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Weeklikse Rubriek

Die Redaksie van die Eikestadnuus het 'n uitnodiging aan die Stadsraad gerig om 'n weeklikse oorsig te gee van aangeleenthede van gemeenskaplike belang, en die Raad het gevoel dat so 'n rubriek inderdaad nuttig kan wees. Veral kan dit dien as middel om die openbare mening te peil wanneer daar kontensieuse vraagstukke opgelos moet word, en daar is bepaald genoeg van hierdie soort. Ek sal dit derhalwe verwelkom as die Redaksie dit ook moontlik sou vind om die kommentaar van lesers in die blad op te neem.

'n Poging sal aangewend word om afdrukke van hierdie aantekeninge onder die publiek te versprei in die plek van I.M.S. wat ongelukkig nie meer gereeld kon verskyn nie. Om vertaling uit te skakel, sal die aantekeninge om die beurt in Engels en Afrikaans verskyn.

Naturellesake: Gemeenskaplike Lokasie

Die gestadige aanwas van die Naturellegemeenskap in Stellenbosch maak dit noodsaaklik dat die Raad binne afsienbare tyd 'n permanente grondslag vind waarop die probleem van huisvesting opgelos kan word. Oor die algemeen aanvaar ons almal dat die deurmekaarboerdery van Naturel en Kleurling ongesond is, maar die beskikbare wonings in Kaya Mandi is verreweg nie toereikend vir die huisvesting van al die Naturelle in Stellenbosch nie. Die vraag is dan of daar meer huisvesting in Kaya Mandi voorsien moet word. As die Naturellegemeenskap as arbeidsbron vir die gemeenskap onontbeerlik is, dan betaam dit ons om gangbare huisvesting te verskaf, maar reeds vir 'n

geruime tyd het die Raad die beleid gevolg om sover doenlik nie die lokasie uit te brei nie. Breedvoerige redes kan nie binne die bestek van hierdie oorsig aangedui word nie, maar ek meen hulle is oor die algemeen bekend genoeg.

OORPLASING

Daar word nou oorleg met die Afdelingsraad gepleeg oor die moontlikheid om alle Naturellegesinne in Stellenbosch oor te plaas na daardie owerheid se nuwe lokasie in die omgewing van Eersterivierstasie wat binnekort (na verwagting) gebou sal word. Sodoende sou die gesinswonings in Kaya Mandi vir enkelinge beskikbaar word, maar selfs dit sou nie die oorbevolking oplos nie. Die vraag is dus ook telkens geopper of dit nie beter sou wees om 'n gemeenskaplike lokasie vir 'n aantal sentra te beplan nie, en wel op 'n plek wat so sentraal en gerieflik moontlik geleë is. Die eerste probleem by so 'n skema is natuurlik die vervoerreëlings, maar ervaring elders het getoon dat dit wel opgelos kan word. In die teorie moet die skema aantreklik lyk, aangesien sentralisering ongetwyfeld administrasiekoste moet verminder. Aan die anderkant is dit te begrype dat enige plaaslike owerheid kopsku is (in die reël) om enige deel van sy gesag prys te gee.

ONDERSOEK

Die Stadsraad tref nou reëlings vir 'n deurtastende ondersoek na die uitvoerbaarheid van so 'n gemeenskaplike lokasie. Die Afdelingsraad en ander bevoegde instansies is uitgenooi om saam te werk, en ons sien uit na die bevindinge van die Komitee.

Ek kan net byvoeg dat die Stadsraad al jarelank pogings aanwend om 'n ander tuiste te vind vir Naturellegesinne en enkelinge wat liefs in hul eie gebiede opgeneem moet word. Tot dusver kon die Staat weinig hulp hiermee verleen, maar daar is aanduidings dat positiewe resultate binne afsienbare tyd verwag kan word. Dit is ook waarskynlik dat daar wetgewing sal kom wat die beskermde verblyfsreg van Naturelle wat plaaslik gebore is, heelwat sal inkort.

Munisipale Kongres, Port Elizabeth

'n Afvaardiging van die Stadsraad het die jaarlikse kongres van die Munisipale Vereniging in Port Elizabeth vanaf 11 tot 15 Mei bygewoon. Aanstaande week bied ek 'n oorsig van die vernaamste sake wat daar bespreek is.

Mayor's Parlour.
29th May, 1959.

Collection Lists

Apparently the public generally is not aware of the fact that recently we promulgated regulations which make it compulsory for all public door to door collections to be authorised by the Council in order to protect the community against unjustified solicitations. Failure to obtain such approval may result in legal action against the organisers of collections, and although we do not intend taking steps immediately, I would like to appeal to all those organisations who propose to issue lists in future, to obtain the prescribed forms from the Town Clerk. This does not apply to the usual street collections already approved of by the Council.

Parking during Church Services

There is a growing tendency amongst persons attending church services to disregard the traffic regulations appertaining to parking. It is admitted that some relaxation of the rules could be justified on Sundays, but conditions have developed lately which cannot be tolerated, and the traffic inspectors must necessarily ensure that the streets are open and safe for the ordinary traffic. In this connection also I would appeal to the public to observe the rules as far as possible.

Grass Cutting on Sidewalks

I think we are all agreed that the methods now employed to keep the sidewalks clean, have proved to be a great success. We find, however, that considerable damage is being caused to the machines by loose stones, pebbles and rubble dumped by householders on the sidewalks. We are convinced that all householders could, with no expense and with very little effort, manage to keep the sidewalks in front of their properties clear of such unnecessary obstructions and their co-operation in this respect would certainly save the Council a lot of time and expense.

Annual Congress of Municipal Association at Port Elizabeth (11th to 15th May, 1959)

The Administrator attended this congress and I am pleased to say that, as a result of his sympathetic attitude, a marked improvement in the relations between local authorities and the Provincial Administration can be observed. A number of very important matters were discussed, amongst others the following:

Separate governing bodies for Coloured communities:

From the remarks of the Administrator it was evident that separate governing bodies for the larger Coloured communities would have to be created sooner or later. A Commission of Inquiry has already been appointed and all local authorities have been invited to submit their views. The Council decided to convene a special meeting for this purpose.

Divisional Council rating in urban areas:

The unpopularity of this levy is growing amongst urban communities, and the Association of Divisional Councils has come to realise that the present system is unsatisfactory. It must be admitted that Divisional Councils have to rely on financial assistance from outside their own areas to cater for those services which are rendered for the general public. At the congress a technical sub-committee was appointed to investigate the possibility of devising some equitable formula, but the Administrator warned that if the two associations could not come to some agreement, the Provincial Administration might be forced to find a solution which may not be popular with either party.

Allowances to Councillors:

This item had appeared on the Congress agenda regularly for very many years, and eventually it was decided to support the motion by Cape Town to the effect that it be made permissible for Councils to pay a nominal allowance, not exceeding £25 per month. It should, however, be pointed out that this is not an entirely new principle in as much as the existing legislation does permit of reimbursement to Councillors for expenses incurred by them in connection with their municipal duties.

Removal of Coloureds from Municipal Voters' Roll:

East London submitted a motion requesting Congress to oppose any attempts to remove Coloureds from the municipal voters' rolls.

The Administrator appealed to East London to withdraw the motion at this stage. He referred to the Commission of Enquiry mentioned in his opening address, and said that no steps would be taken by the Administration until the Commission had reported and that its recommendations would be duly submitted to the Municipal Association.

Executive Committee: C.P.M.A.:

I am pleased to report that the Deputy Mayor, Mr. W. C. Dempsey, was again elected to serve on the Executive Committee.

Burgemeesterskamer,
Stellenbosch.
5 Junie 1959.

Ere-Burgerskap vir Regiment Tobie Muller

Die Raad het dit goed geag om ere-burgerskap toe te ken aan die Regiment Tobie Muller, aangesien dit 'n instelling is wat uitsluitlik die dorp en distrik van Stellenbosch verteenwoordig. Die regiment het tot stand gekom aan die begin van 1954 en is vernoem na 'n welbekende persoon wat soveel gedoen het vir die bevordering van Afrikaans op alle gebiede. Na afloop van die opleidingskursus op Oudtshoorn het die regiment onlangs 'n parade in Stellenbosch gehou, en diegene wat dit gesien het, sal saamstem dat dit 'n baie indrukwekkende vertoning was. Ons vertrou dat dit 'n jaarlikse instelling sal word.

Eeufees van Plaaslike Biblioteek

Die openbare biblioteek vier vanjaar sy honderdjarige bestaan en besonderhede van die program sal ter gelegener tyd aan die publiek bekend gemaak word. Die openingsplegtigheid vind plaas by die Phillimore Ives-museum om 5 nm. op 10 deser.

Die vraag of die Stadsraad ook die Provinsiale Biblioteekskema moet aanvaar, is al telkens bespreek, en die finansiële implikasies daarvan word nou weer ondersoek. Dit wil blyk dat daar by sommige mense die indruk bestaan dat so 'n diens gratis gelewer kan word, maar die koste vir die Munisipaliteit sal ongetwyfeld op sy minste £5,000 per jaar beloop, 'n las wat die Raad nie so maklik op hierdie stadium kan aanvaar nie.

Behuisingskema vir Kleurlinge, Idasvallei

Daar word verwag dat die 64 nuwe wonings in Idasvallei binne afsienbare tyd voltooi sal wees, en ten spyte van die ernstige bedenkinge wat daar op een stadium bestaan het, het ons alle vertroue dat al die huise verkoop sal word. Die totale uitgawes sal sowat £75,000 beloop. Daar is berig ontvang van die Groepsgebiederaad dat daardie liggaam se

aanbevelings in verband met die afbakening van gebiede in Stellenbosch waarskynlik binnekort aan die Minister voorgelê sal word, en sodra finaliteit in hierdie verband bereik is, sal die Raad in staat wees om voort te gaan met die beplanning van verdere skemas.

Munisipale Kieserslys

Die jaarlikse tussentydse hersiening van die kieserslys word nou uitgevoer, en lede van die publiek word vriendelik versoek om vas te stel of hul wel geregistreer is indien hulle vir registrasie kwalifiseer. Die las is op die kieser om te registreer.

Bestryding van Vrugteplae

Die Raad is onlangs versoek om oorweging te skenk aan die moontlikheid om vrugtevlieë en dergelike plae binne die munisipale gebied te bestry. Afgesien van die finansiële implikasies van so 'n onderneming, is daar ook ander aspekte wat eers sorgvuldig ondersoek sal moet word. Die aangeleentheid is terloops ook by die onlangse munisipale kongres in Port Elizabeth bespreek, waar daarop gewys is dat dit weinig sou baat indien bestryding in beperkte areas aangepak sou word. 'n Kampanje van hierdie aard sou die beste resultate lewer indien dit gelyktydig in die hele Boland georganiseer kan word. Ons glo dat die Departement Landbou en ook die landbou-organisasies besig is om spesiale aandag hieraan te bestee.

Hersiening van Dorpsaanlegskema

Die Provinsiale Administrasie het onlangs sekere voorstelle ingedien in verband met moontlike wysigings van die konsep-dorpsaanlegskema. Hierdie voorstelle word tans deur die Raad ontleed en ons hoop om binnekort meer besonderhede daarvan aan die publiek te kan verstrek. Enige wysigings moet noodwendig 'n verandering in die bestaande gebruiksregte van 'n kleiner of groter groep persone meebring, en dit sal goed wees as diegene wat belang stel, periodiek by die kantoor van die Stadsklerk hulself op hoogte van sake wil stel.

Mayor's Parlour,
STELLENBOSCH.
12th June, 1959.

Loan Programme: £375,700

On Thursday night, 4th June, the meeting of ratepayers which had been convened to consider this programme, was attended by fifteen members of the public. I must assume that the nature of the services contemplated was common knowledge before the meeting, and that the small attendance signified acceptance by the public generally of the various items. My assumption may be incorrect, but the question does arise, and has been discussed elsewhere very frequently, whether this formality prescribed by law serves any useful purpose. In theory the object of a public meeting is to afford an opportunity to the ratepayers to express their approval or disapproval of schemes for capital expenditure, but the same object could be achieved by inviting written objections as is done in the case of municipal regulations which are to be amended. Our experience is that the latter procedure is much more effective. In any case a public meeting could always be arranged if demanded by the ratepayers. It is conceivable that in this case the small number of representatives of the ratepayers might have unreasonably refused to sanction the proposed loans, in which event considerable delays and inconvenience would have ensued. The system might have been useful and popular in the long past, but I think that a review of the procedure is necessary.

Revision of Tariffs

The main concern of ratepayers, and quite reasonably, apparently is the question whether new loan schemes will effect the existing rates and service charges. The revision of rates, however, is not always necessitated by increased loan repayments. Higher running costs may possibly have a greater effect on tariffs than redemption charges. It is also to be remembered that tariffs for water, electricity, sanitation, etc. are designed on a differential basis for the several groups of users in a community with due regard to the size of each group and the demand created by that group. The relation between the groups is constantly changing, so that it is important that a regular examination of the tariffs be carried out. Tariff designing has become a highly technical matter as a result of the complex structure of the modern urban communities, and local authorities usually have to call in expert advice when an amendment is contemplated.

In the case of water the cost of production per million gallons has increased from £42 10s. in 1950 to approximately £100 in 1959, and I fear that the charges adopted some five years ago, did not make any provision either for this steady rise or for the additional capital expenditure which was anticipated at that time. The position is made more difficult by the fact that no reliable forecast can be given of the probable rate of consumption from year to year, in view of the variable climatic conditions. The consumption jumped from 336 million gallons in 1957 to 490 millions in 1958, but we may expect a sharp decline in 1959. The average annual consumption per unit of population has hardly shown any variation since 1950, with the exception of 1958, so that the Council had to rely solely on the normal increase of consumers for additional revenue, the rate of which does not nearly correspond to the rate of increase in the production costs.

Electricity Tariffs

A number of objections to the proposed new tariffs have been received, and these will be carefully examined by the Council before the matter is referred to the Provincial Administration.

Municipal Pound

Apparently the public is not generally aware that facilities exist for the impounding of stray horses, donkeys and cattle. The pound is under the control of the Forestry Officer, but during office hours any member of the municipal staff will attend to complaints and will transmit messages to the responsible officer. We hope to be able to construct kennels for impounding stray dogs in the course of this year.

Personal Matters

Mr. J. L. Bosch, formerly registration officer in the Native affairs section, has been promoted to the rank of Manager in the post from which the previous Manager, Mr. Venter, had resigned some months ago. At the same time it was possible to reduce the European staff in this section to two units, which should result in a considerable saving in costs of administration.

The municipal architect, **Mr. H. D. R. Blok**, and his wife are still travelling overseas and according to the latest news received from them, they are enjoying the trip very much. They are expected back in Stellenbosch towards the beginning of July.

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