2. Approval of expenditures: Presented a motion for the approval of expenditures for the month of April in the amount of \$142,463.50. The motion was seconded by Councilman Geib and duly carried.

3. Budget Hearing: Councilman Forshee noted that the Public Hearing for the Proposed Budget for 1968-69 will be held in the Council Room at 8 Columbia Avenue rather than the Fire House Gymnasium as in previous years, due to the renovation now in progress. Councilman Turner recommended that a sign be placed on the gymnasium door for the public.

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE: Councilman Turner reporting

1. Maple Avenue business district: Stated that upon the request of the merchants on Maple Avenue, a study was made and the merchants further consulted, the Committee recommends the placing of the requested signs. Presented a motion for the adoption of the following Ordinance:

ORDINANCE NO. 2002

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

SECTION 1. THAT parking of vehicles of any description is hereby limited to ONE (1) HOUR at all times on the West side of Maple Avenue between a point in direct alignment with the North curb line of Sherman Avenue (Northern most driveway entrance of 7520 Maple Avenue) Northerly to the intersection of Ritchie Avenue, AND

SECTION 2. THAT, the Director of Public Works is hereby authorized to erect appropriate signs at the locations set forth in Section 1 of this Ordinance, AND

SECTION 3. FURTHER THAT the penalties for violation of this Ordinance shall be the same as provided in the Municipal Code (1961) governing traffic violations in the City of Takoma Park, Maryland.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Geib and duly adopted by a Roll Call Vote recorded as follows: Aye; Councilmen Forshee, Geib, Hutmire, Jones, Kennedy, Roth and Turner. Nay; None. Excused; None.

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2. Lee Avenue: Stated that the undesirable conditions outlined in the letter of complaint have apparently been taken care of and the property is in good order.
3. Personnel: Presented a motion for the appointment of Dr. Edward S. Mehlman as a Special Police Officer to be effective May 15, 1968. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kennedy and duly carried.
4. Dog problem in City Parks: Councilman Turner stated that the Director of Public Works has informed him of the extensive damage being done in the Parks, particularly to the Parks planted with azaleas, by dogs, both on and off leashes. Presented a motion for the adoption of the following Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. 2003

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

- SECTION 1. THAT the City of Takoma Park, Maryland, in an effort to beautify public spaces, has expended much time and funds in the planting of the various City Parks with shrubs and azaleas, AND
- SECTION 2. THAT it has been determined by inspection by the Police and Public Works Departments that extensive damage is being sustained by the permitting of dogs in the Parks, AND
- SECTION 3. THAT the Director of Public Works is hereby authorized to erect appropriate signs prohibiting dogs in the City Parks which are, or shall become at any time in the future, planted with shrubs, azaleas, or flowers, AND
- SECTION 4. THAT this Ordinance shall apply to dogs which are permitted to run at large as well as those restrained by a leash, AND
- SECTION 5. FURTHER THAT, the penalty for violation of this Ordinance shall be the same as provided under Article 24, Section 19 of the Municipal Code (1961) of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland (USE OF PUBLIC SPACE AND OR BUILDINGS).

The motion was seconded by Councilman Kennedy and duly adopted by a Roll Call Vote recorded as follows: Aye: Councilmen Forshee, Geib, Hutmire, Jones, Kennedy, Roth and Turner. Nay: None.

5. Councilman Roth stated that several persons residing in his area have complained about the new parking regulation signs posted on New Hampshire Avenue across from the Our Lady of Sorrows Church prohibiting parking at any time. Stated that the Special Officer controlling traffic on this particular Sunday in question was apparently unaware of the reason for the posting of the signs by the State Roads Commission and therefore rather abruptly dismissed the persons attempting to park in the area. There was considerable discussion concerning the parking in this area and it was recommended that the City Administrator write to the State Roads Commission and inquire into the possibility of the "No Parking" regulation excluding Sundays to permit church parking.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: Councilman Roth reporting

1. Heather Avenue: Presented motion for the approval of a survey to be conducted by PEPCO to estimate the cost of lighting the Service Drive in the area requested and make recommendations at that time. The motion was seconded and duly carried.
2. Sidewalk program: Stated that the agenda item for the sidewalk program has been carried for over two years and if at the time the budget is approved, money is not included for this program, the item should be removed from the agenda.
3. Miscellaneous Projects: Stated that all of the new parking meters have been installed and are now in operation. The street and parks divisions have been working together on the landscaping of Hodges Field and Forest Park. Flood lights have been installed at the Fire Department Siren Tower to light up the rear parking lot. The renovation work being done on the plumbing and heating systems at the gymnasium is progressing rapidly. Consideration is being given to the beautifying and protection of the walls in the gym.

FIRE PROTECTION COMMITTEE: Councilman Kennedy reporting

1. Fire Department Award: Councilman Kennedy referred to a newspaper clipping wherein it was reported that the Takoma Park Fire Department was awarded second place in the National Fire Prevention Association's annual competition based on the most informative and instructional scrapbook submitted by Maryland Fire Departments. Baltimore City was awarded first place honors and Silver Spring, third.

CIVIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE: Councilman Geib reporting

1. Eastern and New Hampshire Avenues: Presented a motion that the Park and Planning Commission be written and advised that the Mayor and Council have no objection to the proposed zoning change from C-1 to C-2 and further that they be thanked for their consideration in requesting the City's opinion and recommendations. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner and duly carried.
2. Montgomery County Housing Authority: Stated that upon the results of the meeting held with the Montgomery County Housing Authority a letter should be written to Mr. Vredenburg informing him that the County is not interested in this type of operation at this time. Noted that the particular building in question (7610 Maple Avenue - Maple Towers) is composed of efficiency and one bedroom units and the County is interested in predominately two, three and four bedroom units, therefore the City can make no recommendations for the purchase of this building. The motion was presented for the writing of the letter, seconded by Councilman Roth and duly carried.
3. Federal Grant for Beautification Program: Councilman Geib stated that the Beautification Folder has been sent to the Park and Planning Commission, and approval of the Resolution is all that is needed in order to enable approval of the Grant. Stated that \$8,785.00 is being asked for in matching funds. Presented a motion for the adoption of the following Resolution.

SEE NEXT PAGE

4. 1111 Sligo Creek Parkway: Councilman Geib stated that the impression received from Mrs. Spellman's reply to the Resolution sent to the County Commissioners was that there was nothing that could be done. Noted that she stated she was having the new Ordinances adopted by the County Commissioners researched to determine if there were any steps that could be taken to alleviate this undesirable condition now existing. Requested that a letter be sent to the County Commissioners requesting a copy of the new provisions that have recently been adopted under their Building Code and Commercial Establishment Code.

May 13, 1968

R E S O L U T I O N

APPLICATION FOR URBAN BEAUTIFICATION AND IMPROVEMENT GRANT

WHEREAS, Title IX of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965 amends Title VII of the Housing Act of 1961 and provides for the making of grants by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to States and local public bodies to assist them in the beautification and improvement of open-space and other public urban land where such assistance is needed for carrying out a local program which is important to the comprehensively planned development of the locality; AND

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park desires to beautify and improve open-space and other public urban land to facilitate their increased use and enjoyment; AND

WHEREAS, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the regulations of the Department of Housing and Urban Development effectuating that Title prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, or natural origin in the use of all facilities and improvements provided by Federal assistance; AND

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park is cognizant of the conditions that are imposed in the undertaking and carrying out of programs assisted under Title VII of the Housing Act of 1961, as amended, including those relating to labor standards and equal employment opportunity; AND

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the cost of the activities proposed to be carried out in performance of beautification and improvement of open-space and other public land exceeds the usual expenditures of the City of Takoma Park for comparable activities by \$ 8,785.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK:

1. That an application be made to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for a grant in an amount authorized by Title VII of the Housing Act of 1961, as amended, for urban beautification and improvement of open-space and other public land, which amount is presently estimated to be \$8,785., and that the City of Takoma Park will provide the balance of the cost.

2. That the City Administrator, City of Takoma Park, is hereby authorized and directed to execute and to file such application with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, to provide additional information and to furnish such documents as may be required by said Department, to execute such contracts as are required by said Department, and to act as the authorized correspondent of the City of Takoma Park.

3. That the proposed urban beautification activities are in accordance with the beautification program prepared by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, of importance to the comprehensively planned development of the locality, and that, should said grant application be approved, the City of Takoma Park will undertake, carry out, and complete said urban beautification activities designated in said application and approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

4. That the United States of America and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development be, and they hereby are, assured of full compliance by the City of Takoma Park with regulations of the Department of Housing and Urban Development effectuating Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

5. That the United States of America and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development be, and they hereby are, assured of full compliance by the City of Takoma Park with the Federal Labor standards imposed under Title VII of the Housing Act of 1961, as amended.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE: Councilman Jones reporting

1. Request for lease of park land: Stated that in regards to the letter received from the Prince George's County Board of Education, a letter of appreciation should be written and a proposal for future presentation drawn up. City Administrator Pridgen stated that a legal description should be requested on the land to enable the drawing up of a lease.

SPECIAL LIBRARY COMMITTEE: Councilman Jones reporting

1. Library Expansion: Stated that a meeting was held last week and the Board of Appeals has requested a couple of weeks to consider the case. Noted that the architect stated recently that he would have all of the plans ready for the Council's examination within two weeks.

Corporation Counsel Gingerich made a recommendation that the City consider the adoption of either Prince George's or Montgomery County regulations governing owner-occupied residences as the City has no such provisions at this time.

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council at this time. the meeting was adjourned at 10:24 to reconvene in Regular Session on May 27, 1968 at 8:00 p.m.

APPROVED: _____

George M. Miller

Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Rodney L. Smith
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES

AS OF APRIL 30, 1968

SUBURBAN TRUST COMPANY-GENERAL FUND

Balance as of March 31, 1968	\$ 43,206.31	
April Cash Receipts	* 196,174.70	\$ 239,381.01
April Cash Disbursements		142,463.50
Balance as of April 30, 1968		<u>\$ 96,917.51</u>

* Includes maturity of \$50,000. and sale of \$10,000 worth of treasury bills

SUBURBAN TRUST COMPANY-PAYROLL ACCOUNT

Balance as of March 31, 1968	\$ 13,599.21	
Transfers from General Fund	58,956.71	\$ 72,555.92
April Cash Disbursements		65,042.07
Balance as of April 30, 1968		<u>\$ 7,513.85</u>

CITIZENS BANK OF MARYLAND-GENERAL FUND

Balance as of March 31, 1968		\$ 410.44
April - No Transactions		-0-
Balance as of April 30, 1968		<u>\$ 410.44</u>

CITIZENS BANK OF MARYLAND-SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FUND

Balance as of March 31, 1968		\$ 381.38
April - No Transactions		-0-
Balance as of April 30, 1968		<u>\$ 381.38</u>

CITIZENS BANK OF MARYLAND-RECREATION SAVINGS A/C TP-63

Balance as of March 31, 1968	\$ 1,378.27	
April Cash Receipts	13.00	\$ 1,391.27
April Cash Disbursements		100.00
Balance as of April 30, 1968		<u>\$ 1,291.27</u>

AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK-GENERAL FUND

Balance as of March 31, 1968		\$ 93.54
April-No Transactions		-0-
Balance as of April 30, 1968		<u>\$ 93.54</u>

PETTY CASH

Balance as of April 30, 1968		\$ 200.00
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U.S. TREASURY BILLS

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Maturity Value</u>
Due for Maturity 5/31/68	\$ 38,606.00	\$ 40,000.00
6/30/68	57,644.80	60,000.00
	<u>\$ 96,250.80</u>	<u>\$ 100,000.00</u>

THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLANDBUDGET HEARING

MAY 21, 1968

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Miller at 8:09 p.m. who stated that those present have an opportunity as stockholders in the biggest business in town to express approval or disapproval of the proposed budget for the coming fiscal year. Noted that constructive criticism will be greatly appreciated, as although the proposed budget is balanced, any suggestions will be considered. Mayor Miller stated that due to Councilman Forshee being out of the country, the Vice-Chairman of the Finance Committee would conduct the hearing and explain the budget.

Councilman Turner welcomed the persons attending the Hearing and stated that revenues would be considered first and then the expenditures. Stated that the operating expenses and salaries represent approximately a six to eight percent increase over the previous year. Stated that the law requires that 10% of the total income be set aside as a Reserve Fund. After deducting the required amount, the budget figure amounts to \$1,050,498.00. Noted that the assessable tax base for each Montgomery and Prince George's Counties has increased approximately \$2,000,000.00.

A question was raised regarding the provision for a reduction in taxes for those persons over 65. City Administrator Pridgen stated that an applicant must be 65 years old before July 1, 1968 and must apply for the reduction prior to September 1, 1968.

Councilman Turner stated that Councilman and Mrs. Geib as well as other members of the Azalea Committee have recently completed considerable work on the Beautification Program which was submitted to the Park and Planning Commission as the first step toward receiving a Federal Grant to help implement the program. Stated that the M.N.C.P.P.C. approved the plans and it has now been submitted to the Council of Governments and HUD for approval. Noted that the City is applying for \$8,785.00 in matching funds for the beautification. Councilman Geib stated that the hard work done by the Azalea Committee can be readily observed at the many locations throughout the City which have been planted.

In connection with revenues, Councilman Turner noted that parking meter collections have doubled with the installation of the new meters. Stated that the only penny meters remaining are at the two Post Office locations. In addition, the penalty for over-parking has been increased from \$1.00 to \$2.00.

Upon inquiry from Councilman Turner, City Administrator Pridgen stated that the increased figure for multiple family refuse collection is due to the proposed 25% increase for the coming fiscal year. Stated that the City serves 584 multiple family dwellings at an average of \$20.83 per unit. Stated that the present scale is based on five units with a decrease from \$24.00 to \$18.00 for over six units (the first unit is not charged for) and a further reduction to \$12.00 per unit for those in excess of eleven units. Stated that the proposed increase would make the three figures \$30.00, \$22.50 and \$15.00 respectively. Further noted that the single-family dwellings are paying considerably less for trash service than residents of any of the surrounding areas.

Councilman Turner stated that income tax has increased very little and referred to the cover letter submitted with the proposed budget. Stated that the Washington newspaper that published an article concerning the proposed budget stated that several facts were direct quotes, however, stated that he has spoken with no reporters and that information was obtained from the cover letter.

The question was raised as to why the Library Tax to be received from Montgomery County for the fiscal year 1968-1969 is decreased to almost half of what has been received during the current fiscal year. Mayor Miller stated that the money received for Police protection was increased from the State. Stated that the tax is based on the per capita cost of operating and as the number of libraries in Montgomery County increased, the amount that Takoma Park receives has decreased. Stated that during the last General Assembly, all of the Delegates were in agreement that Takoma Park should receive State and County Aid for the Library with the exception of one Delegate who happened to be on the Ways and Means Committee. Stated that if the Library was under the Montgomery County Library System, Prince George's County residents of Takoma Park would be unable to use the facilities. Recommended that citizens write to the Legislature and urge that State and Federal Aid be granted for Takoma Park's Library. Stated that an issue could not be made over the decrease in tax received from Montgomery County as the amount received for Fire Protection and Police Protection has been increased and Takoma Park is the only Municipality to receive anything for a Library. Mayor Miller stated that he felt the best method for attempting to obtain the additional aid would be to bring it up again before the Delegates rather than the County Council and make a further attempt to enlist the support of the Prince George's County Delegate who was in opposition previously.

A question was raised as to the increase in the budget for Office Equipment Leased, and it was pointed out by Mr. Pridgen that the additional expense would be for the purpose of leasing a Postage Meter-Sealer and Check Signer due to the increased volume of mail and amount of time used.

A further question was raised in regards to the increase in the amount for the City Services Newsletter. Mr. Pridgen stated that this increase was due to the higher postage rates and charges for printing, etc.

Mrs. Mandell inquired as to what type of work is sub-contracted in connection with the Government Buildings budget. Mr. Pridgen noted that there are some specialized jobs that City employees are not qualified to do or the City does not have the necessary equipment. Mr. Rhodes, Director of Public Works, noted that the work subcontracted generally includes air conditioner repairs, roofing, etc.

Councilman Turner requested that Lt. Porter of the Police Department explain the WALES Project that is presently being installed. Lt. Porter stated that this is a computerized alerting system as well as a means of programming all the necessary information regarding automobiles, stolen articles, wanted persons, etc. Noted that this will soon be in use nationwide and within 60 seconds information may be obtained from any jurisdiction in the Country. Further noted that all of the information now being obtained from the teletype will come through WALES. Councilman Kennedy noted that this project is being urged by the Council of Governments and is presently being utilized by 14 area jurisdictions.

Mrs. Mandell stated that she had husband's proxy as President of the Spring Park Community Association to request a tax increase in order that an increase in salary might be given to City employees. Further stated that Public Works employees should be put on an Annual salary rather than hourly and that salaries should be up-graded for all employees.

Councilman Turner stated that the subject of salaries would be discussed after the entire proposed budget has been considered.

Mrs. Ferry stated that there seemed to be no provision for the improvement of sidewalks in the City.

Councilman Turner stated that the funds for the sidewalk program generally come out of the Reserve Fund and further noted that Capital Outlay Items were submitted individually by

the Department Heads for the large expenditures expected by each Department. Mr. Rhodes stated that funds have been requested in the Capital Outlay Budget and that it would be reflected in the budget as Capital Improvements rather than under the operating budget.

Mayor Miller stated that approximately \$60,000.00 was spent during each of the last two or three years for sidewalk and street improvements.

Mayor Miller replied upon questioning regarding the necessity of the Special Police Officers, that these Officers volunteer their time for the purpose of handling church crossings and to help the regular Police Officers on many other details. Mayor Miller called attention to the fact that Kenneth Jones, the new Sanitation Supervisor, has become a Special Police Officer and is doing an excellent job. Noted that he has played an important role in the apprehension of several suspects and is to be commended. Mrs. Ferry stated that he is very efficient in the position of Sanitation Supervisor.

There was some discussion on the services provided by the City and it was pointed out that the cost of the municipal services rendered amount to approximately 40¢ per day as an average, and that residents would have to pay considerably more if services were provided by the respective Counties.

Councilman Turner spoke regarding the Library and noted that it is a very well run and well-stocked facility.

Councilman Jones noted that the heading in the proposed budget identified as "Organized Facilities" should be "Parks and Recreation" as this is what it really represents.

Councilman Jones commented further on the wonderful job done by the Azalea Committee and noted that most of the parks in the City have been planted. Remarked also on the number of children that make use of the various parks and the programs offered.

Councilman Geib commended Mr. & Mrs. Derato and other members of the Azalea Committee for the planting of the parks. Mr. Derato remarked on all of the labor that has gone into the parks by Mr. Ben McKenny of the Public Works Department. Stated that it will be impossible for Mr. McKenny to handle all of the maintenance work necessary and that more help is needed. Further stated that he hoped the increase in the budget for the azalea program would include more help for the maintenance. Mr. Derato also stated that he would like to see some of the parks in the Prince George's area of the City.

Mr. Rhodes stated that youths would be obtained by the E.O.A. (Economic Opportunity Act) and would be used considerably for work in the parks. Further noted that most of the youths employed would be from the Takoma Park area.

Mr. Derato stated that the sidewalks at Eastern Avenue by Upper Portal Park needs work as it is an eyesore. Mr. Rhodes stated that this sidewalk is actually in the District of Columbia and that he would speak with their Public Works Department and ask that it be repaired.

Councilman Turner stated that the Finance Committee has worked out a proposal for the salary increases and would like to have opinions and recommendations from the citizens as to what the increase should be and how it could be financed. Councilman Turner stated that the proposed increase is for 5% for the annual salary employees and 10% for employees that are on an hourly wage.

Mrs. Ferry stated that she would like to see the salary increase and inquired as to how much of a tax increase would be necessary to permit this. Councilman Turner stated that taxes would have to be increased approximately 9¢ or \$1.19 per hundred dollar assessment.

Mr. Fiske stated that if the residents have to pay an additional 10¢ in taxes per \$100.00 that it certainly will be worth it to keep the employees the City now has.

In regards to the Reserve Fund, Councilman Turner stated that this amount is generally used in its entirety each fiscal year. Mr. Pridgen stated that there is a slight chance that some money might be left if the money from income tax collections comes through from the State. A new refuse truck and hook and ladder engine were discussed as possible items that would have to come from the Reserve Fund. It was pointed out that approximately 60% to 70% of the budget goes for salaries and the balance for materials and supplies. It was noted that the larger items must be planned on and the money set aside.

Mayor Miller noted that the City did not have any bonded indebtedness and the Public Works Building has been completed and is paid for. Stated that Library services have been expanded and that plans are in the making for a building expansion in the near future.

Mr. Joseph Brown inquired as to the plans for the Municipal Building. Mayor Miller stated that the City would like to start construction, however the specifications must be drawn up and a decision made as to the method of financing. Mayor Miller stated that a committee will be appointed consisting of citizens from throughout the City to work with the Council to arrive at the best financing. Further noted that it is hoped that such a committee may be formed and recommendations begun by middle summer or early fall. Councilman Jones stated that the City is very interested in getting the civic center underway as the facilities are badly needed by the various groups meeting in the City.

Mayor Miller stated that Councilman Roth was not at the Hearing due to a very unfortunate accident at home with a power saw. Mayor Miller also commented on the death of former Councilman Lawrence Oosterhaus.

Mayor Miller thanked the Finance Committee and Vice-Chairman Councilman Turner who conducted the Hearing .

The Hearing was adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

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THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

MAY 27, 1968

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mayor Miller

Councilman Geib

Councilman Hutmire

Councilman Jones

Councilman Kennedy

Councilman Roth

Councilman Turner

City Administrator Pridgen

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Smith

Corporation Counsel Gingerich

Fire Chief LaScola

Police Chief Foster

Director of Public Works Rhodes

Director of Recreation Zeigler

EXCUSED

Councilman Forshee

The Mayor and Council for the City of Takoma Park, Maryland, convened in Regular Session in the Council Room, 8 Columbia Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland, on May 27, 1968 at 8:06 p.m.

Retired Pastor, Luther Rhodes of the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church rendered the invocation.

Mayor Miller led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Miller called for a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the meeting held on May 13, 1968. Councilman Geib presented a motion that the Minutes be corrected to include the Roll Call Vote for the approval of the Resolution for application for the Beautification Grant. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kennedy and duly passed to amend the minutes of May 13, 1968 as follows: "The motion was seconded by Councilman Jones and the Resolution adopted by a Roll Call Vote recorded as follows: Aye: Councilmen Forshee, Geib, Hutmire, Jones, Kennedy, Roth and Turner. Nay: None. Excused: None."

City Administrator Pridgen stated that the Beautification Grant Application and Booklet was mailed to HUD for approval today and commended Mrs. Geib and the other members of the Committee for their efforts in the preparation of this booklet.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Smith

1. Judge Philip M. Fairbanks, The People's Court of Montgomery County, Rockville, Md: Notification of the discontinuance of hearing court cases in Takoma Park location. (Corporation Counsel) (Council Files)
2. Mr. Harry B. Packard, Montgomery Junior College, Rockville, Maryland: Letter of appreciation for cooperation of City Officials and employees for assistance during recent Symposium. (Council Files)
3. Mr. John P. Hewitt, Acting Executive Director, Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission, Silver Spring, Maryland: Letter of approval of Application for Urban Beautification Grant. (Parks and Recreation) (Copy to Azalea Committee)
4. Mr. William H. Shewell, Architectural Representative, Columbia Union College, Takoma Park, Maryland: Letter requesting use of public space during construction and also "No Parking" signs. (Law Enforcement) (Public Works)

MAY 27, 1968

5. Pastor William Loveless, Sligo Seventh Day Adventist Church, Carroll and Flower Avenues, Takoma Park, Maryland: Request for Police assistance in alleviating teen-age loitering problem at Jackson and Minter Avenues. (Law Enforcement)
6. Mrs. Melvin Holmes, 10 Pine Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland: Letter of appreciation for services rendered by various City Departments. (Council Files)
7. Mr. Norman Oehlke, 7204 Flower Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland: Transmittal letter and petition regarding undesirable tenants at 7209 Flower Avenue. (Public Welfare) (Law Enforcement)
8. Mr. Floyd A. Helms, 8111 Roanoke Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland: Letter of opposition regarding proposed increase for multiple family refuse collections. (Public Welfare)
9. Mr. Floyd T. Grant, President, Grant Construction Company, 3929 Allison Street, Brentwood, Maryland: Letter of complaint regarding conditions at 35 Freemont Avenue. (Civic Improvements)
10. Takoma Park Junior High School, Piney Branch Road, Silver Spring, Maryland: Notice of Spring Musical Program. (Council Files)
11. Mr. Joseph Diamond, 816 Larch Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland: Copy of letter sent to the Prince George's County Commissioners regarding 1111 Sligo Creek Parkway. (Civic Improvements)

Mayor Miller welcomed those present to the Meeting and noted that there will be only one Council Meeting during the month of June due to the Maryland Municipal League Convention being held in Ocean City on June 23, 24, 25, 1968.

Mayor Miller presented a motion for the adoption of the following Resolution regarding the recent death of former Councilman Lawrence Oosterhous and directed that a letter and copy of the Resolution be sent to Mrs. Oosterhous and family expressing the sincere sympathy of the Mayor and City Council. The motion was seconded by Councilman Geib and the following Resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Mr. Lawrence A. Oosterhous was appointed by the Mayor and City Council of Takoma Park, Maryland effective July 1, 1949 to complete an unexpired term on the City Council and was subsequently elected as a Councilman representing the Prince George's County section of the City, serving in such Office until April 14, 1952, at which time he chose not to seek re-election, AND

WHEREAS, Mr. Lawrence A. Oosterhous distinguished himself as a dedicated public servant in his professional, governmental, military, civic and religious life and activities, AND

WHEREAS, Mr. Lawrence A. Oosterhous passed from this life on May 19, 1968.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Resolution be spread upon the permanent records of the City and that a copy be forwarded to the members of Lawrence A. Oosterhous' family.

ADOPTED THIS 27TH DAY OF MAY, NINETEEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY EIGHT

Mayor Miller remarked that he was pleased to see that Councilman Roth is making such good progress after his recent accident with a power saw which seriously injured his hand.

Mayor Miller invited everyone to attend the presentation of Brazilian songs and dances being staged by the Brazilian Exchange Student, Anamaria. Stated that Anamaria and her performers have worked very hard on the program and that it should be very enjoyable.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

1. Mrs. Joseph B. Simpson, 7300 Cedar Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland: Stated that a meeting has been scheduled for the Citizens Advisory and Review Board for Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. in the Council Room at 8 Columbia Avenue. Remarked on the resignation of Dr. Laurence as Chairman and stated that his resignation would become effective at this meeting. Noted that even though Dr. Laurence is resigning due to being transferred out of town, he has indicated that he will attend meetings whenever possible.

Mrs. Simpson also stated that the sidewalks in front of 7501 through 7507 Cedar Avenue are covered with mud and requested that this be corrected. Mayor Miller referred her complaint to the Public Welfare Committee and the Public Works Committee.

Mrs. Simpson noted that there has been considerable difficulty lately with newspaper delivery and collecting due to the newsboys being attacked by white adult men.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE: Councilman Jones reporting

1. Library Expansion: Stated that a notice from the Board of Appeals has been received stating that the variance has been granted for the Library expansion.

2. Recreation Council: Councilman Jones stated that a meeting of the Recreation Council has been scheduled for May 28th at 8:00 p.m. in the Council Room at 8 Columbia Avenue.

3. A.F.S. Exchange Students: Noted that 41 students will arrive July 14th and stay through July 18th. Mrs. Geib is the Chairman and anyone interested in housing a student should contact her. Stated that final details on the party and other activities will be announced at a later date.

4. Playgrounds: Councilman Jones stated that the summer playground sessions will begin on June 24th and that volunteers and Chairmen are still being sought.

5. Lease of Park land: Stated that a letter has been received from the Prince George's County Board of Education stating that it may be possible for the City to lease part of the land surrounding J. Enos Ray Elementary School on a 5 year lease plan. Stated that a letter has been written requesting further information on the metes and bounds of the property so that a lease might be drawn up with the proper legal description of the area.

SPECIAL LIBRARY COMMITTEE: Councilman Jones reporting

1. Stated that the Committee has requested a projector and screen for the use of all City Departments but primarily the Library.

2. Noted that the approval has been granted by Montgomery County for the Library expansion and the Committee is now awaiting the final drawings and specifications.

MAY 27, 1968

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Councilman Turner, Vice Chairman reporting

1. 1968-1969 Budget: Stated that a meeting will be held with the Council meeting as a Finance Committee for the purpose of discussing the proposed budget. Noted that there will be only one more Council Meeting before the end of the current fiscal year. After discussion, the meeting was scheduled for May 29th at 7:30 p.m. in the Public Works Bldg.

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE: Councilman Turner reporting

1. Personnel: Presented a motion for the permanent appointment of Police Officer Kenneth K. Steir to be effective June 1, 1968. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kennedy and duly carried.

2. Greenwood Avenue: Referred to a letter received from the Architectural Representative for Columbia Union College wherein it was requested that they be permitted to make use of the sidewalk area and construct a temporary sidewalk for pedestrians while construction is being undertaken on the new building. Further requested that approval be given to the erection of "No Parking" signs during the period of construction. Presented a motion for the approval of their requests. The motion was seconded and duly carried. Councilman Turner stated that if these provisions should cause any problems the Council will be happy to look into them.

3. 7209 Flower Avenue: Stated that action has been taken toward evicting the undesirable tenants and the Detective and Police Departments have been watching the building very closely. Hopeful that situation will soon be corrected.

4. Juniper Street Bridge: Noted that a letter has been sent to all of the petitioners advising them of the Council's consideration. There was some discussion as to whether the bridge was constructed by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad or Montgomery County. Stated that further consideration would be given at the meeting being held on Wednesday evening.

5. Jackson Avenue and Minter Place: Referred to the letter received from Pastor Loveless wherein he stated that several residents of the subject area have complained about the teen-agers that are loitering in the neighborhood and causing a disturbance. Noted that the names of the offenders were obtained and that Officer Cofske had been to speak with each of their parents and from all indications, the problem has been alleviated. Chief Foster stated that he had spoken with Pastor Loveless who was very pleased that such prompt and efficient action had been taken.

6. Maple Avenue and Tulip Avenue: Recommended that a survey be made of the residents in the area of the requested four-way stop signs and findings be reported at the next meeting.

PUBLIC WELFARE COMMITTEE: Councilman Hutmire reporting

1. 410 Philadelphia Avenue: Stated that a Public Hearing was held prior to the Council Meeting and Mr. Horace W. Close, one of the owners, was in attendance. Councilman Hutmire referred to the various correspondence concerning the conditions and a telegram reply to a Notice of Public Hearing that was sent to a Mr. Robert R. Close in Connecticut who is listed as co-owner on the tax records. Presented a motion that if by the 10th day of June all conditions are not corrected and utilities restored, the building is to be locked and placarded as unfit for human habitation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Geib and duly carried.

2. Juniper Street Bridge: Noted that this was discussed during the Law Enforcement Committee report and held for discussion on May 29th.

- 3. Community Action Agency: Stated that Councilman Geib will discuss the City's participation more fully during the Civic Improvements Committee report. Pointed out that the City is presently participating in some of the programs that will come under this new Agency such as the Head Start Program and an English class for Spanish speaking residents.
- 4. Montgomery County Housing Authority: Stated that approximately 22 low income families are on record as applying for housing and there is no way of knowing at this point how many other families would be eligible. There was considerable discussion as to the City's participation in this program and the motion was tabled until the next meeting.
- 5. Winchester-Takoma Conditions: Stated that based on the most recent information received, the condition seemed to be improving. Upon questioning, Chief LaScola stated that the fire hazards still exist with nothing having been done to repair the incinerator. Chief LaScola cited the various possibilities for fire that exist with the equipment being in poor condition.
- 6. Personnel: Presented a motion for the permanent appointment of Mr. Frank E. Wollner as Assistant Building Inspector upon the completion of his one year probationary period, to be retroactive to April 1, 1968. The motion was seconded and duly carried.
- 7. Personnel: Presented a motion for the permanent appointment of Kenneth E. Jones as Sanitation Supervisor at the completion of his one year probationary period in that position. The appointment is to be retroactive to April 1, 1968. * see corrections page 71.
- 8. Spring Clean-Up: Councilman Hutmire referred to a memorandum from Building Inspector Williams wherein he stated that 326,000 pounds or 163 tons of refuse was picked up during the Spring Clean-Up program by the three special trash pick-ups. Councilman Hutmire commended the employees for the excellent job done.
* Additions to Public Welfare Committee - see page 71

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: Councilman Roth reporting

- 1. Barclay Avenue: Stated that results of the survey conducted by PEPCO indicate that a light should be installed. Presented a motion for the approval of a 2,500 lumen light to be installed at the dead-end of Barclay Avenue at an annual cost of \$28.13. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jones and duly carried.
- 2. Grassmere Place: Stated that the ground for the nursing home is now being graded in preparation for construction. Noted that it will still be sometime before abandonment of Grassmere Place must be considered.
- 3. Right-of-Way Dedication: Stated that the payment of taxes on one piece of property is holding up the procedures and that Corporation Counsel Gingerich is working with the property owners on the other side of the street, between Niagara Avenue & Maple Avenue on Ritchie Avenue.
- 4. Personnel: Presented a motion for the acceptance of the resignation submitted by Mr. Vincent Powell of the Public Works Department, with most sincere regrets. Also included in the motion was the desire to express the Council's respect and their hope for his continued good fortune for many years. Councilman Roth noted that Vincent Powell has been a very valuable employee for 19 years and must retire by May 31, 1968 which is just prior to his 70th birthday. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jones and duly carried.
- 5. Columbia Union College Construction: Stated that the Architectural Representative has requested that the City give consideration to their using part of the public space for parking their construction trailer and other equipment. The proposal submitted is for constructing a temporary sidewalk for pedestrians thereby permitting more space for

equipment and materials. Request also included proposal for building a fence around the construction area and a request for "No Parking" signs during this construction period. Presented a motion for the approval of their requests permitting them to make use of the space. The motion was seconded by Councilman Geib and duly carried.

6. Gymnasium Renovation: Stated that the Public Works Committee has been studying various literature to determine the best materials for the walls and floors at the Gym. In connection with the renovation, Councilman Roth stated that \$10,000 had originally been set aside to be paid to Atchison and Keller. Noted that \$2,700.00 has previously been paid and the company has requested payment of \$8,100.00 at this time, making the transfer of an additional \$800.00 necessary. Presented a motion for the adoption of the following Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2004

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

SECTION 1. THAT WHEREAS Ordinance No. 1992 adopted February 26, 1968, which was amended in the minutes of March 11, 1968, authorized the transfer of \$10,000.00 from the Reserve Fund to be paid to the low bidder for renovation of the plumbing & heating systems, such low bid having been submitted by Atchison and Keller, Inc. in the amount of \$15,700.00, AND

SECTION 2. THAT it has been determined that an additional sum of EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$800.00) is necessary for such payment for the gymnasium renovation project completed as of this date, less retention, AND

SECTION 3. FURTHER THAT, the sum stated in Section 2. of this Ordinance be transferred from the RESERVE FUND to Account No. 10.813.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Geib and adopted by a Roll Call Vote recorded as follows: Aye: Councilmen Geib, Hutmire, Jones, Kennedy, Roth and Turner. Nay: None. Excused: Councilman Forshee.

FIRE PROTECTION COMMITTEE: Councilman Kennedy reporting

1. Revision to City Code: Referred to a memo from Chief LaScola recommending the revision of the City Code. Presented a motion for the adoption of the following Ordinance:

ORDINANCE NO. 2005

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

SECTION 1. THAT Section 86-16, City of Takoma Park Fire Prevention Code (1965) titled, "Removal of Dangerous Conditions", be amended to read as follows:

"(a) Whenever the Fire Marshal shall find in any building or upon any premises combustible or explosive matter or dangerous accumulations of rubbish or unnecessary accumulations of waste paper, boxes, shavings or any highly flammable materials which are so situated as to endanger life or property, or shall find obstructions

to or on fire escapes, stairs, passageways, corridors, halls, loading platforms, doors, windows, aisleways or exitways liable to interfere with the operations of fire departments or emergency equipment or egress of occupants in case of fire, he shall order the same to be removed immediately. If he shall find private entrance or exit sidewalks or vehicular driveways or interior private driveways or sidewalks obstructed by snow, debris, construction material, ^{JK} ~~vehicles~~, vehicles, or other matter liable to interfere with the ingress of the operation of the Fire Department or other emergency vehicles in case of fire, he shall order the obstructions removed.

To effectuate the foregoing as to vehicles parked on private property, the Fire Marshal may order "No Parking-Fire Lane" signs erected, may designate the placement thereof and may order ^{JK} ~~that~~ that curbs be painted with traffic yellow paint. The parking of any vehicle on private property or otherwise, in violation of the foregoing shall constitute a misdemeanor; and any person convicted thereof will be subject to the penalty provided in Article 10, Section 41 of the Municipal Code (1961) of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland. In addition the vehicle parked in violation of Section 86-16 may be impounded by the Department of Police and held until the penalty provided and the towing and storage charges incurred are paid".

The motion was seconded by Councilman Roth and adopted by a Roll Call Vote recorded as follows: Aye: Councilmen Geib, Hutmire, Jones, Kennedy, Roth and Turner. Nay: None. Excused: Councilman Forshee.

CIVIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE: Councilman Geib reporting

1. Community Action Agency: Councilman Geib stated that some of the provisions in the proposed activities are already being utilized by the City such as the Head Start Program. There was considerable discussion at the conclusion of which a motion was presented for approval of the City's participation in the program. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hutmire and duly carried.
2. Housing for Senior Citizens: Stated that the Co-Op has turned the matter over to the Montgomery County Revenue Authority. Presented a motion that a letter be directed to the Montgomery County Revenue Authority asking for a progress report and status of the project and whether it will be referred to Takoma Park for recommendations and consideration. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kennedy and duly carried.
3. Special Exception No. 1720: Stated that Hearing has been postponed until June 12th due to the attorney requesting more background information on the case, particularly the zoning on the other parts of the property in question.
4. Beautification Grant: Stated that the Application for the Federal Grant has been sent to the Council of Governments and also HUD for approval. Should have results soon.
5. Z.A.P. A-7317: Stated that the case is now in court, as reported in a memo from Corporation Counsel Gingerich. Stated that now the City must file in memorandum in support of the appeal.
6. 103 Sheridan Avenue: Councilman Geib referred to a memo from Building Inspector Williams wherein it stated that the property appeared to be used as a multiple family dwelling in violation of zoning. Stated that the house is now being enlarged to accommodate

more tenants. Councilman Geib recommended that the matter be referred to the Corporation Counsel for action.

Councilman Roth thanked the Mayor and Council for the azalea plant which was sent to him during his hospital confinement after his accidental injury.

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m. to reconvene in Executive Session on June 10, 1968 at 8:00 p.m.

George M. Meier

Mayor

Rodney L. Smith

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

ATTEST: Attest:

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PUBLIC HEARING

MAY 27, 1968

The Public Hearing was convened by Mayor Miller at 7:15 p.m. on May 27, 1968, in the Council Room, 8 Columbia Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland. Mayor Miller related the purpose of the Hearing to be to hear testimony to determine if the building located on Lot 5, Block 72B, Takoma Park, Loan and Trust Subdivision, also known as 410 Philadelphia Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland, should be condemned as unfit for human habitation. Mr. Horace W. Close, listed as co-owner of this property, arrived in response to the notification personally served upon him at this address. Mayor Miller turned the proceedings of the Hearing over to Councilman Hutmire, Chairman of the Public Welfare Committee. City Officials present were: Mayor Miller, Councilmen Hutmire, Geib, and Kennedy, Corporation Counsel Gingerich, City Administrator Pridgen, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Smith, Director of Public Works Rhodes, Chief Building Inspector Williams, Stock Purchasing Clerk Holland. Councilmen Jones, Roth and Turner arrived shortly after the Hearing had convened.

Councilman Hutmire read into the record, the "Notice of Hearing" specifying the charges made under Article 13 of the Municipal Code against the owners of the property described above, including a description of the notification procedures that had been followed, namely the certification of "service" in person and placement on the building by Frank E. Wollner, Assistant Building Inspector for the City of Takoma Park, Maryland, on May 15, 1968 as witnessed by Mr. Gordon H. Holland. A copy of the "Notice of Hearing" is attached hereto and is a permanent portion of the record of this Hearing.

Councilman Hutmire requested that Mr. Williams, Chief Building Inspector, report the findings that caused him to recommend that the building be condemned as unfit for human habitation. Mr. Williams described in detail the chronology of the case, identifying the circumstances of the successive termination of all normal utilities including the suspension in 1967 of electric and gas service by PEPCO and the Washington Gas Light Company and the removal of water service by the W.S.S.C. in April, 1968. He pointed out that these services were terminated because of unpaid bills and unauthorized tampering with usage meters and documented the three situations by presenting letters received during the week just ended from the W.S.S.C. and W.G.L. Co. and by noting a current telephoned verification to the same effect from PEPCO. Mr. Williams stated further that on previous inspections of the property, the grass appeared to be about one foot high, that the hedges had until recently been unkempt and overgrown and that considerable trash and debris had disfigured the premises. Mr. Williams completed his remarks with the ascertainment that, inasmuch as the residence completely lacked the utilities required for normally operating sanitary facilities and for adequate heating, cooking and illumination, one must conclude that the house is, in fact, unfit for human habitation.

Mr. Gordon Holland testified briefly in support of Mr. Williams recommendation, adding that the Public Works Department, acting on complaints from Mr. Close's neighbors, had recently trucked considerable quantities of trash, litter and bottles from the property.

Mayor Miller addressed Mr. Close with additional remarks on the responsibility of the Council to act in behalf of the general welfare of the citizens, in this matter, to respond to the growing volume of complaints from concerned neighbors of Mr. Close.

At this point, Mr. Close was invited to testify in defense of his position under the charges. He discussed his personal situation from the time of his mother's death several years ago when he and his brother inherited the property and certain cash, mentioning that, in the belief that the inheritance would permit him to live comfortably without working, he had resigned from his regular job.

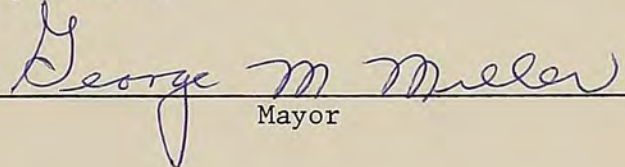
It was developed during his remarks and the questioning from various Councilmen present, that his cash supply had failed to last as long as planned, that he had accepted two, non-paying guests who assisted, in their fashion, to supply him with food in exchange for the shelter provided by his house, that some accomodation with the reduced comforts of the house had been achieved by (1) carrying water from a nearby park and (2) cooking and heating by burning wood in the living room fireplace.

Mr. Close further admitted, when questioned, that all three utilities would be needed to restore full operation of facilities because the range is electric and the furnace gas-fired. In answer to questions from Councilmen Geib and Jones, Mr. Close candidly agreed that he drew dubious benefits from his guests, who constituted, as he put it, "probably a greater detriment than a help". He was advised that various neighbors had reported considerable alarm at the appearance and demeanor of these guests and that if he intended to improve his situation, he might well consider asking them to move out.

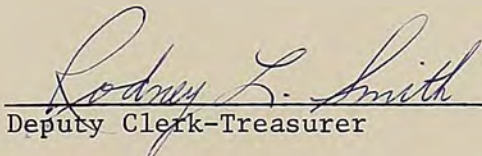
Councilman Hutmire and Corporation Counsel Gingerich advised Mr. Close in some detail of the consequences to him and his property in the event a majority of the Council, acting on a post-hearing recommendation of the Public Welfare Committee, elected to order the house vacated and locked up. When asked by Councilman Geib if he understood what these measures would mean to him personally, Mr. Close replied in the affirmative. Councilman Hutmire asked Mr. Close of, considering the warnings he had previously received, and the seriousness of the matter as put forth at this Hearing, he would indicate what plans if any, he has now made to improve the situation. Mr. Close, replied that he was uncertain as to how he would acquire the funds required to restore the utilities and that he would have to perform a considerable effort to clean up the inside of the house. When asked if he plans to return to his old job in the printing trade or to seek other regular employment, he seemed to be undecided and did not supply a direct answer. He had recently explored the chance of re-instatement in his former job at the Government Printing Office but had evidently not yet received a definite response.

At the conclusion of these questions and answers, Mayor Miller suggested that the Public Welfare Committee, in reaching its determination, establish a specific interval for restoration of the property and notify Mr. Close accordingly, through Mr. Williams' office on May 28, 1968. No further testimony or comments requested by those present, the Hearing adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CLOSE OF THIS HEARING, the Public Welfare Committee, all members present, voted unanimously, to recommend that the Council declare the property in question, unfit for human habitation, to be restored to the satisfaction of the City by June 10, 1968 or to be vacated, locked and placarded.



 Mayor



 Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

NOTICE OF HEARING

The Mayor and Council of the City of Takoma Park will hold a public hearing in the Council meeting room, 8 Columbia Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland, on Monday, May 27, 1968 at 7:00 P.M., pursuant to Article 13, Sections 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the City of Takoma Park Municipal Code, 1961 Edition, to determine whether the building located on Lot 5, Block 72B, Takoma Park Loan & Trust Subdivision, also known as 410 Philadelphia Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland, should be condemned as unfit for human habitation. The alleged defects of the building are that it (1) lacks water, gas and electricity for use by the occupants; (2) lacks illumination, ventilation or sanitary facilities adequate to protect the health or safety of the occupants or the public; (3) is so unsanitary, unsafe or vermin infested that it creates a serious hazard to the health or safety of the occupants or the public; and (4) is unsanitary or otherwise dangerous because of its general condition to the health or safety of the occupants or of the public. The owners of the building are R. R. Close and Horace W. Close.

Haynes M. Pridgen
Haynes M. Pridgen, Clerk-Treasurer
City of Takoma Park

I, Frank E. Wollner, Assistant Building Inspector, for the City of Takoma Park, Maryland, along with Mr. Gordon Holland, served this notice of hearing on Mr. Horace W. Close, the owner of said property. I personally read the notice to Mr. Close at 3:30 P.M. on May 15, 1968.

Frank E. Wollner
Frank E. Wollner
Assistant Building Inspector

(Witness) *Gordon W. Holland*
Gordon W. Holland
Stock/Purchasing Clerk

I certify that a copy of this notice was stapled to the front door of this dwelling on May 16, 1968.

Frank E. Wollner
Frank E. Wollner
Assistant Building Inspector