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The Birmingham Ecceentric

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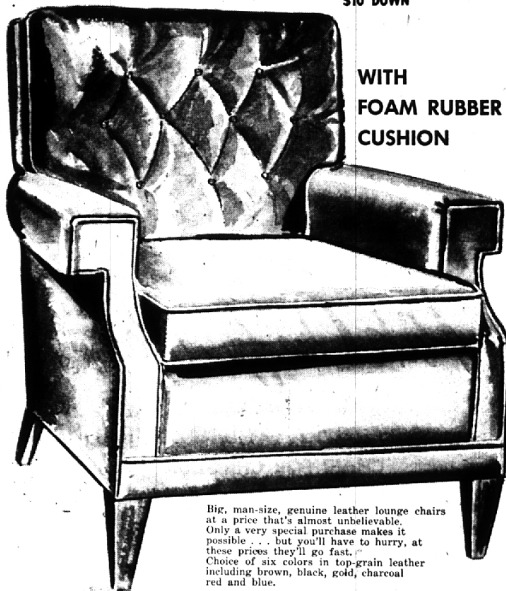
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Meeting

(Continued from Page 1-A)
(Thursday noon) deadline like all the others," Minor emphasized. Commissioners Carl F. Ingram, William E. Roberts and Mayor Harry Tennes expressed themselves in favor of hearing the letter out. These three called the commission "always has been permitted in the past."

MRS. WILLETT pointed out that to adjourn the hearing "would be an imposition on all those who came tonight—and now might have to come back."
"That's exactly my point!" Minor exclaimed.
Commissioner Charles Renfrew said he'd go along with the commission's majority view, although "this (alley vacation) has been under discussion for some time."

RENFREW AGREED with Minor on the "Johnny-come-lately" letters, but could see no reason to rush through the hearing. His motion to adjourn it a week was passed unanimously.

However, three other alleys were vacated. They are the three immediately east of Southfield, between Brown and Townsend. The well-known hearing involved an alley in the middle of the block immediately north of the other three alleys.

The next item also brought forth a late communication, this one from Otto Beier. It concerned a bill being placed in the final assessment roll for collection.

WHEN MISS HANLEY handed the letter to Mayor Denyes, Minor inquired: "Let it go into next week's agenda."
That's where it has gone. But commissioners approved the assessment roll, which included more than two dozen unpaid assessments totalling \$814.32.

Next speaker incident involved DPW Supt. Tom Brien. He roused Minor's displeasure in a recommendation involving purchase of a new tractor.

BRIEN'S LETTER included a phrase which seemed to indicate the bids might not meet all advertised specifications.
It was on this very point that commissioners two weeks ago rejected bids because the low one did not meet specifications.

Brien told Minor that the new tractor bids DID meet specifications. So the new machinery was purchased from low bidder, Great Lakes Tractor Co. of Birmingham for \$1,625.50.

Then came the grand finale, which took about an hour. It involved the commission's decision whether to sell or lease part of Poppleton park to the Forest Hills swim club for a private pool.

THE CLUB'S president, Leslie Fleming, was most persuasive. The club was performing a community need which the city could not afford to build, he said.

The club, Fleming said, would build an Olympic-sized pool, bathhouse and 150-car parking lot. It would buy or lease the land, and agree to turn the facility over to the city at the end of 20 years. Commissioners listened quietly for the most part, then turned the club down on its request.

COMMISSIONERS had not been convinced the community was in need of swimming pools. Therefore, there was no interest in reducing the size of future recreational areas.
Toward the end of this discussion, Fleming and Minor mixed verbal blows on the desirability of the city's accepting the club's proposal.

MAYOR DENYES broke up the argument with "we can't go on like this all night—but I think you are asking the city for the impossible."

Roberts and Burgum had words at one point during the meeting. Ingram and Minor chided each other over "conversations" which city officials have had with organizational representatives, and which seem to acquire "semi-official" status later on.
And the meeting's anti-climax:

CITY ATTORNEY James How-

let put in an unlisted agenda report on the status of a proposed "coffee house" on W. Brown street. (He said latest information indicates no motion picture license will be required if the club is opened.)
The "bell" rang at 11 p.m. Most of the audience was still around at the finish.
It had been quite a meeting.

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