

**Call number: 02-00-106**

**Council comments on Pioneer Home**

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**Series: Harrie Hughes Collection**

**Notes: Original on 3-inch reel, master copy on CD**

A person addresses Mayor and asks about Mr. Claus' building permits. [Unclear discussion about the building permits and about clear rules that would let people know what they can or can't do. More unclear talking.]

At 06:00 Adolph Stock addresses the Mayor and says that he represents the Pioneers of Alaska, Igloo no. 4 and asks a permission to speak, which is granted. He says that the Pioneer Welfare Committee gathered at the Nordale Hotel on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 1962, and continues that the Pioneers of Alaska and the Auxiliary no. 8 members feel concerned about the houses of some old-time Pioneers and retired elderly people.

Adolph Stock mentions inspectors from various departments of the City of Fairbanks and says that the houses are suitable for living in Alaska, and comfortable for their inhabitants. Most of them are from the early days of Fairbanks City and constitute the only individual homes available for their owners. He talks about City who is paving roads, installing sewage disposal, electricity and other modernizing features and asks that the older citizens are exempted from the program. He continues on saying that Fairbanks is becoming like any other city when all the picturesque features are gone.

Adolph Stock announces that the Pioneers of Alaska, Igloo no. 4 has appointed a Welfare Committee to make suggestions to Mayor and the City Council of Fairbanks and work to remove the offending features that lead to building's condemnation. He asks that 1) the [unclear] California Building Code will be deemed inapplicable for Fairbanks or Alaska and that a new code will be brought in. 2) that the Ordinance 10:25 and Ordinance 11:00 [unclear]. 3) that there should be a property tax exemption for pensioners and retired elderly persons. The paper is signed by: Adolph Stock, Irving Reed, Colin McDonald, Andrew Wicken, James McDonald, Mike Stepovich, Harrie L. Hughes, George [unclear].

At 11:24 someone addresses Mr. Mayor saying that the Council realizes that they have problems that are particular to elderly citizens. He says the issue should be

brought up in Wednesday meeting groups for further discussion on how to help “these people.”

[Unclear] reasons for advocating Pioneer Park and Home. There’s a basic reason that “we” are approaching time when many of the homes may not live up to California Building Codes. [Unclear talking.] The elderly should have the right to live in the country that they helped to build. Park will help with this issue and it’s not just a play area. The speaker admits that there are problems with the homes, but says that it’s a good idea that the Council sees to their wishes concerning their welfare. [Sylvia Ringstad says something unclear. Unclear discussion between the speaker and Sylvia Ringstad.] The mayor asks if Pioneer Home would only cater to pioneers, to which a man’s voice says it would be for pioneers and elderly people.

16:011 A speaker has a feeling that the Pioneer Home question has only come up recently and that lots of people are in favor of the project. Talking about ordinances that are requested to be repealed and saying that it would be better to study the matters instead of taking an action tonight. [Unclear talking.] The mayor says that any city employee who is condemning a home of an elderly person has to present the case to the City Council. Furthermore, the conditions that caused contemplating condemning should be corrected.

Someone addresses Mr. Mayor and says that people who didn’t really understand what was going on condemned pieces of property. City and the people didn’t speak the same language. Pioneer group could perhaps mediate in explaining city’s decisions to the elderly people. Another man talks about how in 1961 they removed around 170 buildings and that they took action against those buildings that were not occupied. There were many unoccupied, sub-standard structures. Most recent one was Pete Smith’s, but they also have inspected a number of structures owned by the members of the Pioneer Committee. [Sylvia Ringstad says something unclear.] A man’s voice talks more talking about building officials and their decisions. Sylvia Ringstad says this is a good thing to discuss.

At 21:46 People vote. [Break in the recording.]

Harrie says it was the end of the recording about the Pioneers of Alaska requesting some adjustment in the attitude toward the Pioneers and elderly people with small incomes, who are not able to pay costs that have been created over the past 3 year.

[End of the recording.]