

MAYOR IN LETTER GIVES INFORMATION

(Continued from page one)

which existed prior to the great exodus to the North Shore, beginning in 1921, is shown by the records of the improvements. Since the incorporation of the city in 1869 down to 1921, the total cost of all improvements made during fifty-three years, consisting of pavements, sidewalks, sewer and water mains, is estimated at approximately \$1,000,000.

During the first years of my administration as mayor, the office force in the City Hall consisted of: City Clerk Corporation Counsel Assistant City Clerk City Collector Stenographer

This force was adequate to handle the then business of the city, which business consisted in making and collecting an occasional special assessment, the preparation of data for the information of the mayor and commissioners in reference to the ordinary business of the council and the several department heads, the keeping of records, the calling and conduct of elections, the drafting of ordinances, and the enforcement of same. All the city's business at that time was what might be termed local business; that is to say, our problems were of a character incidental to the efficient administration of the business of a small, quiet, suburban community, the growth of which had been and was gradual but slow, and the work incidental thereto requiring but little of the time of those in charge as compared with the attention given to the general business of repairing of streets, policing and lighting of the city, the maintenance of water system and sewer mains, and the all important question of finances and taxes.

Beginning in 1921 the character of the business of the city began to undergo a change, and the city was confronted by a different order of things. Subdivisions began to be developed in the unimproved territory of the city, mostly in the southern and western area of the town, and as this property was subdivided and sold, the purchasers of the lots, and especially those who began building operations, demanded that the improvements of sewer, water main, sidewalks, and pavements be installed at once. Our population began to increase rapidly, and it became necessary, in order to preserve the character of our city as a community of home owners, that we adopt a Zoning ordinance and that we annex additional territory to accommodate the great influx of people. Immediately upon the annexation of property to the west, numerous subdivisions sprang up in that territory which required improvements. All this development involved a total expenditure of many millions of dollars in the subdivision of property, the sale of city lots therein, the building of homes, and the construction of street, sewer, and water improvements; and the work and attention incident thereto on the part of the city officials more than doubled in volume over what had been previously required.

All this work was of an emergency character and required immediate attention. It was undertaken and has been handled for the past five years by the same office force that was employed prior to 1921, with the exception of one additional clerk in 1925 and two additional clerks in 1926 employed in the office of the city collector. In a word, the mayor and commissioners, the city clerk's office, and the corporation counsel, with the same force as employed in 1921 has, for a period of five years, transacted not only the ordinary business of the city of a few years ago, but has also undertaken the great volume of work incident to the expansion of the city to over three times its former area with double its population, and the work of regulating and supervising a development, involving millions of dollars, which at the present time includes improvements under construction approximating \$1,000,000 in costs, and improvements in immediate contemplation for which all engineering data, legal papers, and clerical work have been performed, involving an additional \$1,000,000.

Compensation of Corporation Counsel Mr. Holmes, the present corporation counsel, has been the legal advisor of the city since 1913—a period of fourteen years. His salary for general work of the city during that time has been as follows:

- 1913-14, \$1,200 a year.
1915, \$1,500 a year.
1916-17, \$1,800 a year.
1918-21, \$2,000 a year.
1922, \$2,150 a year.
1923-26, \$2,400 a year.

With the growth of the city the legal work of the corporation counsel increased until, in 1923, it required something over one-fourth of the full time of the attorney during regular office hours, exclusive of committee work and conferences outside of regular hours. In 1924 the council recognized that it was unfair to the attorney to require so much of his time for the compensation paid, and appointed a committee consisting of Commissioners Cheney and Preston and our then Auditor Mr. Witter, to investigate the compensation paid to attorneys, engineers, and persons who spread assessments in communities near Chicago which were

undergoing development similar to that of Highland Park.

The committee's report shows that the percentages paid by other municipalities to attorneys vary from 1 1/2 to 3 per cent for services in special assessments; the amounts paid to commissioners who spread the rolls an average of 1 1/2 per cent of the amount of the assessment and the percentages for engineering services from 3 to 5 per cent.

The council was informed by the committee that the practice of paying the attorney a stipulated salary plus a percentage of special assessments was almost universally adopted by municipalities within the metropolitan district of Chicago as the fairest method of dividing the cost of legal services as between the city and the property owners who were interested in procuring the local improvements by special assessment; the theory being that if the legal services required by the city were increased by reason of special assessment proceedings for local improvements, the property owners desiring the improvement should bear the full cost incident thereto.

Therefore the council, by unanimous vote of the mayor and commissioners, increased the salary of the attorney from \$2,400 a year to \$2,400 a year plus one per cent of all local improvements made by special assessment. The law authorizes an addition of six per cent to the cost of local improvements to cover attorney's and commissioner's fees, court costs and other expenses. The additional compensation to the attorney is paid out of this six per cent and not out of the general fund. For bookkeeping purposes, this six per cent is credited to the general fund, and payments charged to the respective assessments as made. Thus the salary of the corporation counsel, so far as the taxpayer generally is concerned, remained the same and the increase was made up out of special assessments paid by the property owners assessed for local improvements. The charges made for legal services covering the one per cent items for local improvements are as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Year, Amount. 1924-5 \$7962.96, 1925-6 5625.22, 1926 to date 5064.51, Total \$18,652.69

Total cost to attorney of office expenditure, stenographic services, and supplies, and clerk hire 1,949.06 Net total to attorney \$13,312.69

Average per year \$4,564.23

The actual time of the attorney in special assessment proceedings for the foregoing years is approximately 28 per cent of the full time of the attorney during regular office hours. Of this total \$7,962.96 has been actually paid,—the balance, \$10,589.73, being withheld by the city until the settlement of the suit involving the legality of its payment. The bills paid out were paid on bills rendered and unanimously approved and ordered paid by the mayor and the four commissioners of the city.

Section 25 of the Commission Form of Government Act is as follows:

"The council shall have the power, by ordinance, from time to time, to create, fill and discontinue offices and employment other than herein prescribed, according to their judgment of the needs of the city or village; and may, by majority vote of all the members, remove any such officer or employe appointed by them, except as otherwise provided for in this act; and may, by resolution or otherwise, prescribe, limit or change the compensation of all appointive officers or employes."

The council has been advised by competent legal opinions that the payment of one per cent in special assessments is lawful, and believes that the bills rendered are fair and reasonable, and that the amounts due should be paid.

The work involved in special assessments is of a highly technical character and requires the services of a lawyer of experience and ability. During the last three years the work for which the 1 per cent was charged has been satisfactorily performed and the assessed property owners have received the full benefit thereof at a cost of from one-third to one-half of that paid by other municipalities for the same service.

I am informed that the percentage for work of this character paid by other communities similarly situated to ours is from two per cent to five per cent of the amount of special assessment.

Compensation for the Work of Spreading Assessments

The compensation for the spreading of assessments is on the same basis, practically, as that of the attorney. This work is also of a highly specialized character and requires the services of a careful and efficient man who has had experience in municipal and tax matters. It also involves a great amount of clerical and stenographic work which must be paid for by the person appointed to spread the assessment out of his compensation. The compensation paid for services of the assessment. The usual and costs as to stenographic services and of the assessment. She usual and customary fee is from 1 1/2 per cent to 2 1/2 per cent. Highland Park, during the past number of years, has paid but 1 per cent for this work, out of which the assessor has paid his own costs as to stenographic services and clerical hire. In this department of work, as in the legal department, Highland Park has paid under, rather than over, the amounts paid by other municipalities for work of similar character, and no part of this expense comes out of the general fund but is paid by the property assessed.

I have gone into this matter at some length so as to give the people

a clear understanding of how the legal department and the spreading of assessments have been operated, and in conclusion I want to say that if our citizens will take the time to thoroughly investigate the accomplishments of the administration during the last twelve years, and the money expended, and the results received from the money expended, under the direction of the able commissioners who have been associated with me during that period, the record needs no words of justification from me to show that Highland Park has received one hundred cents on the dollar for every dollar that has been paid out.

The accomplishments have been a source of satisfaction to me and the commissioners who have worked with me, and I predict for the future that Highland Park will go on with an administration of its business affairs in a manner that will be in keeping with the principles and policies established under the Commission Form of Government.

We are no longer a small community. We are becoming a great city, and the administration of the public affairs needs men of experience who are willing to devote their time to the care of the people's interest.

While we have a number of candidates, all of them good, yet to my notion the group of candidates selected by the committee of citizens appointed for that purpose, with Frank L. Cheney as the candidate for mayor, means a continuation of the present policies that have been so successful during the operation of the city's business during the last twelve years.

I am very grateful to the committee who has given me the opportunity to make public these expressions.

Respectfully yours, Samuel M. Hastings.

YELLOW CAB RATES

First two-thirds mile 35c Each additional 1-3 mile 10c No charge for extra passengers. PHONE HIGHLAND PARK 2000

CANDIDATES AND POLLING PLACES

(Continued from page one)

avenue and Deerfield road in said city (except the territory lying north of the north line of Sec. 28, twp. 43N R. 12E, and west of west line of Sec. 22, 15 and 10.

Second Precinct -Second Precinct shall consist of all the territory and area embraced within the following boundaries, to-wit: All that portion of the City of Highland Park which lies west of the center line of the right of way (of the east division) of the Chicago & North Western Railway company and south of the center line of Central avenue and Deerfield road in said city.

Third Precinct -Third Precinct shall consist of all the territory and area embraced within the following boundaries, to-wit: All that portion of the city of Highland Park which lies east of the center line of the right of way (of the east division) of the Chicago & North Western Railway company and north and west of the line drawn as follows: to-wit: beginning at the intersection of the North Corporate limits of the city of Highland Park and the center line of Roslyn lane, thence south along the center line of Roslyn lane to the center line of the right of way (of the east division) of the Chicago & North Western Railway company, south of the center line of Central avenue and north of the center line of Beech street in said city.

Fourth Precinct -Fourth Precinct shall consist of all the territory and area embraced within the following boundaries, to-wit: All that portion of the city of Highland Park which lies east of the center line of the right of way (of the east division) of the Chicago & North Western Railway company, south of the center line of Beech street in said city.

Fifth Precinct -Fifth Precinct shall consist of all the territory and area embraced within the following boundaries, to-wit: all that portion of the city of Highland Park which lies east of the center line of the right of way (of the east division) of the Chicago & North Western Railway company, south of the center line of Central avenue and north of the center line of Beech street in said city.

Sixth Precinct -Sixth Precinct shall consist of all the territory and area embraced within the following boundaries, to-wit: All that portion of said city of Highland Park which lies east of the center line of the right of way (of the east division) of the Chicago & North Western Railway company and south of the center line of Beech street in said city.

Seventh Precinct -Seventh Precinct shall consist of all the territory and area embraced within the following boundaries, to-wit: Beginning at the east quarter corner of section 9, township 43 North, range 12, east of Third Principal Meridian; thence west on the east and west quarter line of aforesaid section 9 and on the east and west quarter line of section 8, township and range aforesaid, to the center of aforesaid section 8; thence south on the north and south quarter line of aforesaid section 8 and

of the North Corporate limits of the city of Highland Park with the water's edge at Lake Michigan, thence westerly along the North Corporate limits of said city to the intersection of said North Corporate limits with the center line of Roslyn lane, thence southerly along the center line of Roslyn lane to the center line of the ravine bounding the north side of lots 1 and 2 in block 45 and lots 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 in block 39 in the city of Highland Park, thence along the center line of said ravine westerly to the terminus of said ravine, thence west to the center line of the right of way (of the east division) of the Chicago & North Western Railway company and north of the center line of Central avenue in said city.

Eighth Precinct -Eighth Precinct shall consist of all the territory and area embraced within the following boundaries, to-wit: all that portion of the city of Highland Park which lies east of the center line of the right of way (of the east division) of the Chicago & North Western Railway company, south of the center line of Central avenue and north of the center line of Beech street in said city.

Ninth Precinct -Ninth Precinct shall consist of all the territory and area embraced within the following boundaries, to-wit: All that portion of said city of Highland Park which lies east of the center line of the right of way (of the east division) of the Chicago & North Western Railway company and south of the center line of Beech street in said city.

Tenth Precinct -Tenth Precinct shall consist of all the territory and area embraced within the following boundaries, to-wit: Beginning at the east quarter corner of section 9, township 43 North, range 12, east of Third Principal Meridian; thence west on the east and west quarter line of aforesaid section 9 and on the east and west quarter line of section 8, township and range aforesaid, to the center of aforesaid section 8; thence south on the north and south quarter line of aforesaid section 8 and

on the north and south quarter line of section 17, township and range aforesaid, to the center of section 17; thence east on the east and west quarter line of aforesaid section 17 to the northeast corner of the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of aforesaid section 17; thence south on the quarter line of the southeast quarter of aforesaid section 17 to the southeast corner of the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of the aforesaid section 17; thence east on the south line of aforesaid section 17 to the corner of sections 17-16-21-20, township and range aforesaid; thence south on the west line of section 21, township and range aforesaid, to the southwest corner of aforesaid section 21; thence east on the south line of section 21 aforesaid to the southeast corner of said section 21, thence north on the east line of sections 21, 16, and 9, township and range aforesaid, to the place of beginning; all in Lake county, Illinois.

CHICAGO AND NORTHWESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY

Freight Claim Department - Feb. 28, 1927 File HU60513

Post Office News Company, 137 W. Monroe St., Chicago, Illinois.

Huber Sweet Mfg. Company, Highland Park, Illinois.

Please take notice that on March 24, 1927 at 11:00 a. m. THE CHICAGO AND NORTHWESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY will sell at public auction at its freight station at Highland Park, Ill.,

39 cartons Toys shipped by Post Office News Co. from Grand ave., Chicago, Ill., September 20, 1926 consigned to Huber Sweet Mfg. Co., Highland Park, Ill., shipment having been held the required length of time in accordance with the State Law of Illinois and no disposition furnished.

THE CHICAGO AND NORTHWESTERN RAILWAY CO.

By W. C. Johnson Freight Claim Agent 1

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