

The city's new \$71,000 DPW garage was used for the first time this week, DPW Supt. Norman Knapp reports.

"Although the heating system hasn't been completed yet, all vehicles were able to start in the below zero weather Monday—something that hasn't happened around here for the years three-quarters of the equipment had to be left outside," he said.

Fines Proposed If Doors Are Found Unlocked

Birmingham merchants and businessmen would be required to lock their premises up tight at night or face a \$25 fine or up to five days in jail, or both, under terms of an ordinance pending before the city commission.

Because three commissioners were absent Monday night, discussion on the proposed measure was postponed until next week.

In recommending this commission on action, City Manager D. C. Egbert said: "At such times a door or window is inadvertently left unlocked, it requires a substantial amount of time on the part of the police department to secure the presence of the proprietor or an employee of the establishment in order to check the establishment to determine the possibility of there having been a theft from the premises."

EGBERT POINTED OUT that this involves police "in needless expense on many occasions."

He said the ordinance is intended to designate the responsibility for properly locking doors and windows as being the merchants', not the police department's.

City officials would not say whether a simple instruction to the police department to discontinue this practice of checking doors and windows in the business area would not be sufficient, rather than enacting an ordinance.

About eight years ago, the city of Royal Oak abandoned this downtown door-checking practice merely by telling the police department to discontinue it. Several businessmen, learning of the proposed regulation here, questioned its constitutionality on the grounds that it did not also require householders to lock doors and windows, therefore was class legislation.



ALFRED LABELLE is one of the many local merchants who have watched Inspector Charles Reynolds of the Birmingham fire department place "No Smoking" signs in their stores during the past few days. Merchants are cooperating with the fire department and city officials in the enforcement of the newly adopted ordinance, especially those carrying large stocks of easily burned materials. In the past merchants made their own safety rules regarding smoking on the premises but are now working through a city regulation, similar to the smoking ordinance adopted in 1948 in Detroit. (Joe Wheeler Photo)

Egbert Reports on Water Plans

City Manager Donald C. Egbert this week recommended that the city construct an additional well within the next six or eight months.

He also recommended a proposed rate structure for the city's participation in a water agreement with the city of Detroit and that the city agree to participate in the system contemplating the immediate purchase of a capacity of 6,000,000 gallons per day.

THESE RECOMMENDATIONS were part of a detailed report he prepared for the city commission on the problems to be faced by the city when water supply is received from Detroit.

City commission consideration of this report has been held over until the Jan. 2 meeting.

The cities of Birmingham, Berkeley, Clawson, Birmingham Woods, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak and Southfield township have joined together in efforts to secure a water supply from Detroit. Plans call for each participating municipality to obligate itself to purchase a certain definite capacity. Total estimated requirements of the municipalities would be approximately 42.4 million gallons daily for the maximum daily demand.

HOWEVER, THE system will probably be constructed to supply 50 or 60 million gallons daily. This action would be justified in view of possible annexations to various cities and the fact that other municipalities might wish to draw water from the system, Egbert feels.

The report mentioned that Birmingham's level of water in the wells has decreased at a rate which is a great deal more rapid than has been experienced in past years. Egbert stated: "The rate of lowering of the water table in this area during the past two years has been a cause of considerable concern, although the city of Birmingham is not now pumping more water from the ground than it has pumped in previous years. The supply is being depleted by the development of wells throughout the entire area north and west of Birmingham."

City officials believe it would be advantageous for the city to purchase a portion of its supply from the city of Detroit as soon as this supply is available. This will decrease the amount of water taken from the wells and will lengthen the productive life of the wells, they say.

Water main installations in northwest Detroit won't permit the

Incorporation of Southfield Park Fails, 611-224

First attempt to incorporate a portion of Southfield township failed Monday as voters of the proposed Southfield Park in the southeast section turned down a proposal to make their area a home rule city.

A light electorate voted against incorporation 611 to 224. A total of 1,442 persons had previously registered and the area has a population of 3,672.

ONLY PERSONS LIVING in the Southfield Park district were allowed to vote. The 3 1/2 mile square area is bounded by Eight Mile on the south; nine and one-half mile road on the north; Greenfield on the east; and Flam Hollow Golf club on the west. Magnolia subdivision wasn't included in the incorporation vote.

Southfield township supervisor William Roeser said that voting was lighter than expected.

Three more incorporation issues remain before Southfield voters. Next area to vote will be Lathrup Village, whose residents will decide whether it should become a fifth class city.

The county also has a petition for incorporation of all of the township and also one for Franklin Village.

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