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MUNISIPALITEIT **MUNICIPALITY**

STELLENBOSCH

25th October, 1963.

LOAN PROPOSALS

The official notices required by the Municipal Ordinance in connection with loan proposals are about to be published in the press in connection with the need to raise a loan of R1,060,000 for various municipal purposes which will be set out in detail in the notices. They mainly concern the development of Union Park Township, improvements to Bird Street, the overhead bridge scheme at Du Toitville, the extension of Adam Tas Street, the Ida's Valley housing scheme (Extension No. 3) and various other extensions and improvements. These schemes are signs of the rapid growth of the town which is also reflected in the building statistics mentioned in my review of 18th October, 1963.

The meeting of voters which will consider the proposed loan will be held in the Banqueting Hall, Town Hall, Stellenbosch on Tuesday, 26th November, 1963, at 8.00 p.m.

The Council has furthermore decided to test public opinion, at the same meeting, in regard to the question of heights of buildings to be allowed in Stellenbosch in future. It is known that the Council has considered a proposal for permission to exceed the present maximum height of 5 storeys which the town planning scheme allows and to erect a building of 10 storeys high. The Provincial Adiministration had no objection in principle but has asked the Council to put the matter to the voters so that full discussion can take place before a vital change in the conditions of the town planning scheme is made. In a previous review I promised to place this matter before the ratepayers before a final decision is taken, and this will be done at the meeting of 26th November.

THE PROVINCIAL LIBRARY SERVICE

The possibility of joining this service has been considered since 1956 and a comprehensive report on the implications,

the advantages and commitments has once more been tabled. The problem is indeed an involved one and will receive further consideration.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT FOR THE COLOURED GROUP AREA

The Sub-committee appointed by the Council in connection with this matter which was mentioned in my review of 18th October, has met and has now recommended that the proposed Board should commence to function as from 1st April, 1964. The Sub-committee feels that a public meeting should be held at a suitable time so that the implications of the proposed scheme can be discussed with and explained to the Coloured community.

NIGHT MANOEUVRES ON MUNICIPAL LAND

The Council has granted approval to the Stellenbosch Commando to use the rifle range for manoeuvres during the night of 26th October, 1963. Residents will accordingly know not to be alarmed should they hear shots being fired in that vicinity.

THE ESTIMATES FOR 1964

The Chairman of Finance has, with the assistance of the Town Treasurer, been busy these last few weeks prepairing statements of the estimated income and expenditure for the coming year. These will be laid before Council at a special meeting to be held on 12th November, 1963.

At this stage it is obvious that expenditure has been rising at a rate which is rather alarming and in most cases outstripping the increase in revenue. In order to meet the shortfall which is anticipated, some adjustments in our service charges seem inevitable.

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1 November 1963.

DIE EEUFEES VAN DIE MOEDERKERK

Vir ons Moedergemeente van die N.G. Kerk is hierdie 'n gedenkwaardige week waar die honderdjarige bestaan van die kerkgebou in sy huidige vorm herdenk word. Die geleentheid word dan ook op plegtige en feestelike wyse gevier.

Namens die Stadsraad wil ek graag ons hartlike gelukwense aan die Kerkraad en die gemeente oorbring. Ons bede is dat hierdie belangrike gemeente van die N.G. Kerk, soos in sy luisterryke verlede, ook in die toekoms ryklik geseën mag wees.

ONS STELSEL VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING ONDER DIE SOEKLIG

Die Vrystaatse Provinsiale Administrasie het so pas die aanstelling van 'n Kommissie aangekondig om ondersoek in te stel na sekere aspekte van die stelsel van plaaslike regering in daardie provinsie. Dit volg kort op die hakke van die benoeming van mnr. W. J. B. Slater, as 'n eenman-kommissie om 'n min of meer soortgelyke opdrag ten opsigte van Kaapstad uit te voer. Intussen het Transvaal reeds die stelsel van munisipale bestuur soos ons dit hier ken, oorboord gegooi en die Bestuurskomitee-stelsel aanvaar, waaronder belangrike magte in die hande van 'n komitee van die Raad gestel en die vernaamste besluite ook deur die klein liggaam geneem word. Behalwe dat alle raadslede vergoeding ontvang in daardie provinsie, is daar ook ruim addisionele besoldiging vir die lede van die Bestuurskomitee. Onlangs het Suidwes-Afrika ook die Transvaalse stelsel aanvaar.

Dit lyk voorwaar of daar in al die provinsies hard gedink word aan maniere waarop ons huidige munisipale stelsel verbeter en meer doeltreffend gemaak kan word. Ons in Kaapland het nog geloof in die ou stelsel wat die toets van die tyd deurstaan het en hierdie provinsie uitmuntend gedien het. Tog moet ons ook nie blind wees vir enige tekortkominge wat met verloop van tyd dalk na vore gekom het en waaraan ons aandag sal moet skenk indien ons nie die hele stelsel wil prysgee nie. Dit sal voorwaar interessant wees om mettertyd die verslag van die Slaterkommissie te ontvang en sy planne vir Kaapstad te verneem.

AANSTELLING VAN 'N TUISVERPLEEGSTER VIR STELLENBOSCH

'n Tyd gelede is dit onder die aandag van die Raad gebring dat daar 'n groot behoefte bestaan aan 'n diens wat siekes, wat vir een of ander rede nie in 'n hospitaal verpleeg kan word nie, tuis te versorg. 'n Komitee bestaande uit verteenwoordigers van verskillende liggame onder die voorsitterskap van mev. A. Blok, het die bal aan die rol

gesit en daarna die Raad om sy samewerking gevra. Die posisie is tans dat die Departement van Gesondheid genader is om die aanstelling van so 'n tuisverpleegster goed te keur, waarna die saak dan verder gevoer sal word.

DIE MEULWIEL

Die uiteindelike bestemming van die ou yster meulwiel wat tans nog eensaam en verlate op die ou Meulterrein staan, is nog nie finaal bepaal nie maar die Stadsraad het in elk geval intussen besluit dat hy nie verder in die ou wiel belang stel nie. Indien 'n meulwiel later in dieselfde omgewing opgerig sou word, sal die Raad liewers voorkeur gee aan 'n kleiner een wat in alle opsigte meer doelmatig sal wees. Intussen het ons van dr. Craven verneem dat Wilgenhof in die ou wiel belang stel en dit is nie onmoontlik dat hy nog daar 'n tuiste sal vind nie.

AKOESTIEK VAN DIE STADSAAL

Daar sal volgende week met die werk begin word om die akoestiek van die Banketsaal te verbeter. Intussen het 'n komitee onder voorsitterskap van rdsl. Pikkie Blommaert oorleg gepleeg met mnr. Klop, 'n Kaapse deskundige, in verband met die akoestiek van die Stadsaal. Dit wil voorkom asof daar teen betreklik geringe koste aansienlike verbetering in die huidige toestand aangebring kan word. Origens het mnr. Klop ook bevind dat ons luidsprekerstelsel nie sodanig ingestel is dat die klank eweredig oor die hele saal versprei word nie. Dit sal ook eersdaags reggestel word.

BESTRYDING VAN VLIEËPLAAG

Ek het reeds tevore hierna verwys en terselfdertyd die noodsaaklikheid beklemtoon dat ons alles moet doen om hierdie ernstige probleem te bekamp. Op 'n wenk van rdsl. Eksteen gaan ons Gesondheidsafdeling 'n spesiale veldtog van stapel stuur om die vlieëplaag te bekamp. Ons sal mettertyd meer hieroor meedeel. Intussen maak ons staat op die hartlike samewerking van almal in hierdie verband.

DIE UITVOERENDE KOMITEE VAN DIE KAAPLANDSE MUNISIPALE VERENIGING

Hierdie liggaam wat bestaan uit raadslede uit alle dele van die Kaapprovinsie, hou op 7 en 8 November 'n vergadering te Oudtshoorn om 'n aantal belangrike sake te behandel. Ons hoop om later meer hieroor te sê. Die Stadsklerk en ek sal die vergadering bywoon.

8th November, 1963.

RAIN

Towards the end of October there was some conjecture as to the prospects for the water supply during the coming summer season.

An unusually hot spell had set in towards the end of October and it was realised that the rainfall for this year was below the average. The soil became rapidly drier and observers noticed that the flow even in perennial streams — the Eerste River and its tributaries near the intake — was noticeably decreasing in volume. There was no doubt that if the hot weather had persisted and the flow in the river had gone down further, the storage dam at Ida's Valley would have had to be drawn upon to supplement the town's supply.

The fine rains have brought considerable relief, the river came down in strong flow, the storage dam is full, the gardens, both those blessed with irrigation water and those relying on water from the mains, look fine.

The rainfall is measured at the prison and Mr. Odendaal, who is in charge of this work, states that from the beginning of the year to the end of September we have had 22.07 inches of rain. During October we had only .71 inches, but during the first days of November 2.37 inches, bringing the total up to 25.15 inches, still well below the 35 to 40 inches we would like to get.

EXTENSIONS TO SEWERAGE SCHEME

Mr. J. D. Manning, the General Manager of Messrs. Rhodes Fruit Farms, has given the Council permission to lay a main sewer over the Vredenburg Farm, just to the west of the houses known as "Rhodes Cottages". This route ensures a better flow than one along the present road to Somerset West.

The new sewer, work on which is to start right-away, will solve drainage difficulties for the area to the west of Krigeville and a considerable part of Dalsig, which can now develop fully — the water supply problem having been solved previously.

I greatly appreciate Mr. Manning's co-operation in this matter.

TREE-PLANTING

Approximately 250,000 pinus radiata trees have been planted in the Louwshoogte-Jamestown-Lynedoch areas on lands not considered suitable for intensive farming.

Some tree-planting was also done in the town.

For this undertaking the recent rains are of greatest benefit.

THE TOWN HALL KITCHEN

Last week I referred to the acoustics of the Town Hall. In the meantime improvements to the kitchen have been discussed with housewives and Societies that are interested. A list of improvements at an estimated cost of R2,000 has been submitted for consideration in connection with the estimates on 12th November.

LEASING OF LAND AT IDA'S VALLEY BY EUROPEANS

The Council's original idea that Europeans should be allowed to buy land at Ida's Valley for housing of their coloured employees was not approved on the grounds that European ownership in a coloured group area was contrary to the spirit of the Group Areas Act.

The Province has now agreed as a practical measure to allow long leases of land to Europeans on which they could erect houses which might ultimately be transferred to members of the Coloured group. A further suggestion is to the effect that European employers might help their Coloured employees to build houses for themselves.

I would be very glad if employers who are interested would arrange to discuss the possibilities at the Municipal Offices.

THE TOWN HALL ON NEW YEAR'S EVE

Thus far the Town Hall has not been let for New Year's Eve and the Council invites application.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO

The agendas and minutes of 100 years ago arouse envy because of their brevity. Meetings were few and far between — sometimes held to discuss a single item.

Towards the end of 1863 the Council called for applications for a municipal post which combined the duties of Pound Master, Market Master and Superintendent of Water Works at a salary of £70 per year. There were 13 applicants, two of whom offered to work for £60 a year, but this offer the Council turned down by a majority vote. The successful applicant was required to furnish security to the amount of £50.

15 November 1963.

PERSONALIA

Dit het verlede week bekend geword dat raadslid Louis Myburgh met verhoging na die Transvaal verplaas word en dus in die nabye toekoms uit die Raad sal moet bedank. Raadslid Myburgh het hom met groot ywer en belangstelling in raadsake verdiep en ons sal met leedwese mettertyd van hom afskeid neem. Op 'n vorige vergadering van die Raad is hy aangewys as afgevaardigde na die volgende Munisipale Kongres. Nou sal raadslede Anna Eksteen en George Osler my in April 1964 na Port Elizabeth vergesel.

Intussen het ons vorige burgemeester, mnr. Schalk Liebenberg, so stil-stil uit Stellenbosch getrek en hom in die Strand gevestig. Hoewel hy nog sy sakebelange hier behou, beteken dit tog dat ons hom minder dikwels hier onder ons sal hê. Ons wens hom en mev. Liebenberg 'n aangename verblyf in hul nuwe tuiste toe. Hierteenoor is ons bly om te kan meld dat oud-raadslid Stoffel Smit van plan is om hom weer in die dorp te vestig.

VERGADERING VAN BELASTINGBETALERS

Graag herinner ek die publiek daaraan dat 'n vergadering van belastingbetalers vir 26 November belê is om 'n aantal leningsvoorstelle te oorweeg. Die Raad het besluit om by dieselfde geleentheid die kwessie van die hoogte van geboue ter sprake te bring en die openbare mening daaroor te pols. Ook ander dorpsaangeleenthede kan, mits die tyd dit toelaat, geopper word en ek het reeds verneem dat daar moontlik vrae oor 'n swembad gestel sal word. Ek wil vertrou dat ons munisipale kiesers die vergadering in groot getalle sal bywoon.

ONS BEGROTING VIR 1964

Op 'n spesiale vergadering van die Raad wat verlede Dinsdag, 12 November, gehou is, is ons begroting van verwagte inkomste en uitgawe vir 1964 oorweeg en bekragtig. Die totale begrote uitgawe op Algemene Rekening is R803,804 en op Elektrisiteitsrekening R547,414. Tesame bedra dit R1,351,218 wat nogal 'n indrukwekkende syfer in 'n dorp soos ons syne is. Enkele weke gelede het ek reeds verwys na ons stygende uitgawes en toe gewaarsku dat van ons diensgelde moontlik in hersiening geneem sal moet word. Op die genoemde vergadering het dit geblyk dat die prentjie nie so donker was as wat sommige van ons dit voorgestel het nie. Tog was dit vir prof. J. C. de Wet, die voorsitter van Finansies, nodig om die

rioleringstarief met 33⅓% te verhoog om sodoende hierdie diens op 'n ekonomiese grondslag te plaas. Daar word vir 'n verwagte tekort van sowat R69,000 begroot, wat uit ons opgehoopte reserwefonds verhaal sal word. Die voorsitter van Finansies het geen voorneme om die eiendomsbelasting te verhoog nie.

Die moeilike finansiële posisie wat ons tans ondervind is, met inagneming van die groot kapitaalwerke wat onlangs uitgevoer is, nie onverwags nie. Ons kan egter verwag dat die posisie binne 'n paar jaar sal verbeter, namate die aanvraag na die verskillende dienste, etlike waarvan onlangs uitgebrei en gemoderniseer is, toeneem.

Prof. J. C. de Wet is nou reeds vir etlike jare in beheer van die finansies van ons dorp en die bekwame wyse waarop hy ons geldsake hanteer het op die genoemde vergadering weer groot waardering uitgelok.

W. C. DEMPSEY.

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