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STELLENBOSCH

Burgemeesterskantoor,
Vrydag, 28 Augustus 1959.

Katte en Rotte: Fluit, Fluit, my storie is uit

Ter voortsetting van die vervolgverhaal, kan ek meld dat hierdie aangeleentheid hopelik vir die laaste keer deur die Raad oorweeg is. Toevallig was dit ook nou die laaste vergadering waar ek in my hoedanigheid van voorsitter opgetree het. Ek wil nie te kenne gee dat die twee aangeleenthede enige verband met mekaar het nie. Die Raad het, soos ek voorheen gemeld het, die sienswyse van die Uniedepartement van Gesondheid ingewin, en die kwessie is ook onlangs op 'n streeksvergadering van Gesondheidsbeamptes bespreek. Die netto-resultaat is dat die betrokke regulasies as geldig en noodsaaklik aanvaar moet word en solank hulle op die wetboeke staan, sal plaaslike owerhede daaraan gevolg moet gee. Die Stadsraad is nie by magte om te besluit dat hy nie 'n wetsbepaling gaan toepas nie, en geen amptenaar kan opdrag in daardie voeë ontvang nie.

Dit beteken egter nie dat die betrokke regulasies sonder meer en sonder inagneming van die omstandighede van elke geval afgedwing sal word nie. In die eerste plek moet ons onthou dat die regulasies nie teen die liewe of stomme katte gemik is nie. Die doel daarvan is om die algemene gesondheid van die publiek te beskerm. As 'n Gesondheidsinspekteur vind dat die hantering van voedsel op 'n besondere perseel onhigiënies is, en dat die aanwesigheid van katte 'n wesenlike faktor is wat tot daardie onbevredigende toestand bydra, dan sal daar heelwaarskynlik teen die handelaar opgetree word. Dit volg nie dat die diere vernietig sal moet word nie. Die handelaar sal hulle net moet verwyder.

Ek glo nie daar is rede aan die kant van die liefhebbers van katte om onthuts te voel nie. Die Stadsraad kan nie

besluit dat hy gaan vervolg of nie vervolg nie. Die Gesondheidsafdeling sal slegs optree waar hulle dit noodsaaklik vind.

Ek hoop van harte dat dit nou die slot van hierdie storie is.

Openbare Parkering op Bergzicht

Ek verwag dat ons binnekort 'n openbare parkeergebied om die mark-struktuur sal kan uitlê. Die kwessie van ingange en uitgange skep egter nog sekere probleme, maar daarvoor sal ons wel 'n oplossing vind. Die skema behoort verligting te bied vir die ernstige behoefte aan parkeerruimte in daardie omgewing.

Terselfdertyd hoop ons om eersdaags 'n parkeerruimte te verskaf agter die Stadsaal waar die Raad onlangs 'n private eiendom aangekoop het. Die ou wonings sal gesloop moet word, maar ons ondervind nog moeilikheid om ander huisvesting te vind vir die families wat nou daar woon.

Behuisingskema vir Blankes

Die Raad het in beginsel aanvaar om voort te gaan met die beplanning van behuisingskemas in sekere blanke gebiede. In Voëltjiesdorp is daar 'n aansienlike aantal erwe wat nie verkoop kan word nie, en ek meen dat ons met gerief daar huurwonings kan oprig. Verder is daar nog munisipale persele in die geweste van die Noord-Kerk wat met voordeel ontwikkel kan word. Ek vertrou dat ons goeie vordering in hierdie rigting sal kan maak.

Biblioteek vir Kleurlinge

Soos ek reeds rapporteer het, is die gebou nou voltooi en behoorlik toegerus. Die betrokke komitee ondervind op die oomblik moeilikheid in verband met die finansiering van die administrasiekoste, en die Raad het dit goed geag om by voorbaat 'n subsidie van 60 persent van daardie uitgawe te bewillig, met 'n maksimum van £300 per jaar. Ons verwag dan dat die diens binne afsienbare tyd in werking sal wees.

Mayor's Parlour,
4th September, 1959.

Provincial Library Scheme for Europeans

Periodically the Council considered the advisability of adopting the provincial library scheme, but so far the financial implications have proved to be the main obstacle. At

its last meeting, however, the Council decided to conduct a gallup poll in order to gauge the public opinion, and we hope to be able to issue questionnaires to a representative section of the community in due course. Full details of the scheme will be supplied at the same time. Probably we shall have to rely on the assistance of a group of students for the collection of the forms and of the faculty of Social Science for the analysis of the results.

Preservation of Historical Buildings

To our surprise we recently became aware of the fact that the old Rhenish School hostel on the Braak was likely to be demolished. Hasty and diligent research disclosed some very interesting facts about this old building and we are convinced that its demolition should be avoided at all costs. I am now pleased to be able to report that, owing to a personal interest taken by the Honourable the Administrator in this case, we are likely to see the building preserved and used for some public purpose.

At the same time we are investigating the possibility of procuring some form of provincial assistance for the maintenance of historical buildings for which the Council is responsible. We are all of us aware of the sympathetic attitude of the Administrator, and relief is essential if we have to extend the scope of our responsibilities in this sphere.

The suggestion has been made that the Council should offer the partially restored Koetsiershuis on the Braak to the Stigting Simon van der Stel for its headquarters. I can only say that this property does not belong to the Council as yet, although I sincerely hope that we shall be able to acquire ownership in the near future.

Some time ago I mentioned that the Provincial Administration had approved of a set of special regulations for the protection of old buildings and for the control of new building construction work in Dorp Street. The Council is now considering the question whether this control should be extended to other parts of the old town, and a further debate on this matter will be conducted during the course of this month.

Handing over

On the 25th August I presided at the Council meeting as Mayor for the last time, and the election of my successor will take place on the 8th instant.

The occasion is necessarily one which creates mixed feelings. In the first instance I must admit that my good wife and I will enjoy a quiet rest after a rather full programme of public functions which we had to organise and also to attend when organised by others. There is no doubt that the number of functions is growing every year, and that any mayor is faced with a rather formidable task.

On the other hand we shall be sorry to lose the close contact with so many of the good friends we met during our term of office. I am duly grateful to my fellow Councillors, especially the Deputy Mayor, for their loyal support, and also to their wives for the ready assistance afforded to the Mayoress whenever she needed it. I must also express my appreciation of the hearty co-operation on the part of the municipal staff. I am afraid that at certain times the administration had its capacity taxed to breaking point, but somehow it scraped through, and on some occasions I think the staff members were quite surprised at their own achievements!

As far as the press is concerned, I must say that our relations were hearty and pleasant, apart from the catty interlude. I wish to thank the various representatives for their assistance in making known to the public what the Council is trying to achieve.

To the general public I must also say "totsiens" and thank you very much for the kind consideration extended to the Mayoress and myself. We sincerely tried to serve, and whether we succeeded or not is not for us to say. We thoroughly enjoyed it.

S. W. J. LIEBENBERG.

Burgemeesterskantoor,
Vrydag, 11 September 1959.

Waardering

Op 8 deser het raadslid S. W. J. Liebenberg die tuig neergelê na twee jaar harde werk in sy hoedanigheid van Burgemeester. Aan hom en mev. Liebenberg wil ek langs hierdie weg dankie sê vir al die moeite en opoffering wat hulle hul getroos het, en ons hoop almal dat daar vir hulle min bekommernisse sal wees in die jaar wat voorlê ten spyte van die feit dat mnr. Liebenberg weer as onder-burgemeester gekies is.

Ek meen ons is almal daarmee eens dat mnr. en mev. Liebenberg 'n waardige toevoeging tot die geledere van Stellenbosch se oud-burgemeesters en burgemeestersvroue is.

Inspuitings teen Polio

Op advies van die uniale Departement van Gesondheid het die Raad besluit om klinieke vir inspuitings teen polio vir alle lede van die publiek te reël. Die opkoms op 4 September was teleurstellend en ek wil tog aanbeveel dat daar meer van hierdie diens gebruik gemaak word. Die ondervinding leer dat die gevreesde siekte steeds meer ouer persone aantas. 'n Kliniek vind weer op 11 deser by die Stadhuis plaas.

Boeteheffings op Munisipale Rekeninge

Telkens was daar in die verlede bedenkinge oor die geldigheid van die boeteheffings op munisipale rekeninge wat nie betyds betaal word nie. Selfs by die Provinsiale Administrasie was daar 'n mate van twyfel, maar die Hooggeregshof het so pas 'n toetssaak ten gunste van die Raad uitgewys. Nogtans vind ek dit jammer dat soveel koste aangegaan moes word om sekerheid te kry oor 'n aangeleentheid wat oor al die jare as vanselfsprekend aanvaar is.

Groepsgebiede

Daar is van die Departement Binnelandse Sake verneem dat die Groepsgebiederaad besig is met die formulering van die afbakeningsproklamasie. Dis glo 'n omslagtige proses, maar nietemin kan ons verwag dat die proklamering nog vanjaar sal geskied. Die volgende stap sal dan wees om die skema toe te pas, en ek vermoed dat ons probleme dan eers sal begin.

Wynbou-Navorsingsinstituut

Die Departement Landbou het 'n versoek aan die Raad gerig om 'n stuk munisipale grond vir hierdie onderneming beskikbaar te stel. Die Raad wil graag help, en onderhandelinge oor 'n geskikte terrein word nou gevoer.

Krakerige Stadsaalvloer

Die Raad het besluit om 'n onderseok deur deskundiges te laat uitvoer om vas te stel of die hinderlike gekraak van die twee sale in die Stadhuis uitgeskakel kan word. Die publiek is seker almal bekend met die lastige steurnis, en ek hoop regtig dat ons 'n oplossing sal kan vind.

Ons is ook besig om navraag te doen oor die moontlikheid van 'n doeltreffende en permanente luidsprekerstelsel vir die groot saal. Proefnemings word nou in Pretoria deur die Wetenskaplike Navorsingsraad gedoen, en ons sien met belangstelling na die resultate uit.

Uitbreiding van Rioolsuiweringswerke

Die Departement Waterwese het nou die nodige permit vir die Raad se skema vir die uitbreiding van die rioolsuiweringswerke teen 'n beraamde koste van £140,000 uitgereik, en die konsultante gaan nou voort met die reëlings vir die uitvoering van die diens. Na verwagting sal dit binne drie jaar voltooi wees, en hopelik sal ons dan vir minstens vyftien jaar toereikende fasiliteite hê.

Kontak met Publiek

Ek sal my bes probeer om die goeie werk van my voorgangers voort te sit vir sover dit hierdie nuusdiens betref. Ek glo dat dit 'n goeie metode is om in verbinding te bly met ons baie vriende wat belang stel in die doen en late van die Raad.

Ook wil ek meld dat ek in die reël op Dinsdae beskikbaar sal wees vir enige afsprake wat lede van die publiek met my wil maak, en ek sal bly wees as sulke reëlings met die Stadsklerk se kantoor getref kan word.

Mayor's Parlour,
Friday, 18th September, 1959.

Union Day Celebrations, 1960

The Council is anxious to obtain the collaboration of all public bodies in order to work out an attractive programme for the fiftieth anniversary of Union in 1960, and I hope to send out an invitation to a representative meeting in the near future. It is important to make an estimate of the possible costs so that provision can be made in the budget for next year.

Sequel to Cat Story

The Council has had a very interesting offer from the well-known South African sculptress, Miss Nerine Desmond,

namely a small statue of a café cat to commemorate what she terms the "reprieve" of the cats in Stellenbosch. It was decided to accept this offer, and I shall report progress in due course.

Public Conveniences on The Braak

From time to time representations have been made to the Council for the provision of sanitary facilities on the Braak. Apart from the fact that any building scheme would have to be sanctioned by the Monuments Commission, the problem of finding a suitable spot would be a ticklish one. We are probably all agreed that if anything is done, it would have to be of the highest standard and quality. On the other hand we are well aware of the very actual need of such conveniences in that area. The Chairman of Health has been requested to make further investigations.

Incorrect Traffic Signs

The Administration last week issued a proclamation condoning incorrect traffic signs in the Province on condition that all discrepancies are removed before the end of 1960. It appears that most of the signs supplied in the past by manufacturers did not comply with the specifications prescribed by the Provincial Administration. The Council is taking steps to rectify all signs in Stellenbosch as soon as possible. It is difficult, however, to appreciate the significance of a difference of a fraction of an inch in the width or length of a particular letter or line when for the most part the traffic offence is committed knowingly. We are all in favour of uniform signs over the whole Union, but the matter is now being developed into absurdities as far as local authorities are concerned. The specifications prescribed by the Province are rather complicated and an inquisitive mind will always discover some mistake, but the fact is that these things are costing a lot of money — not the correction of mistakes, but the acquisition of the signs. If the service is of such national importance that interference by the Union Government or Provincial Administration is justified, then it seems logical that it should be administered entirely by either of those authorities.

Railway Crossing at Du Toit Station

The possibility of providing a traffic bridge to replace the existing crossing at Du Toit Station is being investigated. The Divisional Council, Provincial and Railway Administrations are also concerned, and it would have to be a joint undertaking.

Birthday of Madame Santhagen

My wife and I had the privilege of paying our respects to Madame Santhagen on the occasion of her eightieth birthday on the 16th instant. I am sure that the public will join us in wishing her many happy returns. We sincerely hope that she will enjoy good health for many years to come.

W. C. DEMPSEY.

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