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B'ham Considers Widening Of Holy Name Area Streets

Steps leading up to a special assessment proceeding for the proposed paving of three streets in the vicinity of Holy Name Church are being considered by the Birmingham City administration.

Commissioners Monday night directed the city manager to gather more information and estimates as preliminary moves leading prior to setting a date for public hearing.

City Manager L. R. Gare outlined the proposed project and its accompanying problems at Monday night's commission meeting.

Proposed is the paving of Harmon from Greenwood to Woodland, Greenwood from Harmon to Vinewood, Woodland from Harmon to Vinewood and Harmon between Woodward and Woodland.

COMMISSIONERS instructed Gare to report back on cost estimates and the history of sewer construction in the area. To be included are comparative costs of 24- and 33-foot wide pavements. Gare pointed out the project involves sewer, water distribution and assessment problems.

The project dates back to January, 1960, when the pastor, the Rev. Msgr. Eugene Paddock, petitioned the paving of the streets surrounding the church property.

The matter was referred to the city engineering department and a plan board said the paving "would not substantially alter the existing traffic situation" around the church and the Holy Name School.

AFTER discovering a deficiency in the sewer system in the immediate area of the church, the engineering department made a complete study of the area bounded by Lakeside, Oak, Woodward and Willis streets.

In 1941, said Gare, "relief sewers were constructed in the area and the engineering study indicates that the sewers serving the block in which the church is located are inadequate."

"Part of the reason for this may be because of the large impervious area that has been created by the construction of the church and the (church's) parking lot, causing an extremely rapid run-off."

If the streets are to be paved, Gare said, relief sewers should be constructed first.

"The question arises," he stated, "A Scotsman, inviting a friend to a party, explained to him how to get to his apartment."

"Come to the 16th floor and when you see the letter 'M' on the door, push the button with your elbow and when the door opens put your foot against it."

"But why must I use my elbow and foot?" the friend asked.

"For goodness sake, you're not coming empty-handed, are you?"

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as to the benefits and as to what percentage of the cost of these additional relief sewers should be borne by assessment and what percentage by the City."

IF THE STREETS are paved, Gare said, there should be two lanes for traffic and two for parking because of the traffic around the church.

But the normal 20-foot width for residential streets does not provide two for traffic and two for parking. He said 33-foot width would be better.

Gare recommended:
That Greenwood and Woodland be paved with 33-foot wide pavement from Harmon to Vinewood.
That Harmon be paved with 37-foot pavement from Greenwood to Woodland.

That necessary relief sewers be constructed on Harmon from Baldwin to Woodland, on Greenwood from Harmon north about 300 feet and on Woodland from Harmon north about 300 feet.

That a water main on Harmon be designed as a constructed price to paving.
The 33-foot width was proposed for Greenwood and Woodland to avoid removing trees.

BEFORE A DATE can be set for a hearing of necessity, the

problems of width and sewers should be settled, Gare said. Commissioners disagreed as to whether the city-at-large should pay for the sewers of that property owners be assessed. Although it was generally agreed that there should be some assessment, they could not determine how much.

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