

# City Council

## Your City Government: What It Is Doing

By ELMORE M. MURPHY

Monday evening's gathering of the City Council was held behind closed doors. It seems that the City Fathers are in the throes of working out their appropriation schedule for the coming year and with the start of the city's fiscal year less than a week away, the council thought it wise to pass up its regular open meeting and devote the time to some heavy figuring and pencil scratching.

In the light of current income measured against probable expenses for the coming year it appears that the council is really going to have to do some master pencil pushing. Last year the city was blessed with a considerable amount paid in back taxes which, unfortunately, is not available this year.

This writer has not had the opportunity of checking over the estimated schedule of appropriations presented by each of the city's departments, but unless he misses his guess by a wide margin they are going to be higher than last year. With income slated to be lower, it takes no Houdini to figure out that the boys will have to do considerable pruning from their first estimates to make both ends meet.

Budgets in most departments are just about at a minimum now, and with the city constantly growing it is hard to see how much more cutting can be done without considerably impairing the operating efficiency of the community.

For example, the police department is vexed with the problem of patrolling the streets and directing traffic at the same time. One cannot be done efficiently without neglecting the other. With the present equipment and personnel, justice cannot be done to both of them. The most satisfying answer to this problem, of course, would be to put another car on the streets and increase the manpower of the force. If anybody can see how this can be done without increasing the police department's budget he will be welcomed at the City Hall with open arms. Some funds might be diverted from the other departments, but with the current limited budgets all around, this will be done only over the dead bodies of the heads of these departments. This would simply be a case of robbing Peter to pay Paul, and if this writer knows his councilmen at all, they simply won't stand for it.

The street department is another department that could well use some additional funds. Even the most optimistic observer will agree that the streets in Highland Park are for the most part in deplorable shape. The street department is doing the best job possible with the limited funds available. Most of its time is spent patching roads that were beyond the patching stage many moons ago. Unfortunately, too, the city just recently was compelled to appropriate a thousand dollars to fill in the holes on Green Bay Road because of various delays encountered on this project. The one bright spot in this part of the picture is that legislation is now in the mill in Springfield that will permit municipalities to use part of their share of the gas tax funds on roads other than state highways. Again, there is the possibility that some Federal funds may be obtained for road repairs because of the proximity of Fort Sheridan to the community. Considerable money of this stamp is being spent in other North Shore cities, and there is no reason why Highland Park should allow itself to be left out in the cold. Pride is all right in its place, but a poor man must needs place necessity before pride and, right now, at least as far as municipal finances are concerned, Highland Park is definitely in the poor man's class.

And so it goes all down the line. So many things to do and so little money to do them with. Unless something, now unforeseen, comes into the picture, it would not surprise this writer to see the problem dumped into the lap of the citizens of the community at a very early date. Bluntly, it will be put up to them to raise the ante sufficiently to enable the city to procure some very much needed additional funds. The reaction of such a move is exceedingly doubtful and becoming more so with each passing day. One squint at the Federal government's tax plans for the citizens of the country during the coming year is enough to give anyone the shivers. Just how there is going to be anything left over from the average man's pocket book with which to lend additional support to the local governments is hard to see.

In the meantime the city council will sharpen its pencils and stretch all available dollars to their breaking point. A bit off here and a bit off there will be cut to bring the outgo closer to the income. If the council can bring both ends together and still come out with a budget program that will come anywhere near doing justice to the needs of the community, is highly problematical at this writing. The old adage about it being impossible to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear still holds true, and if the City Fathers come out of their appropriation huddle with anything resembling a fancy pocketbook they may definitely be classed as miracle-men.

Under the direction of the Highland Park Committee for National Defense, the Service Men's club on North Sheridan Road is rapidly rounding into shape. Nick T. Young, the director in charge has done wonders with this project the short time he has been on the job. Any citizen who wants to see what is being done by the community to help the service men while away their spare hours should pay a visit to this headquarters on his "must" list.

Little of note has been heard lately from the vicinity of the new incinerator, but Commissioner Sharp promises an announcement shortly that should be of interest to everyone who has the improvement of the grounds surrounding this property at heart.

# Calendar

## Highland Park Events for Coming Week

### THURSDAY, APRIL 24

- All day rummage sale, Presbyterian Church.
- 12:15 p.m. Lions Club luncheon, Sunset Valley Club.
- 7:30 p.m. Boy Scout troop 33 meets in Lincoln School.
- 8:00 p.m. American Legion meeting, Legion Hall, Masonic Temple.
- 8:00 p.m. Chess club meets at Community Center.
- 8:00 p.m. Pi Delta Club meets in the Highland Park Y.W.C.A.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 25

- 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Red Cross meeting, Trinity Church.
- 7:00 p.m. Highlander Club of the Presbyterian Church meets.
- 8:00 p.m. Rifle and Pistol Club, Deerfield range.
- 8:00 p.m. Sunset Terrace Association meets at Community Center.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 26

- 8:30 p.m. Service men's dance, Highland Park Community Center.
- 9-12 p.m. Swing Club dance, Highland Park Woman's Club.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 27

- 9:00 a.m. Highland Park members of the North Shore Hiking Club meet at Gsell's corner.
- 3:30 p.m. Second Annual Spring concert at H. P. High School.
- 4:30 p.m. Musicales and Community sing, H. P. Community Center.

### MONDAY, APRIL 28

- All day meeting of the Infant Welfare Society.
- 12:15 p.m. Highland Park Rotary Club meeting, Sunset Valley Club.
- 6:30 p.m. Kiwanis Club dinner, Sunset Valley Club.
- 7:30 p.m. Sea Scout Ship Highlander, meeting in the N. S. Yacht Club boathouse.
- 7:30 p.m. Table Tennis Club meeting, H. P. Community Center.
- 8:00 p.m. City Council meeting in the City Hall.

### TUESDAY, APRIL 29

- 7:00 p.m. Hiland Planesmen meeting in the Community Center.
- 7:30 p.m. Boy Scout troops 30, 35, 38, and 324 meet.
- 8:00 p.m. Choral Club meets in Community Center.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

- 9:30 a.m.-12 m. Highland Park Hospital Auxiliary dressings at H. P. Hospital.
- 12:15 p.m. Lions Club luncheon, Sunset Valley.
- 2:00 p.m. High School P.-T.A. Board, High School.
- 3:00 p.m. High School P.-T.A. meeting, High School.
- 8:00 p.m. American Legion Auxiliary meeting, Masonic Temple.

## Daylight Saving Time

Don't forget to set your clock up an hour at midnight Saturday or you will probably go into church Sunday morning just as the minister is saying the benediction. Sunday is the first day of daylight saving, and the North Shore towns, like Chicago, observe daylight saving time during the summer months. Trains, however, will continue to run on Standard time.

## New Typesetting Machine

The Highland Park Press has just installed an Intertype typesetting machine in its new plant, located at 17 N. Second st. This is the first major step toward equipping a printing establishment. The type used in this week's issue of the *Press* was set on the new machine.

The Intertype is manufactured in Brooklyn, N. Y., by the Intertype corporation, one of the largest concerns in the printing equipment field. The machine is one of the latest developments in this field, with many improvements which save time and accelerate newspaper production.

An important advantage of the line composing machine is that it produces brand-new type for every issue of the newspaper and for every job of commercial printing set on the machine.

The Highland Park Press believes that the printing business of this community should be kept at home—and believes that the best way to do this is to meet competition upon a competitive basis—competitive as to price, but also in the quality of work produced.

Altho the print shop will be located at 17 N. Second street, the business office is still in the same location, at 538 Central ave., where it has been for several years.

The council is scheduled to held its next regular meeting on Monday evening, at which time bids on work on the Green Bay Road improvement will be opened for examination.