

City Council

YOUR CITY GOVERNMENT: WHAT IT IS DOING

By Elmore M. Murphy

With the City Council still in the throes of working out its budget for the current fiscal year, Monday evening's meeting was reduced to a mere formality in order that the City Fathers might all the quicker get back to their pencil sharpening activities.

The budget should have been ready for council action a month ago, but when one considers the veritable Chinese puzzle that must somehow be worked out to the satisfaction of all, it is easy to understand the reasons for the delay.

From all indications at this writing the city will not have any more, if as much, money to spend during the coming year than it did during the period just ended. If expenses in the 1941-1942 fiscal year were to remain about on a par with last year, the problem would not be so tough. Unfortunately, however, there are several so-called "must" items to be considered on the new budget that, money or no money, the council cannot afford to ignore.

Come what may, the police department must not be handicapped by the lack of equipment to do a well worthwhile job of guarding the lives and property of the citizens of the community. The necessity of full and complete police protection at all hours has been recently brought home to the community in a way that no one would like to see repeated. No one expects the police department to be everywhere at the same time. However, its job can be made a lot easier and brought far closer to perfection by providing it with the additional equipment it so badly needs at this time.

The City of Highland Park has grown considerably in recent years and there is nothing in the picture at this writing that would indicate a reversal of this trend. Hence when the City Fathers get out the red pencil to strike out unnecessary items from the proposed budget they would do well to hesitate before crossing off the aforementioned items.

Another item that should be considered in the "must" category for the coming year is the establishment of a public health program and the providing of the necessary funds with which to carry it out.

The city government has been toying with the idea of doing something about an honest-to-goodness Public Health program ever since 1938. Since that time two surveys by reputable agencies have been made and recommendations submitted to the council for consideration and action. Because of the lack of funds, these recommendations have been pigeon-holed for future reference.

One can readily sympathize with the council in its present predicament of having so much to do and so little to do it with. However, when the health of the community is at stake, economy measures must take a back seat. To date Highland Park has been fortunate in that its health compares favorably with any community of like size in the state. Needless to say this may not always be the case. As everyone close to the picture knows there are forces in the community fortunately not dormant, that might flare up at any time with disastrous effects.

There are a dozen or more factors

in the city that might conceivably be improved upon through the operation of an efficient public health program. Sanitary conditions in certain areas, a closer inspection and supervision of eating places and a closer control of children's diseases in the schools are only a few that may be mentioned offhand.

To take a change on the health of the community is comparable with playing with dynamite. The city might get away with it for a time but Mr. Spencer and his Law of Compensation will catch up with the situation sooner or later. Thus, here is another problem for the City Fathers to give deep consideration when they make up their final budget prospectus for the current fiscal year.

The chief item of interest at Monday evening's meeting was the annual report of the Fire Department as presented by Commissioner Bowes. During the past year ending April 30, the Fire Department, under the able direction of Fire Marshall Hoskin and with the cooperation of every man under him, recorded the lowest per capita fire loss in its history. The total loss from fires during the past year amounted to \$13,419.54 or a per capita loss of less than one dollar for each citizen.

During the year, the Fire Department was called into action some 234 times. Eighty-nine of these calls were for fires in residences. Second place on the list goes to grass fires which accounted for some 57 calls. Total loss of property involved amounted to \$13,419.54, \$1,529.04 of which was not covered by insurance.

On the more or less humorous side, the department was called upon three times to get cats out of trees and four times to assist householders who were locked out of their homes. The inhalator squad was called into action on three different occasions and each time was successful in reviving the victims involved.

Significantly enough, matches and smoking accounted for nearly thirty percent of the entire list of causes for fires. Bon fires, paper burners, chimneys, electrical appliances, and defective oil burners were next in the order named.

Upon the completion of the report as read by Commissioner Bowes, the council rendered a vote of thanks to Fire Marshall Hoskin and his men for their outstanding work during the past year.

Property owners in the Sheridan road and County Line road areas whose sidewalks are either broken down or completely disintegrated are going to come to grief unless necessary repairs are immediately forthcoming. In his report, Commissioner Swanson stated that with

Calendar

Highland Park Events for Coming Week

THURSDAY, MAY 22—

- 15.15 p.m. Lions Club Luncheon at Sunset Valley Club.
- 8:00 p.m. American Legion, Legion Hall.
- 8:00 p.m. Royal Arch Masons, Masonic Temple.

FRIDAY, MAY 23—

- 10:00 a.m. Red Cross, Trinity Church.
- 8:00 p.m. Ravinia Play, Ravinia school.
- 8:00 p.m. Rifle and Pistol Club, Deerfield range.

SATURDAY, MAY 24—

- 8:30 p.m. Carnival party for soldiers, Y.W.C.A.

MONDAY, MAY 26—

All Day—Infant Welfare.

- 12:15 p.m. Rotary Club Luncheon, Sunset Valley club.
- 6:30 p.m. Kiwanis Club, Sunset Valley club.
- 8:00 p.m. City Council, City Hall.
- 8:00 p.m. America First Committee. Dr. Howard Swann. Y.W.C.A.

TUESDAY, MAY 27—

- Highland Park Music Club, Mrs. Werner Wieboldt.
- 8:00 p.m. Annual Community Chest meeting, Y.W.C.A.
- 8:00 p.m. Choral Club Rehearsal, Community Center.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28—

- 9:30 a.m. H. P. Hospital Auxiliary. Hospital.
- 8:00 p.m. Royal Neighbors, Masonic Temple.

THURSDAY, MAY 29—

- 12:15 p.m. Lions Club Luncheon, Sunset Valley Club.
- 3:00 p.m. Elm Place PTA, School.

POPPY DAY PROCLAMATION

Monday, May 26, was proclaimed as Poppy Day in Highland Park, in a proclamation issued Saturday by Mayor Ronan. The Mayor called upon all citizens to observe the day by wearing the memorial poppy of the American Legion and Auxiliary.

The proclamation stated:

"Whereas, the wearing of the memorial poppy is a fitting and effective way of keeping bright the memory of those young men who gave their lives in America's service in the World War, and

"Whereas, men of Highland Park served gallantly in that war, some being called upon to sacrifice their lives in that service, and

"Whereas, the present national emergency requires the same type of unselfish patriotism displayed by the men and symbolized by their memorial flower, and

"Whereas, the women of the American Legion Auxiliary will distribute veteran-made memorial poppies throughout the city on Monday, May 26.

"Now, therefore, I Frank Ronan, Mayor of the City of Highland Park, do proclaim, Monday, May 26, to be Poppy Day in the City of Highland Park, and urge all citizens to observe the day by wearing the memorial poppy of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary in honor of the men who died for America in the war of 1917 and 1918."

few exceptions property owners in this district have ignored repeated warnings that something must be done about these broken down walks. Council action in the matter is the next step on the program and is expected to be invoked shortly.

RED CROSS CHAPTER NEED NEEDLE HELPER

The Highland Park Volunteer Production unit of the American Red Cross Chicago chapter will meet in the Trinity Guild hall on Laurel avenue every Monday from 10 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. to work on knitting and clothes for the refugees and on surgical dressings for

our own draft army. Please come and help for all day or at least for an hour or two.

CHORAL CLUB GROUP PRESENT CONCERT

The Highland Park Community Choral club, under the direction of John Harold Betts, presented a concert Sunday afternoon at the Presbyterian Old People's home in Chicago. The program was in observance of "I Am An American" day.

The regular weekly meeting of the Choral club is held every Tuesday night at 8:00 o'clock at the Highland Park Community Center.