

Call number 02-00-94

Fairbanks news with Maury Smithy

November the 28th, 1961

Summary created by: Varpu M Lotvonen

Date of summary's creation: 10/14/13

Series: Harrie Hughes Collection

Notes: Original on 7-inch reel, master copy on CD.

A person is giving a report on the Fairbanks City Council news. Aubrey Mooring [sp?] sent the council a letter, complaining about her arrest and wanting the police to be arrested. Racial issues were brought up. Red Boucher asked how much it costs for the city to print out the city newsletter that tells about current projects and accomplishments. They discussed why people get several copies and how much it costs to send all the newsletters out and whether it was necessary. Boucher was against sending the newsletter but wanted to hire a PR [public relations] person to which Sylvia Ringstad said they won't hire anybody new. [Break in the recording.]

Boucher posed a question about Planning and Zoning Commission's Capital Expenditure 3-year program that the council thought to be unrealistic, wanting to know if it is or isn't. Talking a bit more about the Capital Expenditure program. [Break in the recording.]

A person talks about Boucher's confusion over the paving budget and states that his questions were not stupid but good ones. He was merely misinformed. More talking about next year's budget that must be cut down. About the Capital Improvements –program that was prepared by the Planning Commission. It was considered by the council at the first meeting in October and will be studied more. Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission said that the Capital Improvements –program was unrealistic in its numbers. More about this and possible deficit spending.

At 08:38 Harrie Hughes says that it's November the 28th, 1961 and Maury Smith is giving another news report on KFAR radio and TV. Maury Smith's voice says that last night, Fairbanks City Councilman Darrel Brewington wanted to form a committee to work with City Department heads in getting the City Budget down.

He said that he and [William “Red”] Boucher are new and it was hard for two men to study the budget objectively before the deadline of December 15th. According to Boucher, the budget was “thrown at them” at too late of a date to give it a real study. Councilwoman Sylvia Ringstad said everybody had had to face that when they were elected to the council for the first time. That’s why she wanted the elections to be in April, so the new councilmen can be better acquainted with the workings of the City Government. [More talking about this.]

A council heard an announcement that another public hearing on the water [facilities] extension problem will be held Wednesday evening. City attorney Barry Jackson thanked the council for his raise of \$75 dollars a month which brings his salary up to \$16,200 dollars a year and gave a report on his trip to Washington involving Pan American Airways’ request to fly New York—Fairbanks —Tokyo route 26 flights a week [other news from aviation companies]. [Break in the recording.]

At 13:05 Harrie Hughes [?] says that that was the Council News by Maury Smith on November the 8th, 1961. News program resumes, mentioning Fort Wainwright base power plant that will temporarily alleviate energy needs of the city, the water extension, transfer of a liquor license and [unclear]. 3rd Building Ordinance was tabled. Talking about School Ordinance and School District budget, as well as about Zoning Ordinances. The City Manager reported last night that Governor William Egan made available to the City of Fairbanks ½ of the cost of the trips to Washington D.C. by City Attorney Barry Jackson to intervene about the aviation routes matter. Councilman [Darryl] Brewington proposed to wave parking meter fees from Saturday preceding Christmas as a Christmas present for the Citizens. Somebody suggested [jokingly] giving a holiday from taxes next year. Cab drivers ordinance will be discussed the following Monday. The chairman of last month’s Inupiat Great Gathering of Eskimos in Point Barrow has requested [unclear.] [Break in the recording.]

[At 16:01 there is more Maury Smith news. He mentions Barry Jackson who talked about his trips to Washington and also talks about a meeting at the Chamber of Commerce Log Cabin before the recording has another break.]

16:30 A man’s voice is talking about moving the Engineering Office to give the Youth Detention Facility a new building: There will be dormitories for boys and girls and a common day room. Detainees must have something meaningful to do, says the Chief of Police. According to Councilman [Name] Red Boucher, the

current facilities are a disgrace. Other Fairbanks City Council news is that according to a report, in case of a power shortage in Fairbanks the Fort Wainwright power-plant could offer additional electricity. The council talked about the Budget Ordinance without the school budget and there will be a public hearing soon. Talking about school budgets and then about millage rates and the total budget of the City.

The Council approved the recommendation by the Elks Club to give them time to pay their sales taxes. On Saturday before Christmas, the parking meters downtown will be closed so people don't have to pay to park for Christmas shopping. Cab driver's Ordinance. Uniform housing code and a neighborhood renewal plan were mentioned. Urban renewal board's advisory committee member August Stager [sp?] gave her resignation. Safeway's advertisement. The Chairman of Inupiat 1st grade Gathering of Eskimos in Point Barrow has urged Bureau of Indian Affairs to let James E. Hawking as an area director for Alaska since he has worked with villages and understands the issues. [Break in the recording.]

Harrie says it's the end of the Maury Smith news. [Break in the recording.]

24:19 Maury Smith's voice continues: Council passed an Ordinance last night, setting the budget for 1962 [the sums mentioned]. Before the budget was passed, a number of Fairbanksans came to talk to the Council: talking about some of their requests and objections. A representative of the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce Clifford Burgland [sp?] said he was sorry that the board had not taken time to look into the budget and go over it. Councilman Darryl Brewington offered an explanation that seemed to satisfy the State and he promised that in the future the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce would work more closely with the City in budget matters.

Talking about the Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries commission: Jim Bishop, who succeeded Red Boucher as the commission head, and Tom Paskvan Jr. were frequently applauded by 3-4 audience members. Talking about the budget of Parks and Recreation [Committee's] that was cut down. Bishop anticipated a public outcry over this matter. Boucher talked to Bishop, saying that the budget cuts are necessary. Listing of things where money was budgeted. City's newly hired recreational director had asked for an assistant but Boucher was of the opinion that the director could do many of the things himself. No assistants were hired. About other things that were cut. Crypt at the Birch Hill Cemetery that has

been talked about for 2 years is still needed and Maury Smith thinks that they owe that to their dead. [Break in the recording.]

[End of the recording.]