

City Council



Calendar

Your City Government: What It Is Doing

By ELMORE M. MURPHY

Council Passes Resolution Favoring Home Rule; New Incinerator Passes Official Test.

Monday evening's council meeting ran the entire gamut of human emotions starting with a serious dissertation by Mayor Ronan and Commissioner Sharp on such doleful subjects as delinquent Real Estate and Vehicle Taxes and ending with the plaintive remark from someone in the audience that the City Fathers did not speak loudly enough. Only Commissioner Sharp escaped criticism for possessing an inept method of address and one of his brother commissioners explained Mr. Sharp's ability to speak up by citing his reputation as a singer of some moment.

Even after an absence of two weeks the council calendar was hardly what one might term as crowded. Evidently sensing the lull in civic affairs the mayor announced that there would be no meeting until March 10.

The council did, however, touch upon one subject dear to the heart of every local government and that is the question of Home Rule. It appears that there is a bill in the legislative hopper in Springfield that would set up a schedule of minimum wages for certain classes of municipal employees. Such a law would naturally take the power of assigning minimum wages out of the hands of the local government and deposit it with the state. This bill apparently is just one more straw in the drift of the wind toward centralization of power about which everyone is hearing so much about these days.

To put itself on record as being decidedly against any measure that would take matters of purely local interest out of the jurisdiction of the municipality the council passed a resolution opposing the bill now before the legislature in Springfield. As an added note of interest to demonstrate how foolish such a law could be, Commissioner Sharp cited the case where one municipality in order to comply with a minimum wage law compelled their employees to make a refund to the city out of their salaries.

Following a report from Corporation Counsel McKenna on his investigation of the City of Highland Park's agreement with Attorney Benjamin F. J. O'Dell whereby the latter was to attempt to collect a refund on taxes paid under the Public Utilities Act, the council authorized the city clerk to advise the Illinois Municipal league that the offer of its services in this matter would have to be rejected. The readers of this column will recall that the Illinois Municipal league offered to collect this refund on a basis of a twenty-five per cent commission on all monies procured. At a subsequent meeting a letter from Attorney O'Dell was read informing the council that the city was already

under agreement with him to do this work. Corporation Counsel McKenna's investigation revealed that the agreement was entirely in order and that the city was obligated to go through with it as originally planned in the resolution passed by its predecessor in April of 1939.

City Clerk Musser read a communication from Charles C. Davis concerning the possibility of installing a warning light at the junction of Green Bay road and Glencoe Ave. As some provision to lessen the traffic hazard at this spot when Green Bay road is widened next Spring the council voted to hold the matter in abeyance until that time.

Commissioner Sharp advised the council that the new incinerator passed its capacity and other tests with flying colors when held last week. In fact the new unit ate refuse so fast that additional garbage had to be imported from Glencoe in order to give it a fair trial. Apparently Highland Park is now blessed with an incinerator that will meet its needs for many years to come. Thus, all the trouble and controversy brought about by the great drama of the incinerator that was enacted all last year has not been in vain. The only item still missing is the official opening ceremonies that have been postponed by the contractors until more favorable weather. The official hosts figure that it is going to take a mighty fine day to get the populace out to visit anything so unromantic as an incinerator, even if free refreshments are awaiting them at the other end of the line.

Commissioner Sharp took the opportunity on Monday evening to sound one more last warning to those property owners in town who are delinquent in their real estate taxes. He stated that as soon as the delinquent tax list was received from the County Clerk that action to collect these back taxes would be started immediately. He also added that while cooperation of other taxing bodies in this area would be appreciated, the city was not going to wait for them to make up their minds before taking action. The city's share in back taxes on real estate amounts to more than \$100,000 and with such an amount at stake at a time when the community is so badly in need of funds, speed is essential.

Mayor Ronan also had a word to say in regard to delinquent motor vehicle taxes. With only five days remaining before the deadline there are still some 1700 motor car owners in the city who have failed to make application for their 1941 tags. The mayor stated that the police department had definite instructions to start issuing tickets for violators of the motor vehicle tax law on next Sunday. The City Hall will

(Continued on page 22)

Highland Park Events for Coming Week

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27—

- 12:15 a.m. Lions Club Luncheon meeting at Sunset Valley Club.
- 8:00 p.m. American Legion, American Legion Hall.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28—

- 10-4:30 Red Cross meeting at Trinity Church.
- 4:00 p.m. P.T.A. Junior Program "Run, Peddler Run," Highland Park High School.
- 8:00 p.m. Sheridan Rifle and Pistol Club.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1—

- 9:30 a.m. Sewing and Puppetry Classes at Y.W.C.A.
- 8:00 p.m. Saturday Evening Club at YWCA.

MONDAY, MARCH 3—

- 12:15 p.m. H. P. Rotary Club luncheon at Sunset Valley Club.
- 6:30 p.m. Kiwanis Club Dinner, Sunset Valley Club.
- 7:00 p.m. Park Board Meeting at City Hall.
- 8:00 p.m. City Council meeting at Highland Park City Hall.
- 8:00 p.m. Community Center Board, at Community Center.
- 8:00 p.m. Highland Park Community Chest Board.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4—

- 10:00 a.m. Collector's Study Group, Highland Park Woman's Club.
- 2:00 p.m. H. P. Woman's Club regular meeting, Woman's Club.
- 2:00 p.m. Cooking School at Y.W.C.A.
- 8:00 p.m. Cooking School at Y.W.C.A.
- 8:00 p.m. Highland Park Hospital Board, Highland Park Hospital.
- 8:00 p.m. Young Men's Club, Community Center.
- 8:00 p.m. Highland Park Choral Club, Community Center.
- 8:00 p.m. Men's Garden Club, Highland Park Woman's Club.
- 8:00 p.m. American Legion Board, Legion Hall.
- 8:15 p.m. West Ridge Community Club, Ridge School.
- 8:30 p.m. Highland Park Lodge No. 1362, B.P.O.E. Elks Hall.
- 8:30 p.m. North Shore Music Series, Mischa Elman, Highland Park Woman's Club.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5—

- 9:30 a.m. to 12 Hospital Auxiliary, Dressings, H. P. Hospital.
- 9:30 a.m. Girl Scout Leaders, Bank Building.
- 10:00 a.m. Ravinia Woman's Club Board meeting.
- 2:00 p.m. Lincoln School P.T.A. Board meeting.
- 3:15 p.m. Lincoln School P.T.A. meeting. Mrs. Bradley to speak.
- 4:30 p.m. Highland Park Rotary Club Board, Community Center.
- 8:00 p.m. Highland Park Co-ordinating Council, Community Center.

THURSDAY, MARCH 6—

- 12:15 p.m. Lions Club luncheon, Sunset Valley Club.
- 2:00 p.m. Highland Park High School Parent-Teacher Assn. Board
- 3:00 p.m. Highland Park High School Parent-Teacher Assn.
- 8:00 p.m. North Shore Yacht Club, at Club House.
- 8:00 p.m. American Legion Auxiliary, Masonic Temple.

Lenten Meditation

DEEPENING THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

REV. H. F. SIEMSEN

Increasingly the Lenten season is a time of personal enrichment, during this period Christian Churches everywhere will give emphasis to the development and deepening of the spiritual life. This season is the climactic religious period of the church year in bringing people to consider their relationship to God.

As at no other period of the year, young and old are utilizing the opportunities that Lent affords to reaffirm their Christian faith and give themselves to new devotion to Jesus Christ. There is something about this period that touches our mystical sense. We turn quite naturally during these six weeks before Easter to things religious for new interpretations and meanings.

Something stirs within our own lives as we enter Lent. We know that it reminds us of the fact that spring lies in the immediate future. There is a sense of joy and wonder that comes to us as we look forward to the renewal of life in nature. Mother earth will soon put on her new garments. She will do it through a marvellous plan of rebirth. The butterfly will emerge from the cocoon, the brown bulb will burst into bloom, the dead trees will become glorious in flowers and foliage.

We seek to identify this new life that will soon be round about us with the renewal of the spiritual life which lies deep within us. There comes a desire to rethink our own experiences of ongoing and eternal life. We seek to interpret the values of this life and those of life that is eternal. We face frankly the question of death and still more frankly the question of life.

We understand more clearly the atonement that Christ made for our sins. We sense more deeply the meaning of the cross and the victory over the tomb. Something makes us eager to share with others the spirit of enrichment and rebirth which comes as we surrender our lives to Jesus Christ. Go to Church during Lent, and all of the year! It will deepen your spiritual life.