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Police Fight Procedures

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committee will consider the proposal again at its Dec. 28th meeting.

After the proposal was read by Asst. City Manager Jack Bond, G.W. Teal, chairman of the police employee relations committee, stood before the committee and asked for a 30 minute recess to allow the city employees a chance to review the proposal. He was given 10 minutes.

The city employees spilled into the hall for a short caucus on what their course of action would be. They unanimously voted not to go along with the proposal. When they returned, Teal asked for the two week extension, saying, "The committee just received this proposal and we certainly need more time to look at it." He said further that as the proposal stood now "it is not as good as what we want."

Teal also asked that all statements, including the original complaint, the aldermen would hear be made under oath. This had been suggested early by attorney Mike Lewis who said he could find nothing else wrong with the procedure.

Teal also asked that any employees who had to hire a lawyer should be reimbursed if the aldermen found that the complaint is unfounded.

The presidents of both the local Fraternal Order of Police and the Firefighters Association also asked for more time. J.K. Raker, president of the local Fraternal Order of Police, told the committee flatly that their proposal had been voted down by the members of the order.

He said, "We are very much opposed to the resolution as it is." He also

expressed concern over a procedure for employees to appeal the aldermen's findings.

The topic of the five police officers being reinstated, by Police Chief Thomas Surratt, after being found guilty of departmental misconduct after an internal investigation was conspicuously absent.

The official word was that the review procedure had been requested after an officer refused to answer questions put to him by the committee about a traffic-ticket incident. He reportedly told the committee that he had no "procedural safeguards."

The police department has fought from the beginning any outside review of their performance. That sentiment was echoed many times during the meeting. However, many officers, including Chief Surratt, felt that there was little they could do to stop it.

All of the committee members said the procedure was necessary and that it offered greater protection than ever before for the city employees. They were backed by city manager Orville Powell who said he was disappointed because the employees, particularly the officers were against the proposal.

Powell said, "We are drawing up as though we have something to hide. We don't have to." He said further, "We need checks on us, for our benefit, and for the benefit of the citizens." He said the officers weren't considering the rights of citizens by opposing the proposals. He said the citizens need someplace to come if they feel the city has wronged them and the wrong has not been resolved.

North Ward Alderman, Richard N. Davis, at one point in the meeting said he was totally dissatisfied with the conduct of the officers in the meeting and what he called "the disrespect and contempt" they exhibited to the committee. Teal promptly apologized for any offensive remark made by any public safety officer.

One policeman, Officer I.E. Spillman, drew applause when he said the police and other city departments could handle complaints themselves. Spillman, a 13 year vet, said "Our police chief and fire chief can keep our house clean. If they don't, you (Powell) get rid of them."

The complaint procedure was written originally for the police and fire departments, but as presented Tuesday night, it could cover all city employees.

Under the new proposal, citizen's grievances would be

handled by the appropriate department first. If not resolved there it would then go to one of the aldermen's committees for review. The committee will act as a "fact finding" body and would take no action other than to forward their findings to the city manager. The committee would not recommend any specific disciplinary action, that authority would remain with the city manager.

After the meeting, Police Chief Surratt said he felt it had been a good participatory meeting and that there had been good recommendations made. He felt that many of the suggestions would be included in the proposal when it appeared at the next meeting

of the public safety committee.

Peoples Ambulance Sponsors Raffle

The Coordinator of The Peoples Free Ambulance Service, Nelson Malloy, announced Tuesday that his organization would be sponsoring as part of its fund-raising attempts to purchase a new ambulance, a giant raffle.

The tickets are a dollar each and all the proceeds will go to the People's Free Ambulance program. The "donation drawing" as it is called, will be held Sunday, January 16th, 1977, in the East Winston Branch Library at 4 p.m.

The prizes in the drawing include a 1965 Ford, a color television, a 10 speed bike, a 15 and 25 pound turkey, as well as a \$50 clothing certificate. These are only a few of the prizes up for grabs.

Malloy said a dinner was also to be held on the day of the drawing as part of the fund-raising drive, and partly in commemoration of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was born Jan. 15th.

He said speakers for the event have not been finalized but expected they would be notable leaders in the community. Malloy said he hopes the drive can net the Ambulance Program between \$18,000 and \$20,000.

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