

City Council in Action !

by L.T. Donovan

The City Council opened Thursday, November 15 with a public hearing; an appeal against the decision of the Development Officer to grant a modification of the East sideyard requirement lot 55 Bayview Road case #3028. In this case Mr. Rhyno, the appellant had been refused variance modification for a building permit as he had not allowed for enough footage between his building and the neighbouring building, a requirement of a city by-law.

Although the city did not grant him a building permit Mr. Rhyno continued construction on the building.

Of interest is the fact that Mr. Rhyno had obtained from the city an electrical permit and went ahead with his wiring before he had received his building permit. What caused this oversight at city hall? Ald. Connolly made a motion that the appeal be allowed but the appellant be fined for this activity. Ald. Meagher moved that the motion be divided in regard to prosecution. As it happened the motion for the appeal was granted with the right to prosecute left in the hands of the building inspector.

An item of major interest was the motion for unlimited gratuitous universal Saturday parking for 6 months. Deputy Mayor M. Stanbury felt this would be a "shot in the arm for the downtown core". However Mr. Sheflin, the City Director of Engineering and Works, felt that this could lead to less parking since downtown employees would take advantage of the free parking - "a human instinct". Ald. Shannon agreed with this point as she also felt this action could create less available parking space in the downtown area.

John Colwell, vice-president of the Downtown Halifax Business Assoc. told Council his Assoc. wanted the charges taken off; he felt it would revitalize the downtown area on Saturdays. He also made note of the new attitude of City Hall towards the downtown business sector. Mr. Colwell felt store owners could police their staff in order to prevent their constant use of parking spaces.

Ald. Walker made a good point saying this action would encourage more cars when there should be encouragement of the use of mass transit. Mr. Colwell said with improved transit the Business Assoc. would support it, however, they need direct action now.

Ald. Sullivan suggested that a business report be made after 6 months elapsed in order to indicate the effect of the free parking on the business sector. However, one could interject that the council members are forgetting that Santa Claus is coming so people are bound for shopping regardless of free parking.

Ald. Shannon moved that an amendment be made -that would limit the parking free area to wards 1, 3, 5-the business district; thereby avoiding parking problems in the hospital zones. It is apparent that Ald. Shannon feels there will be problems with this motion; however City manager Glube felt Ms. Shannon's suggestion would be too difficult to enforce. Council did not contest it; the original motion was passed. For the next 6 months Halifax will have universal free Saturday parking with the city losing up to \$30,000 and most likely a great deal of parking space. -A case of curing the symptom and not the disease.

In regard to the proposed new North End fire station on Gottingen St., a motion was passed for a public hearing. Other affairs of Council were as follows:

- 1) Case #3028 - accepted.
- 2) Petitions and Delgations: Petition against new sod tree installation fronting Willet Street between Main Ave. and Adelaide Ave. - Accepted.
- 3) Report - Finance and Executive Committee:
 - (a) request for a study of housing needs for senior citizens - approved.
 - (b) possible expropriation settlement 2336-38 Barrington Street - vacant land -approved
 - (d) tender 74-144, 145, 146, & 147, petroleum tenders 1975 - approved.
- 4) Report - Committee on Works:
 - (a) encroaching sign - 200 Bedford Highway - approved.
 - (b) encroaching canopy - 5680 Spring Garden Road - approved.
 - (c) encroaching canopy - 6268-70 Quinpool Road - approved.
 - (d) examination of performance and damage caused by studded tires on our highways. As this motion was passed some entertainment was stirring in the gallery, a perturbed woman jumped to her feet, echoed a sarcastic "Thank you Aldermen" and stomped out.
- Deputy Major Stanbury suggested that perhaps she owned a franchise in studded tires.
- 5) Report - Safety Committee:
 - (a) function and responsibility of the traffic authority (new appointment) -approved
 - (b) appointment - new director of Emergency Measures Organization -approved.
- Both these motions contained a provision that there would be close cooperation between the traffic office and the police department.
- 6) Report - City Planning Committee:
 - (a) Case #3086 - applica-

tion for consolidation of block A-1 to form block A1A, lands of the Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission between Columbus & Lady Hammond Road -approved

Case #3119 - application for subdivision -approved

Case #3116 - application for consolidation of lots z-1 and z-3 (civic #2056) to form lot M, lands of Hassroun Investments, Robie St. -approved.

Case #3124 - application of the lot frontage requirement, 1856 Walnut St. -approved.

Camp Hill Complex -approved.

Motion - amendment to Ordinance #137 respecting "Deferred payment of taxes" - Ald. Connolly - Introduced.

Motion - amendment to Ordinance #141, respecting "Tax exemption for widows and senior citizens - Ald. Meagher - Introduced.

Misc. business: Amendments to administrative order #5 - second reading - approved.

Results of job evaluation committee deliberation - Local 143 CUPE Employees - approved.

School crossing supervision - prepare tenders.

Appointments to Boards, committees and commissions - approved

Approval by City Council - expropriation, Eisen-

hauer lands by Public Service Commission approved.

Added items: Neighbourhood Improvement Program -approved. This acceptance of the program will mean a commitment of \$1 million allocation by the Federal government and a \$100,000 allocation by the provincial government. Legislation - approved. A two-fold motion was

made on the Quinpool Road Appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada which stated that the city would not oppose the citizens right to make an appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada, however, should the court decide to hear the case, they city council would re-affirm its previous council's decision in allowing the project.



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