

Tuesday, June 11, 1974

At a combined public hearing and regular meeting held in the Council Chamber this evening at 7:30 PM there were present: Mayor Roy H. Erickson, City Manager Marvin B. Milam, City Attorney Norvell A. Lapsley, Clerk N. Arlene Loker, Vice-Mayor E. Warren Denton, Jr., Councilmen Paul C. Cline, Walter F. Green, III, City Auditor R. William Shifflet and Chief of Police, Julius F. Ritchie. Absent: Councilman Raymond C. Dingle, Jr.

The evening's Invocation was led by The Rev. L. C. Huddle, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Harrisonburg.

Minutes of the regular meeting held on May 28th were read, and approved as corrected.

The following regular monthly reports were presented and ordered filed:

From the City Manager:

A report of activities in the various departments and said office for the month of May, 1974.

From the City Treasurer:-

A Trial Balance report as of close of business on May 31, 1974.

From the Police Department:-

A report of parking meters and receipts from same for the month of May, 1974.

From the City Auditor:-

A report of cash discounts saved in payment of invoices for the month of May, 1974 totaling \$ 376.88.

A financial report for the City of Harrisonburg, Va, for the month of May, 1974.

From the Data Processing Manager:-

A report of water and sewer accounts, meters read, installations, cut delinquents, etc. for the month of May, 1974.

✓ A petition signed by eight property owners at Lynden Place was presented and read, requesting permanent surface on the street. City Manager Milam pointed out the short street which is located one block off South Ave., deadend off Southampton Drive. The street condition is being caused by water which comes from above, at the railroad track, causing heaving of the street. He explained that Lynden Place is the same as when done by the Subdivider, and that after a five year period, the City puts down the permanent surface. Assistant City Manager Driver said that the street in question needs maintenance at once, but is good for two or three years, before plant mix is needed. He noted that the City Street Department intends to do this work. No further action necessary by Council.

✓ A petition submitted by Mr. Frank Harris, President of the Retail Merchants Board of Directors, was read, requesting that the Municipal Parking Lot be decked, and noting that the merchants in the Central Business District would be willing to pay additional business tax. Mayor Erickson said that the Parking Authority has been working on additional parking in the downtown area for some time. Mr. Sullivan, City Planning Director, was asked what the Commission is doing in cooperation with the Jaycees and other programs earmarked around this. He replied that Mr. Gary Green of the Jaycees is correlating efforts with Mr. D.P. Davis, architect, to draw up a plan. The Jaycees Committee, known as "Sunshine Mall", has not met as yet. The Parking Authority has about three reports in their hands which have been developed over the years, with the latest done last fall by Wilbur Smith & Associates. Prior to that, a detailed account of downtown parking was drawn up, and used as the basis for report by Smith Associated. Manager suggested that Council, in order to solidify objectives of the various organizations, appoint a Downtown Development Committee and include all elements under this Committee, with two or three members of the Jaycees who are working on the project. He suggested representation from the Retail Merchants Ass'n; Harrisonburg Parking Authority; County Authorities; and also include representatives from the Garden Clubs; Rockingham Historical Society; Chamber of Commerce; Harrisonburg Redevelopment & Housing Authority; an architect, and the four local banks of Harrisonburg. Someone should get all of the representatives together, rather than plans being presented by each individual group or organization, and work out one total master plan. Mr. Milam said he did not feel that Council should be represented on the Committee in that the governing body has to take utilities, assessments, etc. into consideration for action. Councilman Green offered an opinion that this should come under planning, and commented on committees which are appointed, and then get bogged down. He said he felt this matter should be handled as expeditiously as possible and then moved to refer the petition to the Parking Authority. As an after thought, Councilman Green suggested that a look be taken of the condition of sidewalks in the downtown area. Assistant City Manager Driver pointed out the fact that the City ordinance provides that owners pay 1/2 the cost on sidewalks, which some downtown owners have not consented to. The ordinance would have to be amended in order for the City to do the work, with no financial assistance from owners. Vice-Mayor Denton seconded the motion on the floor to refer the petition to the Parking Authority, which was adopted by a unanimous vote of Councilmen present. Mr. Denton then moved to approve the formation of a special committee to be known as the "Downtown Development Committee" and to instruct the City Manager to bring in recommendations for appointees, to the next regular meeting of Council, which motion upon being seconded by Councilman Cline, was adopted by a unanimous vote of Councilmen present.

✓ Dr. Malcolm Tenney, Jr., District Health Director, gave another portion of his annual report, covering Public Health Nursing: visits to schools; contacts with teachers to discuss health problems; home visits to help inform parents of problems, etc. He presented each member of Council with a summary sheet of Harrisonburg's Health Problems (Kindergarten-Grade 12) and corrections made.

Mayor Erickson closed the regular session temporarily and called the public hearing to order.

City Manager Milam read the following notice of hearing as advertised in the Daily News Record newspaper:

✓ "The Harrisonburg City Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 11, 1974, at 7:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, Municipal Bldg., 345 S. Main St., to consider the following rezoning request:

Rockingham Mutual Insurance Company, request to rezone 19 lots situated

on the south side of East Market Street from R-2 Residential to B-2 General Business. Purpose: To build an office building.

All persons interested will have an opportunity to express their views at this Public Hearing."

City of Harrisonburg
Marvin B. Milam, City Manager

The City Manager pointed out the area on a map (E. Market St., near Marvilla Court). Mr. Joe Bowman, architect, noted that several adjacent lot owners have joined in with the rezoning for an office building, and pointed out that the proposed building will be 25,000-35,000 sq. feet and not a very tall building (little more than a two story). The area requested for rezoning lies between R-2 and R-2 districts, and Rockingham Mutual proposed a 20-25' buffer strip of trees. The back area will be cleared out and additional trees planted to serve as a barrier from other properties. City Manager Milam read the following recommendation submitted by the Planning Commission from a meeting held on April 25, 1974:

"...The Rockingham Mutual Insurance Company's application for rezoning 19 vacant lots situated on the south side of E. Market St. near Marvilla Court, which had been presented and discussed in public hearing on April 17, 1974, was summarized as follows:

a) Attorney Donald Litten reported that Rockingham Mutual will not open Long Ave.; rather, all vehicular ingress and egress for a proposed office building will be on E. Market Street.

b) Mr. Owen Shifflet of 163 Crescent Drive, representing citizens of the Long Ave.-Crescent Drive neighborhood, asked for a wide buffer of greenery and closing of Long Avenue, east of its presently developed portion. If these steps are taken, the citizens will not 'oppose' the office building proposal.

c) Architect Joe Bowman and representatives of the requestor agreed to amend the site plan to reflect preservation of the natural conditions south of Long Ave. and a buffer of trees along the west boundary.

Mr. Williams expressed strong faith and trust in the officers of Rockingham Mutual, and moved that the Planning Commission recommend to City Council that 19 lots be rezoned for Rockingham Mutual Insurance Company, from R-2 Residential to B-2 General Business. Mr. Kuykendall seconded the motion.

All members present voted in favor..."

No one present in Council's public hearing spoke in opposition of the rezoning request. Vice-Mayor Denton asked about the wide buffer strip requested, when Mr. Bowman stated only 20-25' is proposed, Mr. Bowman replied that it is felt this width will be adequate, and added that they have to know about the closing of Long Ave. before the width of the strip can be decided upon. Another point was made that area needed for parking would fall in the area of the buffer strip. Rockingham Mutual needs to know if there is a certain width required. City Manager Milam told Council that some other property owners not involved in the application will have to be consulted before any action is taken re the street closing. No others desiring to be heard, the public hearing was declared closed at 8:50 P.M. and the regular session reconvened.

Mayor Erickson asked Council's wishes re the rezoning request of Rockingham Mutual Insurance Co, Councilman Cline moved that the recommendation of the Planning Commission be approved, which motion upon being seconded by Councilman Green, was adopted by a unanimous vote of Councilmen present.

A report was presented by City Manager Milam, Chairman of the CATV Study Committee, with other members being Wayne King, School Superintendent; Richard Parker, Mgr. Educational Television Station; Mervin Stickley, CPA; and Ralph Craun, Electronics, following a request by Warner Cable Co. in increase monthly rates to \$ 6.00 for first connection and \$ 2.00 for each additional connection. The Committee, following months of study and review, recommended a monthly charge of \$ 5.25 for the first connection and \$ 2.00 each additional connection, effective July 1, 1974, (present rate being \$ 4.50 and \$ 1.00 respectively). This increase recommended represents an effort to approximate the rate of return when the Franchise was awarded. Attorney George Aldhizer, Jr., representing Warner Cable, pointed out that a great deal of time had been spent by the Study Committee, and added that the Company had felt that the \$ 6.00 was a fair price, when requested. His clients, however, feel that should Council decide to support the 75¢ increase (\$5.25 monthly charge), they will rest on the decision, but request that approval be given as soon as possible in order that the increase may be implemented. Mayor Erickson expressed an opinion that both the Cable Company and customer were taken into consideration by the Committee when the decision was reached. Manager Milam said that a second 75¢ increase is recommended by the Committee, to be effective next April, although this was a later decision, and not placed in writing. Attorney Aldhizer said he, and his clients, would attempt to answer questions re complaints compiled by the Committee concerning cable service, and asked that the package presentation of 75¢ now, and 75¢ effective April '75, be acted upon at this time. Manager Milam pointed out that if the present rate continued, the Company will end the year with a loss. Vice-Mayor Denton moved that an ordinance setting forth the 75¢ increase effective July 1, 1974 and including additional 75¢ effective April 1975 be approved for first reading and referred to the City Attorney to be drawn in proper ordinance form. Councilman Cline said he was not aware of the additional increase next April and desire more time to study the situation, as he felt the \$ 5.25 would be gone along with by customers. Both increases, or \$ 1.50, would represent a 33 1/3% increase. He said he was willing to act on the 75¢ increase, but not on the additional 75¢ for next year. He offered an opinion that to not consider the report as a whole would be unfair, in that so much time had been spent on the matter by the Study Committee. The motion on the floor was lost for lack of a second. Attorney Aldhizer asked if Council would act on the \$ 5.25 at this time and make a commitment at the next meeting re the additional increase. A representative of the Cable Company said that a letter should go out to customers on the July 10th billing, which make time an essence. Councilman Green offered an opinion that the public should have some answers to questions raised concerning cable service. He was informed that only one specific complaint had been registered and that the party was contacted by the company. Other complaints were the removal of certain programs, etc. Councilman Green then moved to accept the Committee's report as written (75¢ increase, or \$ 5.25 monthly charge, and \$ 1.00 increase, or \$ 2.00 for additional connections), and that an ordinance to this effect be approved for a first reading and referred to the City Attorney to be drawn in proper form, which motion upon being seconded by Councilman Cline, was adopted by a unanimous recorded vote of Councilmen present, Attorney Aldhizer said he would like an opportunity to meet with Council at

a future meeting, to present additional facts.

✓ The City Manager presented a recommendation from the City staff to award the contract for the new No. 4 fire station building, to Nielsen Construction Co., with certain deletions and adjustments. He then explained in detail the suggested deletions and adjustments, one by one, which totaled \$ 81,318.00, which, if deducted from the low bid of \$ 544,700., would leave a balance (or total cost) of \$ 463,382. The list included removal of the proposed brick work (cobbling around perimeter of building) which was added expense, and sloping the north parking lot instead of making same level, also a saving. Manager Milam said that out of the listed items, some would be negotiated later, possibly 1/3, with another 1/3 to be done by City forces, and still another 1/3 by Auxiliaries and No. 4 Company. He noted that the deletions would not altar the basic function and appearance of the building. He presented the following financial facts: total cost of new building (inc. architect's fees and land) will be approximately \$ 600,000.; \$ 96,000. expenditures to date; \$ 48,402 balance going into the project; \$ 330,302. proposed for use on the project from Revenue Sharing Funds. The remaining amount would have to be appropriated at a later date. He recommended that the contract be awarded to Nielsen Construction Co. for amount of \$ 463,382. to include from the original bid the deletions, totaling \$ 81,318. Assistant City Manager Driver pointed out that he, along with the City Manager and Building Official, had contacted Nielsen Construction Co. re possibly lowering the total by deletions and were told that the deadline for contract price to be in effect would be June 21. Because of this time limit, they had compiled the list of deletions and adjustments themselves, rather than meeting with the Fire Commission or others concerned. Mr. David Thompson, President of No. 4 Fire Company, expressed a hope that the decision made without knowledge of # 4 was an exception, and not the rule, in that it could cause morale problems among members. After further discussion, Vice-Mayor Denton moved to award the contract to Nielsen Construction Co. as recommended by the City Manager, which motion was seconded by Councilman Green, to include also the City Manager's proposal to add \$ 330,302. from the Revenue Sharing Funds to the balance of \$ 48,402. toward the project. John Paul Shoemaker of No. 4 expressed appreciation to Council for the time and work put forth in the project and expressed a desire for ground breaking and getting the building under-way.

✓ Manager Milam informed Council that the amount of Revenue Sharing Funds for the City of Harrisonburg as reported by the Treasury Department for the 5th entitlement period, 7/1/74 through 6/30/75 would be received in quarterly payments beginning in September 1974, with total amount for year of \$ 370,302. He noted that the entire amount was proposed to be used for Capital Outlay items, as follows: \$ 330,302. for Hose Co. No. 4 Building; \$ 22,000. toward the new Recreation Center; \$ 18,000. set up as matching funds with the Rotary Club for construction of a 92' x 36' Building to be used as Senior Citizens Center at Westover Park, which will connect a picnic shelter and comfort station now under construction at the park. He then presented an Appropriation Ordinance setting forth the aforesaid appropriations for Capital Outlay Projects, for Council's consideration. Following discussion, Councilman Green moved that the ordinance be approved for a first reading, which motion upon being seconded by Vice-Mayor Denton, was adopted by a unanimous recorded vote of Councilman present. Manager Milam will publish the Planned Use Report, as required.

✓ Council was informed by City Manager Milam that a report had not been submitted by the duly appointed Board of Viewers concerning the closing of certain portions of streets in Section D of Rolling Hills Subdivision, in that notice of same was not posted at the Rockingham County Court House at the proper time. He noted that Attorney Henry Clark said it did not have to be posted, in that no other lots had been sold in the plotted area, and that same was provided in the Virginia Code. City Attorney Lapsley pointed out that when closings were done by ordinance, which is the practice of the City of Harrisonburg, certain advertising is required, including the posting of notices. Following a brief discussion, the City Manager was instructed to bring in another report to the next meeting on June 25th.

✓ The following report submitted by a Board of Viewers comprised of Messrs. P.H. Hardy, T.H. Lowery, John H. Byrd, Sr. and R.T. Benson, was read, concerning the matter of vacating portions of streets within Purcell Park:- Bluestone, Valley Sts. and Crawford Avenue:-

"The undersigned members appointed by the City Council May 14, 1974 as a Board of Viewers to contact all adjoining property owners and ascertain if there would be any inconvenience by closing of a specified portion of Bluestone, Valley Sts., and Crawford Ave.

The three property owners namely, Mr. Lawrence Purcell, Mrs. Mary (E.B.) Ritchie, and Mr. Stanley R. Wampler, whose properties are involved with the subject streets were interviewed. We report the results of these interviews.

(1) Mr. Purcell gives his full approval for the closing of the southern end of Bluestone St., starting at a parallel line with the southern boundary line of said Purcell property, and according to a map supplied by the City Engineer, extending southward a distance of ninety feet.

(2) Mr. Stanley R. Wampler whose property borders on Crawford Ave., fully approves the closing of the said street southward a distance of three hundred feet as shown by the city map; the closing of said street starting on a parallel line with southern boundary line of the Wampler property.

(3) Mrs. Mary (E.B.) Ritchie, whose property borders on Valley St. is willing to sanction the closing the one hundred ninety feet involved in the closing of Valley St. with the following reservations. Mrs. Ritchie has what we, the Viewers, believe to be a legitimate grievance. There is no fence or designated line separating the Ritchie property from Purcell Park on the southern border and partly on the east side of the Ritchie land. The absence of a barrier separating the properties has caused a continuation of encroachment and trespass upon her property by the patrons of said park. Mrs. Ritchie states that she has suffered damage to her back yard oven, same being unusable at this time. Her patience has worn rather thin by continuous promises of a suitable fence to be provided by the Park Authority, and the over running of her property by Park patrons.

It is the opinion of the Viewers, that if promises have been made, they should be performed promptly. After Mrs. Ritchie has been given proper relief

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from her present encroachment, the closing of said streets should be confirmed."

City Manager Milam said he had been advised that at the time the land was turned over to Purcell Park, a covenant in the deed provided that the streets remain open, which fact will have to be investigated and substantiated prior to action for closing of same. Council discussed the matter of a fence being placed between the Park and Ritchie property, and agreed, generally, that the promise should be fulfilled. Another problem brought out in the discussion, from a safety standpoint, was the lining up of tournaments, and games, at Purcell Park, which makes overparking of cars on both sides of Monument Ave. Chief Ritchie offered an opinion that parking should be taken off one side of the street, or some other step taken that would allow fire equipment to get through, if necessary. Following discussion, the City Manager was instructed to investigate the matter of covenant in the deed for Purcell Park land in order that action may be taken on recommendation of the Recreation Department to close portions of streets, as well as the matter of a fence at property of Mrs. Ritchie, and also to investigate the matter of safety measures for Monument Avenue, for a report at the next regular meeting of Council.

City Manager Milam reminded members that an appointment should be made to the Chapter 10 (Mental Health & Mental Retardation) Board for the unexpired term of Dr. John Eagle who has moved into the County. Councilman Green placed the name of Dr. C. Robert Showalter in nomination, based on a prior request to have a psychiatrist represented on same. Councilmen present unanimously concurred in the nomination and Dr. C. Robert Showalter of 560 Ott St., Harrisonburg, was appointed to serve on the Chapter 10 Board for the unexpired term to expire on January 1, 1975.

Manager Milam reminded Council that a vacancy had been created on the Harrisonburg Parking Authority by the resignation of Mr. Robert Hartt, which resignation was accepted at the last regular meeting, and that someone should be appointed to serve his unexpired term. Vice-Mayor Denton placed the name of Mr. Tom Pappas, 438 Ott St., Harrisonburg, in nomination. Councilmen present unanimously concurred in the nomination, and Mr. Pappas was appointed to the Authority for the unexpired term which expires on November 28, 1975.

Councilman Cline moved that an appropriation in the amount of \$ 6,200, requested by the Fire Chief due to insufficient funds in current budget appropriations for various financial obligations, be approved for second and final reading, a first reading having been approved on May 28, 1974, and that:-

\$ 6,200. chgd.to: General Fund - Unappropriated Surplus.
4,200. approp.to: General Fund (9020-1103) Fireman's Wages
1,000. approp.to: General Fund (9020-212) Other Materials & Supplies
1,000. approp.to: General Fund (9020-361) Electricity

which motion upon being seconded by Vice-Mayor Denton, was adopted by a unanimous recorded vote of Councilmen present.

A request was presented from the Director of Parks & Recreation for approval of an appropriation in the amount of \$ 2,382.40 from the General Fund Unappropriated Surplus Account, in order to pay six employees under the Emergency Employment Act (PEP) Program for the month of June. Mr. Gilkerson noted in correspondence dated 5/31/74 that under the present billing system to the state, this amount would be repaid the City around the end of July. Following a brief discussion, Councilman Cline moved that the appropriation be approved for a first reading, and that:-

\$ 2,382.40 chgd.to: General Fund - Unappropriated Surplus
2,382.40 approp.to: General Fund (11020-12) Parks & Recreation- Wages

which motion upon being seconded by Councilman Green, was adopted by a unanimous recorded vote of Councilmen present.

A request was presented from Mr. Cecil Gilkerson, Recreation Director, for approval of an appropriation in the amount of \$ 1,459.04 from the account of Recoveries & Rebates, in order to transfer this money for participants' wages incurred during the month of April, as per agreement with the Virginia Employment Commission. Vice-Mayor Denton moved that the appropriation be approved for a first reading, and that:-

\$ 1,459.04 chgd.to: General Fund (1005) Recoveries & Rebates
1,459.04 approp.to: General Fund (11020-12) Parks & Recreation- Wages

which motion upon being seconded by Councilman Cline, was adopted by a unanimous recorded vote of Councilmen present.

The City Manager presented a request from Mr. Gilkerson, Recreation Director, for approval of a transfer of funds in the amount of \$ 11,070.00 in order to draw this amount from the account of Parks & Playgrounds and into the Westover Park Project for the last payment of the City's share on the project. Following discussion, Councilman Cline moved that the transfer be approved, and that:-

\$11,070.00 trans.from: General Fund (11020-77) Parks & Playgrounds-
Work in Progress.

11,070.00 trans. to: Westover Park Project No. 51-00091

which motion upon being seconded by Vice-Mayor Denton, was adopted by a unanimous vote of Councilmen present.

A request from Mr. Cecil Gilkerson, Recreation Director, was presented by the City Manager, for approval of a transfer of funds in the amount of \$ 750.00 from the account of Parks & Recreation, into National Guard Armory Account, due to insufficient funds to meet current expenses. Councilman Cline moved that the transfer be approved, and that:-

\$ 750.00 trans.from: General Fund (11020-77) Parks & Playgrounds-
Work in Progress.

750.00 trans.to: General Fund (11040-363) National Guard Armory-
Water Service.

which motion upon being seconded by Vice-Mayor Denton, was adopted by a unanimous vote of Councilmen present.

A request from the City Auditor was presented for approval of a transfer of funds in the amount of \$ 15,000, from account of Retirement Fund Contribution-Current, into account for Social Security, due to

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the fact that the City is behind schedule on payment of same. Following a brief discussion, Councilman Cline moved that the transfer be approved, and that:-

\$ 15,000. trans.from: General Fund (4110-320) Retirement Fund Contributions-
Current.

15,000. trans.to: General Fund (4110-250) Social Security.

which motion upon being seconded by Vice-Mayor Denton, was adopted by a unanimous vote of Councilmen present.

City Manager Milam reminded members that a transfer request in amount of \$ 12,800. by the School Superintendent had been presented at Council's meeting on May 28th, and was deferred until this time in order for more information to be obtained. He recommended approval of the transfer in that he had been supplied with a complete breakdown of balances and expenditures which met with his approval. Following a brief discussion, Vice-Mayor Denton moved that the transfer be approved, and that:-

\$ 10,000. trans.from: School Fund (1201-134.11) Day School Instr.- Comp.Elem.Teachers.

2,800. trans.to: School Fund (1201-221) Other Inst^sCosts- Intuition pd.Other Div.

550. trans.to: School Fund (1200-202) Adm.- Audit Expense.

550. trans.to: School Fund (1200-218) Adm.-Telephone, Telegraph, Postage.

500. trans.to: School Fund (1200-299) Adm.- Other Adm. Expenses.

700. trans.to: School Fund (1202-220) Attendance & Health Services-
Travel Expense School Psychologist.

4,000. trans.to: School Fund (1205-207) Oper. School Plant- Electricity.

4,000. trans.to: School Fund (1205-311) Oper. School Plant- Fuel.

2,500. trans.to: School Fund (19-403) Capital Outlay- Furn. & Equipment.

which motion upon being seconded by Councilman Green, was adopted by a unanimous vote of Councilmen present.

A request from the School Board was presented for approval of a transfer of funds within current School appropriations in amount of \$ 1,054. due to insufficient funds to meet outstanding obligations. Following a brief discussion, Councilman Cline moved that the transfer be approved, and that:-

\$ 672.00 trans.from: School Fund (20-801) Debt Service- Payment of Literary Fund Loan.

359.00 trans.from: School Fund (20-802.02) Debt Service- Interest on Literary Fund Loan.

23.00 trans.from: School Fund (20-806) Debt Service- Other Debt Service.

304.00 trans.to: School Fund (1206-213) Fixed Charges- Workmen's Comp.

750.00 trans.to: School Fund (1208-134.01) Adult Education- Instruction

which motion upon being seconded by Councilman Green, was adopted by a unanimous vote of Councilmen present.

A request from Mr. Cecil Gilkerson, Recreation Director, was presented for Council approval of a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$ 356.66 in order to transfer this amount from account of Recoveries & Rebates received due to vandalism damages at Purcell and Westover Parks. Vice-Mayor Denton moved that the appropriation be approved, and that:-

\$ 356.66 chgd.to: General Fund (1005) Recoveries & Rebates.

356.66 approp.to: General Fund (11020-271) Non-Revenue Receipts- Maint. & Repairs-
Bldgs. and Grounds,

which motion upon being seconded by Councilman Cline, was adopted by a unanimous vote of Councilmen present.

The City Manager presented a request from Mr. Cecil Gilkerson, City Recreation Director, for approval of a transfer of funds in amount of \$ 6,000. from the account of Capital Outlay, Land Improvements, due to insufficient funds for current obligations. Manager Milam pointed out the fact that the operating fund has only the amount of \$ 800. at the present time, which is insufficient, and City Auditor Shifflet added that the Department had spent money on repairs due to vandalism which had not been fully reimbursed. Following a lengthy discussion, Vice-Mayor Denton moved that the transfer be approved, and that:-

\$ 6,000. trans.from: General Fund (1102-79-1) Capital Outlay- Land Improvements.

6,000. trans.to: General Fund (11020-212) Parks & Recreation- Other Materials &
Supplies,

which motion upon being seconded by Councilman Cline, was adopted by a unanimous vote of Councilmen present.

With regard to a petition from Valley Players for use of the Mintzer Auditorium and dressing rooms in the Municipal Building (2nd floor) for another season ending May 31, 1975, presented at a previous meeting, Mayor Erickson offered an opinion that the decision was pretty well up to the management insofar as plans for use of the area is concerned. City Manager Milam said that he sympathized with the Group as they have occupied the area for six years, but felt that plans should be gotten underway in order to have rooms for city offices. He did point out the fact that funds are insufficient to do the total job at the present time, and noted that various changes in the downtown area may be reason for postponing the project. He mentioned the possibility of incorporating Valley Players, along with other uses for rooms in the new Recreation Center when constructed. Mrs. Jim McNeil was present in the meeting and said it is essential to have some kind of answer in order that plans may be formulated for the coming season which ordinarily includes four productions (Sept. through May). She said that although this is a recreational type program, help is needed in that they do not support themselves "through the door". Council discussed the matter at length, agreeing generally, that the Valley Players could possibly shorten the coming season, by one production, in order to relinquish the area sooner, around February 1975. Following discussion, Councilman Green moved that the Valley Players be permitted to continue use of the facilities for the coming season, with the hope that the organization can expedite matters toward the City's planning program early next year, which motion upon being seconded by Vice-Mayor Denton, was adopted by a unanimous vote of Councilmen present.

There being no further business and on motion duly adopted, the meeting adjourned at 11:35 P.M.

J. Wilene Loker
CLERK

Lay Erickson
MAYOR