

City Council



Calendar

Your City Government: What It Is Doing

By ELMORE M. MURPHY

Council Members Attend Lake County Municipal Council Meeting; Home Rule and Delinquent Real Estate Tax Problems Discussed

The quest for news in civic affairs broadened out a bit this past week when the scene of action was transferred from Highland Park to North Chicago where, on Friday, Mayor Ronan, Commissioner Sharp, City Clerk Musser and your correspondent attended a meeting of the Lake County Municipal Council. This council, made up of the chief executives of some twenty-two municipalities in Lake county, was organized to act as a clearing house of ideas and to serve as a focal point for co-ordinated action on state legislative matters.

In addition to the members of the council and various other municipal officers, there were also in attendance State Senator Ray Paddock and Representatives Bolger, Keller and Kelsey who were on hand to answer questions pertinent to the current legislative picture in Springfield.

After listening to Messrs. Paddock, Keller, Bolger and Kelsey expound at no little length on what's what in Springfield at the moment, the one fact that stood out above all others is that if you want anything done in the state capitol your effort has to be well organized. This business of writing your representatives a letter and then sedately sit down to await results has about as much chance of success as winning a six-day bike race on roller skates. Legislators, like any other prospective customers must be sold and the few members of the state house or senate any individual or small group of individuals may have influence with is far from enough to get desired legislation enacted.

To get down to a case or two at hand, there were three pieces of legislation mentioned at last Friday's meeting that most neutral observers will label as desirable of enactment. One is known as House Bill 327 which, when boiled down to its essentials, allows municipalities greater leeway in the expenditure of gasoline tax funds. Under the current law, money collected under this tax may only be spent on arterial roads. House Bill 327 would permit the community in question to apply funds from the gasoline tax to any streets within its jurisdiction if passed by a two-thirds vote of its council.

Number two is the Home Rule Bill, or House Bill 333 as it is known. This bill would allow local governments to pass ordinances on all matters except those expressly forbidden by the state constitution. At the moment, the shoe is on the other foot. No local government may pass ordinances except on matters expressly called for in the constitution.

Another spot where current legislation could well stand a bit of streamlining is on those laws per-

taining to real estate, particularly in reference to taxes and titles. With the huge amount of property in default in many cases in amounts exceeding its value, collection of delinquent taxes under existing laws is almost a hopeless proposition. Commissioner Sharp made an eloquent plea before the Lake County Municipal Council meeting for concerted action in obtaining revision of these laws. He stated that the way things were working out under the present laws, the property owner who paid his taxes was being unjustly penalized by being forced to carry the burden of his delinquent brothers. He was not in favor of such plans as allowing delinquents to pay back taxes on the installment plan with a waiver of penalties simply because it encouraged the indefinite postponement of tax payments. Commissioner Sharp also pointed out that disposal of the property through a tax sale left much to be desired as it was now constituted. The impossibility of always finding a buyer and the inability to present a clear title on property so involved were its chief drawbacks.

The foregoing are only three of the many subjects up before the legislature in Springfield. However, with some 2,000 bills expected in the legislative hopper by July 1st, even the uninitiated can readily see what chance any one of them has of being enacted into law without organized support. The Illinois Municipal League, the League of Women Voters and other organizations of their types are doing their utmost in clearing the way for desirable legislation but even their efforts will be of little avail if the citizens themselves do not take up the fight.

Getting down to practical politics, the passage of any legislation depends a lot on so-called "horse trading." It's a case of the old adage, "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours" Unfortunately, legislation, no matter how desirable, is rarely enacted into law simply on its merits. If a community in Lake County wants something done, it must convince the legislators from Chicago and other parts of the state that it will be to their advantage to vote for it. This usually means backing some of their pet legislative schemes, some of which may not be so desirable when viewed from the position of the state as a whole.

At its meeting last Friday, the Lake County Municipal Council went on record favoring the Home Rule Bill by passing a resolution urging its adoption. At the request of the North Chicago group, it also endorsed the 22nd street underpass and improvement project that has

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Highland Park Events for Coming Week

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

12:15 p.m. Highland Park Lions Club meeting at Sunset Valley Club.

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

10:00-4:30. Highland Park Unit of the American Red Cross meets at Trinity Church.

6:00 p.m. Girl Scout Father and Daughter Banquet at Ravinia School.

7:30 p.m. Friends Night to be observed at Campbell Chapter O.E.S.

8:00 p.m. Chess Club meets in the Highland Park Community Center.

8:00 p.m. Sunset Terrace Improvement Association meeting at Community House.

8:00 p.m. Sheridan Rifle Club meeting at Deerfield Range.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

9:00-12:00 p.m. Swing Club dance at Highland Park Woman's Club.

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

9:00 a.m. North Shore Hiking Club members meet at Gsell's corner, Highland Park.

4:00 p.m. Twilight Music Hours at Highland Park Community Center.

MONDAY, MARCH 24

All Day meeting of Infant Welfare Society.

12:15 p.m. Rotary Club luncheon meeting at Sunset Valley Club.

1:30 p.m. Foreign Affairs Study Group of League of Women Voters at YWCA.

6:30 p.m. Kiwanis Club Dinner at Sunset Valley Golf Club.

7:30 p.m. Highland Park Sea Scouts meet in North Shore Yacht Club boathouse.

8:00 p.m. Meeting of the Highland Park City Council at City Hall.

8:00 p.m. Christian Science Lecture at Elm Place School.

8:15 p.m. North Shore Congregation Israel Lecture and round Table at Glencoe Temple.

TUESDAY, MARCH 25

2:00 p.m. Highland Park Woman's Club meets in club house.

8:00 p.m. Choral Club meeting at Community Center.

8:00 p.m. North Suburban Philatelic Society meets in the Highland Park Community Center.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

9:30-12:00 Hospital Auxiliary (dressings) at hospital.

2:00 p.m. Highland Park Music Club meets at home of Mrs. Bassler.

8:00 p.m. Royal Neighbors meeting in Masonic Temple.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

12:15 p.m. Lions Club luncheon at Sunset Valley Club.

8:00 p.m. Col. Zimmerman to address American Legion smoker at Legion Hall.

Lenten Meditation

By REV. F. S. ROBINSON

Pastor of the First United Evangelical Church

Before Abraham was, I am. John 8:58.

Jesus at this time was telling the multitude of his divinity, and how he was with the Father before the foundation of the world.

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35) saying — In the wilderness your fathers did eat manna and are dead, but he that eateth of the bread that I shall give him shall never die.

Eating with Christ, in sweet communion, as we study His word, it gives us strength, life, and courage.

This is a dark day, when on every side the war clouds are hanging low, and the cry for bread comes by radio and press to our ears, how we need to work to help those in distress, but, there is a greater need, a famine not of bread, but of the word of God shall come to our land says (Amos 8:11.) This is the need of the world today, in this lenten season, a turning back to God.

Jesus said: I am the Good Shepherd. (John 10:14) here he is teaching us his watchful care for us, and as he leads the sheep in the green pastures beside the still waters, so he will feed and clothe us, if we but believe and trust Him.

(John 11:25) tells us of the day of triumph, here on earth for Christ's ministry, and He exclaimed, "I am the resurrection and the life."

Easter tells us of life, here and of life hereafter, in the presence of God. Jesus was, is, and always will be the "Great I Am" a friend of sinners and the Saviour of the World.