

City Commission Candid



Commissioner Charles Renfrew evaluates a colleague's argument.

Birmingham's elected officials and their top staff assistants do important work at night. Every Monday at 8 p.m., they meet to take formal action on such matters as city bills, public hearings, ordinance changes, traffic regulations and the thousands of other matters which come up for municipal decision during the year. But the commissioners' audiences are small. Only a fraction of their constituents seem to find time to watch their commissioners at work.

But thru the eye of The Birmingham Eccentric's camera, you now see them in one of their recent Monday "work sessions".

Photo story by
GEORGE WM. AVERILL.



"The meeting will come to order and the clerk will call the roll" is the familiar opening statement of Mayor Carl F. Ingraham every evening.



Is Commissioner William Roberts saying, "I'll get someone to hold my coat—and then say that over again"? May look like it, but that's not his nature. He's really buttoning his coat while listening to a fellow commissioner's comment just after the meeting adjourned.



"Would you mind saying that again?" Commissioner Florence Willett seems to be asking.

The Birmingham Eccentric

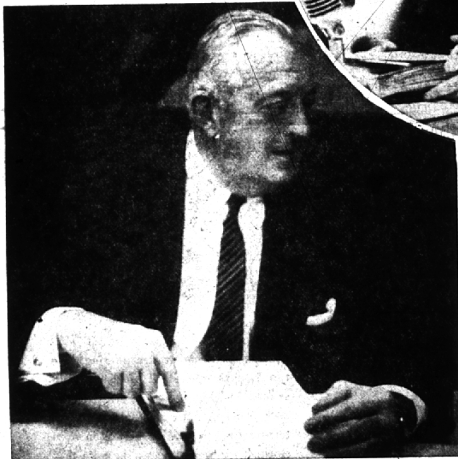
Thursday, July 24, 1958

A woman who, now and then, quietly commends her spouse for some good phase of his personality, for something nice he has done about the home, and kindred subjects, will accomplish more than she dreams. Like women, men, too, like to be praised—but best when the praise is deserved. Next to a helping hand, a pat on the back is one of mankind's best forms of exercise.

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

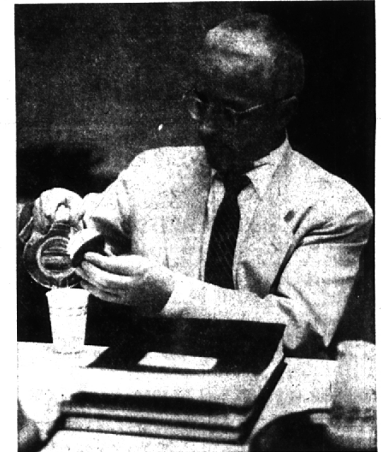
SECTION B

Whether it involves listening or talking, a city commissioner gets thirsty during a long evening's meeting. So Commissioner William Hutchinson helps himself to some ice water from one of the commission's three thermos jugs.



"What's this particular item refer to?" Commissioner John O'Gorman asks.

Commissioner Harry M. Denyes prepares to relax by lighting up a cigarette.



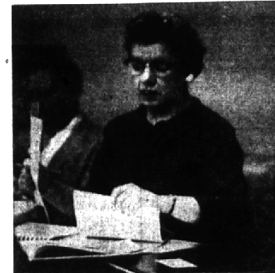
These Top Department Heads Are Available for Instant Advice:



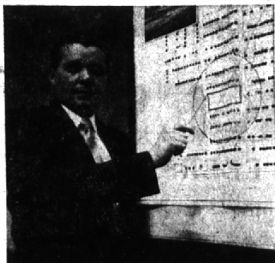
"Well-I-I, that looks like a serious situation and we'd better get after it," City Manager Richard Gare seems to be saying.



Following commission's agenda items are (from left) City Engineer Grover Serenbetz, Finance Director James Purkiss, Asst. City Manager Robert Kenning.



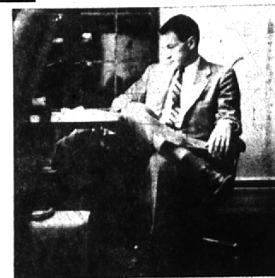
There're lots of records and paperwork connected with City Clerk Irene Hanley's job of minute-taking.



A rezoning hearing involves City Planner Herbert Harberg, who points out the area under consideration.



Ready for any question — (from left) Police Chief Ralph Moxley, Fire Chief Park Smith, City Assessor Clark Hagstrom, DPW Supt. Tom Brian.



City Attorney James Howlett checks his notes.