

I.M.S.

Vol. 1 No. 28

MUNISIPALITEIT



STELLENBOSCH

Mayor's Parlour,
12th January, 1962.

MUNICIPALITY

UNIVERSITY OF ST. ELIZABETH
13 MAR 1962
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THE YEAR 1962

The festive season is over. Many have returned to work and soon the schools and later on, the University will re-open. I hope that all are entering the new year with renewed strength and confidence and that a happy and successful year lies ahead.

IRRIGATION WATER — AND JAN BURGERHUIS

Jan Burgerhuis has not accepted my invitation of 24th November, 1961, to come to the office — remaining incognito if he wished — to acquaint himself with the judgment of the Water Court, and possibly also with the estimates for the year 1962. He has chosen to return to the attack.

I made the suggestion after very careful consideration and after it had become quite clear that the matter was so involved that it could not be dealt with properly within the scope of the Mayoral Review to say nothing of Jan Burgerhuis' request that I explain the "law" to him.

We clearly have a case of the "have's" and "have nots". I belong to the latter class. It cannot be the object of the Mayoral Review to enter into arguments. Rather it must be its object to bring to the notice of the ratepayers matters in which they might be interested. To give rulings on the law is also not the purpose of the Mayoral Review. With any complicated matter, it is essential to make sure that in a discussion all concerned should be clear as to whether they are actually talking about the same thing and what they mean to imply.

The judgment of the Water Court alone covers three folio pages of small print, full of detail. Possibly it would help if the editor of *Eikestadnuus* in his able way, could give a summing up, more or less detailed, of the judgment which is based on an

agreement into which all parties concerned entered with open eyes at the time.

The agreement was made an order of the Court at a time when Stellenbosch was developing rapidly and had decided on the construction of a water-borne sewerage scheme in the interests of the health of the town with its many pupils and students from all over the country. The water supply position of Stellenbosch was confused and a special Water Court Committee, aided by the late Mr. A. F. Markotter, who was then the Council's Attorney (with the greatest knowledge of the water problems of Stellenbosch that any man ever possessed) and aided by prominent advocates and later Water Court judges, undertook and completed the great work of sorting out what was fair and equitable. There was a great deal of give and take from all sides and the riparian owners did not only take — of that we may be assured. It is very simple to ask questions before making sure how they fit into the scheme of things as a whole.

From the study that I have made of the position, it is clear to me that the irrigation water forms part of the water supply system of the Municipality as a whole. The object of those who co-operated in order to secure a judgment was first of all to obtain clarity and then to make sure of the best use of the water and to prevent its waste — which will always remain a primary duty of all South Africans.

As I see it, it has been the duty of the Municipality, in exchange for certain concessions made by riparian owners, to carry out at its cost the distribution of the irrigation water within the town and within the limits set out in the judgment.

Jan Burgerhuis accepts that a somewhat higher price is paid for land with irrigation water rights and a rough calculation based on an increased value of as little as 5% and on assumption — if I interpret Jan Burgerhuis correctly — that 15% of the ratable land is riparian, the owners concerned contribute an amount which is sufficient to cover the cost of distribution.

I may add that it was the wish of the Municipality that on Sundays and during nights the Lower Eerste River Board's irrigation water should pass through the town.

SIDE WALKS

I notice that in the issue of *Eikestadnuus* of the 15th December, Jan Burgerhuis also refers good humouredly to the

sidewalks of Stellenbosch. The Council is aware of the fact that there are many miles of side walks which could be improved. The Council tries to do its best with the money available after the staggering costs of construction of essential services have been met, to improve the position gradually. I am not aware of any particular preference being given to properties which are exempted from payment of rates. Possibly reference is made to places where side walks have had to be attended to after cable laying work had been completed.

I am thankful that I have not been asked to state reasons for the laws emanating from the government and the province relating to the exemption of properties from payment of owner's rates. I can give the assurance, however, that they were not introduced at the request of the Municipality.

A VISIT TO STELLENBOSCH

Early in the New Year a party of approximately 120 naval cadets from the French battleship Jeanne D'arc visited Stellenbosch to view amongst other things the panel against the wall of the library depicting the departure and arrival of the French Huguenots in 1688.

At my request Councillor C. M. Booysen welcomed the visitors and through an interpreter explained the panel to them.

Thereafter they adjourned to the Drostdy Herberg for a cup of tea and refreshments which were greatly appreciated by all. Immediately after having refreshments, they proceeded through the University part of the town over Helshoogte to Franschoek, where they went to see the Huguenot monument.

THE DANGER OF VELD AND FOREST FIRES

Anxiety in regard to forest fires is always with us at this time of the year. A little while ago I mentioned the subject, but recently the Municipality has been approached — and the most recent appeal comes from Idas Valley — with a request that the public be asked urgently once more to do everything in its power to put out fires as soon as they are observed and to notify the Municipality immediately.

26 Januarie 1962

DUUR ERWE

Ek het die brief van *Platsak* in die uitgawe van *Eikestadnuus* van 19 Januarie met groot belangstelling en simpatie gelees. Soos deur die Redakteur aan die hand gedoen, sal ek enkele

feite noem wat ter verduideliking mag dien. Die Redaksie sê heeltemal tereg dat vraag en aanbod ook die pryse van grond bepaal. Die allereerste stap is dus — en hierby kan die Stadsraad miskien help — om te sorg dat daar 'n goeie aanbod en 'n wye keuse van geskikte bouerwe in die verskillende wyke van 'n dorp beskikbaar is. Die Stadsraad beskik nie oor alteveel grond wat vir opсны in bouerwe geskik is nie, tensy dit taamlik ver uit die dorp geleë is. Verder, as daar grond in die eintlike dorpsgebied is, is die Munisipaliteit meer as enige ander eienaar verplig om te sorg vir publieke terreine en parke.

Die Stadsraad het nooit daarna gemik om vir die bouerwe wat hy verkoop het besonder hoë pryse te kry nie, ondanks die besef dat die grond die grootste bate is wat die belastingbetalers besit. Dit is nie eintlik die Raad s'n nie en hy kan dit nie tot voordeel van enkeles vervreem nie.

Ek stem volkome met die skrywer van die brief saam dat dit baie belangrik is dat huise van 'n goeie gehalte opgerig word en dat dit baie jammer is as die prys van grond 'n eienaar dwing om 'n huis wat nie heeltemal aan sy begeerte voldoen nie te laat bou. Daar word goed besef dat goeie huise 'n dorp maak.

Ons het te doen met twee soorte onderverdelings van grond, nl. dié wat deur die Munisipaliteit daargestel word en dié wat deur private eienaars onderneem word. Tensy laasgenoemde die grond al baie lank besit, sal enige maatskappy of persoon wat bouerwe in die hande wil kry om te verkoop, kapitaal moet belê. Daarop sal natuurlik rente betaal moet word. Dan sal hy goedkeuring moet kry vir sy voorstel, heelwat grond moet afstaan vir publieke terreine (parke, skole, ens.) of hy sal 'n sekere persentasie van die bedrae wat hy vir grond kry aan die Provinsie en moontlik ook aan die plaaslike owerheid moet betaal. Natuurlik sal hy die grond ook moet laat opmeet. Dit word ook 'n voorwaarde van goedkeuring van 'n onderverdeling gemaak dat hy verantwoordelik sal wees vir die koste van straatkonstruksie en die distribusie van water. Dit is 'n vereiste wat deur die provinsie goedgekeur is en feitlik opgelê is aan plaaslike owerhede. Tensy minstens 'n deel van die ontwikkelingskoste deur die eienaars betaal word, is dit die rede waarom die laste op die belastingbetalerskorps geweldig groot word.

VRAAG EN AANBOD

Aangesien daar beweer kan word dat die dorp in sy geheel baat vind by nuwe ontwikkeling gee die belastingbetalers tog hulle bydrae tot nuwe ontwikkelings deur (minstens) te betaal vir riolering en stormwaterdreinerings wat ook in teenwoordige omstandighede aansienlike bedrae vra.

Waar ek hierbo melding gemaak het van die noodsaaklikheid om vir 'n ruim aanbod van bouerwe te voorsien, moet ek tog die aandag daarop vestig dat om hele onderverdelings of dorpsgebiede van die tyd van goedkeuring af met alle dienste te voorsien en alle strate te maak, reuse-uitgawes meebring. Die gevaar bestaan dan dat dit lê tot tyd en wyl die erwe werklik vir boudoeleindes verkoop word. Ontwikkeling moet dus traps-gewyse geskied.

Ek let tog op dat al het erwe ontstaan in 'n tyd waar ontwikkelingskoste nie so hoog was nie (en die Munisipaliteit dit feitlik op homself geneem het) die koste van erwe geensins geringer is as daar waar 'n deel van die ontwikkelingskoste deur die eienaars betaal is. Met ander woorde, dit staaf die mening van die Redakteur van *Eikestadnuus* en ek herhaal die woordeliks:

„Die prys van grond word inderdaad soos enige ander handelsgoed (roerend of onroerend) deur die gewone ekonomiese magte van vraag en aanbod bepaal.”

EERSTE VERGADERING IN DIE JAAR 1962

Die Raad het vir die eerste keer hierdie jaar op 23 Januarie vergader. Baie belangrike sake wat in verskillende stadiums van ontwikkeling staan is bespreek. Ek kan net noem: Die Groepsgebiede-posisie; die dorpsbeplanning; nuwe slagplek; die Provinsiale Biblioteekstelsel op Stellenbosch; die beplanning van 'n verlenging van Maraisstraat oor Coetzenburg.

Ook die Museumvraagstuk is bespreek. In die Raadsaal was die 5 skilderye wat mev. Spurrier aan die Raad geskenk het, nadat sy verneem het dat die Phillimore Ives-versameling teruggetrek is. Sy het die skilderye onvoorwaardelik geskenk en die Raad het sy waardering uitgespreek vir die besonder gawe gees waarin die skenking gemaak is, ook vir die hulp deur die Leyland-Maatskappy verleen met die veilige aflewering van die skilderye.

Dan is ook tyding ontvang dat die Hugo Naude-skildery wat deur die Hobhouse-familie geskenk is aan mev. D. F. Malan gestuur is.

PARKERING BY DIE STADSAAL

Aangesien daar spesiale reëlings vir parkering in Andringastraat gemaak is, sal daar in die toekoms streng opgetree word ten opsigte van parkering voor die Stadsaal. Dit beteken dat die tydbeperking van 30 minute toegepas sal word. Dit is nodig om soveel motoriste moontlik 'n kans te gee om van hierdie gerieflike parkeerplek gebruik te maak. Ons vra u vriendelike medewerking.

9th February, 1962.

PROF. THERON:

The Council was glad to welcome back in its midst Councillor Prof. Erika Theron, who has returned from a trip overseas, which must have been most interesting and enjoyable, as the colourful postcards she sent to friends here prove. Stellenbosch must have ever been in her thoughts, whatever the attractions of far countries.

ASSISTANCE FOR HERMANUS

I am sure that all residents deplore with me the great misfortune that has befallen our sister Municipality of Hermanus. Although the decision as such is obviously a grave one, I decided to respond to the call for assistance which I received and gave instructions that certain units should be rushed to Hermanus.

I am glad to say that the members of our brigade came back satisfied that their efforts had not been in vain in as much as further damage was prevented. They had a strenuous time. Naturally, fire fighting is not without danger, even under more normal conditions than those that prevailed at Hermanus.

What has happened at Hermanus serves to remind us how necessary it is for all of us to think ahead and to do all in our power to obviate danger. We also have a number of houses with thatched roofs and shingles in our town. It remains of great importance to prevent open land from developing uncontrolled vegetation, which becomes so highly combustible in the summer. I am very pleased that the public and the officials of the Department concerned are co-operating so well in the vigilant search for possible danger spots.

THIRD CONGRESS OF THE S.A. FIRE SERVICES INSTITUTE

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor W. C. Dempsey, opened the congress on Wednesday, 7th February. It took place at Parow. The Deputy Mayor, like all of us, proceeded to the congress with the full impact of what has occurred at Hermanus on his mind. I was privileged to read his opening address and I fully agree with him and support him in all that he has said.

At this stage I would like to mention one suggestion, namely that it might be to the advantage of Insurance Companies to support Fire Brigade Services even if this should slightly affect the premium. After all, most of us attach more importance to the preservation of our houses and property than to a cash payment as compensation after they have been destroyed.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO

I have paged through an old minute book which covers the period 1860 to 1871. The early minutes of the year 1862 cover, sometimes a page, sometimes a page-and-a-half of fairly large handwriting. Meetings appear to have been held more or less fortnightly. I was immediately struck by the fact that some of the matters which occupy our minds, are by no means new.

For instance on 28th January, 1862, two letters were read from the Civil Commissioners, enclosing copies of letters from Mr. Pieter Laurens Cloete of Zandvliet, complaining of "the want of water in the Eerste River caused by the excessive use of it by the inhabitants residing along the river and by the municipality."

It was resolved to inform the Civil Commissioner that on account of the drought, the quantity of water used in the Municipality was less than usual at that time of the year, as could be seen from the quantity running back into the river at Steenenbrug.

This bridge crosses the Plankenbrug River and used to carry the Dorp Street traffic before the Adam Tas bridge was built.

This minute is rather illuminating in the light of the *Jan Burgerhuis* correspondence.

In the minutes of Tuesday, 11th February, 1862, there is a list of revenue and expenditure and, having mentioned fires, I would like to quote the following items:

Testing fire engines	£2. 5. 0.;
Greasing the same	9. 0.;
Repairing the hose belonging to the fire engines	£2. 6. 0.;

The most considerable amount namely £103. 9. 6. appears under *In aid for keeping the police.*

PROVINCIAL LIBRARY SERVICE

The public may have wondered why there is delay in bringing to finality a matter on which by means of a survey carried out by Councillor Prof. E. Theron the feeling of the public of Stellenbosch has been gauged. I would like to give the assurance that the matter is continually receiving attention. It is, however, most involved, as it not only concerns the library service but also a re-adjustment of accommodation between library and municipal offices, rapidly becoming inadequate. Since the Town Hall was built 22 years have elapsed. The population has increased to almost 25,000, thus automatically increasing the volume of work, and creating new problems.

S. W. J. LIEBENBERG.