

FEBRUARY 7, 1962

Pursuant to a call by the Mayor the City Council of the City of Idaho Falls met in Special Session in the Council Chambers on February 7, 1962, at 8:00 o'clock P.M. for the purpose of hearing all protests on the 21 mill tax levy for general revenue purposes for the calendar year commencing January 1, 1962 and ending December 21, 1962, as well as any other business which might properly be presented. There were present at said meeting: Mayor W. J. O'Bryant; Councilmen Leahy, Creek, Foote. Absent: Councilman Page. Also present, Roy C. Barnes, City Clerk; George Barnard, City Attorney; Sterling Mason, City Auditor; Don Lloyd, City Engineer; Alva Harris, Building Official; Kelvin Nelson, Recreational Director.

The following representatives of the Intermountain Section of the American Water Works Association appeared before the Council: Max W. Snell, Chairman; Robert Hilbert, Secretary; E. J. Fjeldsted, Chairman, Advancement Committee. A water utility advancement award certificate was awarded the Mayor and Council, in recognition of an outstanding program of water works improvement. It was explained that this award was largely the result of competition entered into by the City last fall at a Twin Falls meeting at which time the City entered a display prepared and submitted by the City Engineer, depicting this community's progress in promoting and developing outstanding improvements in water quality.

The Mayor thanked these men for their appearance and the presentation.

The Mayor announced that this was the time and the place for a public hearing, as advertised, on the 21 mill levy for general purposes for the Calendar year 1962. The Mayor explained the entire mill levy distribution, totaling 29 mills, 21 mills of which were for General Fund purposes. There were no protests, verbal or written. It was moved by Councilman Creek, seconded by Leahy, that this Public Hearing be officially closed. Roll call as follows: Ayes, 3; No, None; carried.

Mr. James L. Shane, President of the Downtown Improvement Association, appeared before the Council, not as a protestant, but to present the following and to have it made a matter of record:

February 7, 1962

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council,
Idaho Falls, Idaho

Gentlemen:

On the eve of the finalizing of the City's budget please accept a reiteration of the November 28, 1961 request made by the property owners of Downtown Idaho Falls relative to your budgeting an amount equal to the net revenue of the Downtown parking meters for the improvement of the Downtown area, particularly as to the acquiring and maintenance of additional City-owned parking spaces.

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The parking meters in this area, since 1944, have contributed to the City in excess of \$440,000.00, net, which has been used for general fund purposes. We feel that the City in return has an obligation to the Downtown area to help maintain its mercantile position in the City of Idaho Falls.

We have determined that what we ask is being done by governing bodies of other communities having similar problems, and for very sensible reasons, the main one being that if the Downtown area is allowed to depreciate in assessed values, the taxes from that area to the City will be lessened by many thousand of dollars, more possibly than the net profit from the parking meters.

Thanking you for your past considerations, we are

Yours respectfully,
IDAHO FALLS DOWNTOWN
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
s/ James L. Shane, President

It was noted that the foregoing letter made reference in turn, to another letter addressed to the Mayor and Council dated November 28th, 1961. Mr. Shane asked that that letter, also, be made a matter of record to-wit:

November 28, 1961

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council,
Idaho Falls, Idaho

Gentlemen:

1. Idaho Falls Downtown, the largest taxpaying area within the corporate limits of the City, is in need of many improvements, including additional City-owned parking spaces for merchants and employees, additional street lighting, beautification, etc.
2. The annual real estate taxes paid by the parking-metered downtown area is in excess of \$220,000. Of this amount, approximately \$59,000 is City tax.
3. The downtown, area-wise, is the largest consumer of City-furnished electric power, from the sale of which a large portion of the net revenue is used for City general expenses.
4. In 1944, approximately 450 parking meters were installed in the downtown area. Since that time, their number has increased to nearly twice the original installation, or approximately 870 meters. The annual income from these meters is estimated to be a

minimum of \$65,000 or an amount in excess of that which the same area pays to the City via real estate taxation.

5. The revenue derived from parking meters in the Downtown area constitutes a separate and special tax applied to only that part of the City. However, in the past years and up to the present time, the greater part of the meter income has been allocated to the defrayment of City general expenses, to the benefit of the entire City, of which the metered Downtown area is but a small fraction.

6. In consideration of the hereinafter stated facts, we respectfully submit that the revenue from the Downtown parking meters, less cost of policing, maintenance and depreciation, be budgeted by the City for such improvements as suggested in paragraph 1, rather than directed into the general fund.

7. The Idaho Falls Off-Street Parking Corporation has made extensive studies of the needs of off-street parking for the downtown area and is possessed of valuable detailed information relative to available strategic locations, improvements to existing City-owned facilities, etc. We suggest that its experience, studies, and advice be used in question relative to existing and to new City-owned parking areas.

We earnestly ask for your early consideration of this request.

Yours very sincerely,
IDAHO FALLS DOWNTOWN
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
James L. Shane
C. Wm. Mulhall
Ken Slusser
Ken Cunnington
Louis Boyle
Henry Compton
Lloyd Holden
R. A. Wackerli
Lowell Page

There being no further business, it was moved by Councilman Leahy, seconded by Creek, that the Council adjourn. Carried.

ATTEST: s/ Roy C. Barnes
CITY CLERK

s/ W. J. O'Bryant
MAYOR
