

1978
July 13

DR. PAUL WATSON
P.O. 4. CLARA
IOWA PARK, TEXAS

Tax exemption increased for elderly

City aldermen indicate problems exist in police department

The Iowa Park city council Monday approved increasing the exemption from ad valorem taxes for elderly homeowners and now appear headed toward solving problems in the police

department where the situation is termed by one alderman as being in "shambles."

On a split vote of 3-1, council members approved an ordinance

raising the ad valorem tax exemption from \$3,000 to \$4,000 for homeowners 65 years of age or older.

"The first four thousand dollars of the assessed taxable value of the residence homestead of persons sixty-five years of age or older on January 1st of the taxable year shall be exempt from ad valorem taxes," states the ordinance, which will become effective with the 1978 tax year.

Aldermen Johnny Lee, C.A. Hicks and Eldon Thompson voted for the ordinance and Bud Adams against it. Alderman Lita Watson did not vote, as she was chairing the meeting in absence of Mayor Johnny Crawford.

The action drew praise from former mayor Arch Hughes, who said he was spokesman for those in the audience who qualified for the exemption. It was the third consecutive meeting of the council where most of the chairs were occupied by elderly taxpayers.

POLICE PROBLEMS

Discussions about police department problems came up at various times during the meeting, and finally Alderman Thompson asked that the subject be put on the July 24 meeting agenda.

Thompson said he had considerable material at his home he wanted to

present, and offer some changes in the department's operation.

Alderman Hicks said he had received numerous complaints, including some from officers, stated there was no harmony in the department and that it was in "shambles."

Hicks suggested that the police chief be solely responsible for all hiring and firing of personnel in his department, offering that is the cause of problems there. He said the same should also be true in the water and sewer department.

Alderman Watson pointed out that the council is required by state statute to serve as final say on police officer hiring and firing, but in each case the council has acted on the recommendations of the police chief, through the city administrator.

Hicks stated Chief Jim Voyles had no authority. Thompson said he had heard from the chief and officers, also, that the chief doesn't have authority. "I don't know if the chief doesn't know his authority," said Thompson.

City Administrator Gene Britton said he did not disagree with Hicks, on his proposal to not involve the council in hiring and firing. "I'd be delighted to turn all hiring over to

department heads," he said.

But Britton suggested caution in the firing process. There needs to be some check point in firing "because it could turn out to be extremely expensive to the city" should a former employee have just cause to bring legal action against the city following dismissal.

OTHER BUSINESS

The council approved three employee policy changes, including setting a six week period a job would be held open for employees on sick leave; abolishing compensation time for work overtime; and establishing a 15-cent an hour bonus incentive for workers who receive water and sewer licenses through training courses.

Two park board members whose terms are expiring, Delbert Todd and Jimmy Alsup, were re-named to the board. Also re-appointed to the traffic safety council were Harold Cowley, Swan Reeves Jr. and Gerald Walsh.

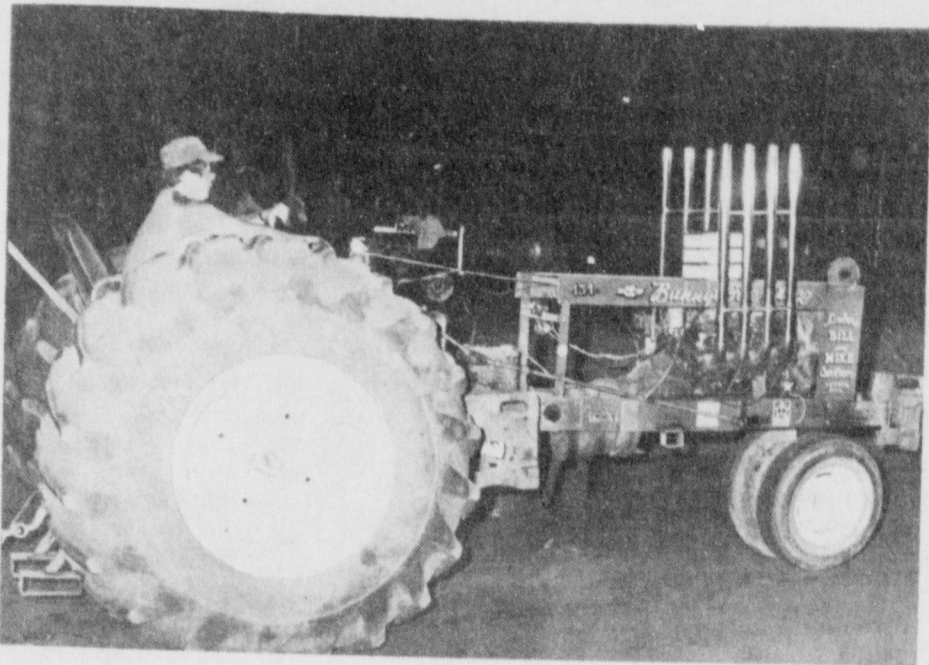
The council accepted the resignation of a police officer who was hired

last month, and approved hiring of a new officer, Emmett Mayfield.

Bad debts of \$1,750, for persons leaving unpaid water and sewer bills, were approved to be marked off. Britton said the city continues to attempt to collect the bills, pointing out \$300 of the \$1,400 marked off last year has been collected. He also said this year's bad debts amounted to only one-third of one percent of the total bills.

The city administrator reported the manufacturers of the metal trash containers have agreed to furnish containers which can be used until small containers ordered could be produced. They should arrive next week, Britton said.

Britton also reported on power difficulties experienced at the water treatment plant earlier in the day, which could have created a "critical situation" for the city had a major fire broken out. The problem was quickly solved by Texas Electric Service workers, he said.



TRACTOR PULL NEARING - The third annual Tractor Pull sponsored by the Wichita County Young Farmers will be held July 21-22 at the Wichita County Mounted Patrol Arena on FM 369, starting at 7:30 each evening. Competitors from a three-state area, as well as local farmers, will be vying for \$6,000 in prize money and trophies.



LEADER

IOWA PARK

THURSDAY, JULY 13, 1978

VOL. IX NO. 45 IOWA PARK, WICHITA COUNTY, TEXAS 76367

20 CENTS

Common sense in watering is requested

Calling for continued "common sense conservation" of water, Mayor Johnny Crawford said renovations to Iowa Park's municipal water treatment plant should be complete in about 10 days.

When the city's water plant is put back into operation, around July 24, Iowa Park will be able to supplement water supplied by Wichita Falls.

But for now Crawford hopes Iowa Park residents can hold water consumption to the one million gallons being piped here daily from Wichita Falls.

Crawford said the request issued several weeks ago for residents to voluntarily conserve water consumption has shown cooperation from most users.

He said there's no need for residents to allow grass, trees and shrubs to dry up and die but asks residents to "don't overdo it" when watering or washing cars.

A sudden increase in consumption might bump Iowa Park over the one million gallons supplied each day by Wichita Falls.

And right now -- with the municipal water plant out of commission while repairs are being made -- Iowa Park is totally dependent on Wichita Falls as a water source supply.

Even after the city water plant is put back into operation, residents should continue to conserve, Crawford said, explaining the municipal lakes are becoming low.

He said most persons should be able to cut consumption by a third. "I think all of us can," he said.



RELIEF FROM HEAT - Suffering like everyone else during these consistent 100-plus days, young David Radke finds refuge from the heat in the form of a kiddie swimming pool and a yard sprinkler. He is the son of Rev. and Mrs. B.J. Radke of 101 Hope Lane.

Merchants making plans for Crazy Day

Some crazy things are going to be happening in Iowa Park the last Saturday of this month.

Iowa Park Merchants Association has scheduled July 29 as Crazy Day retail promotion. But there will be a lot of things going on besides bargain prices.

At a meeting of the merchants Monday, a number of activities were outlined for the day, much on the

same format as last year. They plan to have a costume contest for store representatives, throw money to crowds in the street, throw paper plates with valuable redemption certificates and a few other activities, such as possibly an Indian dance.

Merchants were highly pleased with the turnout of people last year and agreed the promotion should be repeated.

One of the highlights of the day is the outrageous garb merchants and sales personnel wear. Shoppers go from door to door to see who is wearing what, it was reported.

Activities on Crazy Day are slated to begin at 10 a.m., and continue every 30 minutes throughout the business district until noon. But the crazy costumes and bargain prices will be going on all day.



LOCAL HIKERS - Members of Iowa Park Scout Troop 38 and two advisors pose for photo before starting on their recent 85-mile, two-week trail hike at Philmont Scout Ranch near Cimarron, N. Mex. They are, back from left, Frank Johnson, Marvin "Bodie" Brandt, Thomas Johnson

Jr., Richard Keith Taylor and James Cowley; front from left, Thomas Johnson Sr., Scoutmaster and Advisor, Pat Pence, Ranger, Harold Cowley, treasurer and co-advisor, and Richard "Dickie" Ashton, crew chief.

85-MILE WALK

Local Scout group hikes in New Mexico

By Thomas Johnson Jr.

Six Scouts and two advisors from Iowa Park's Troop 38, Boy Scouts of America, made up Expedition 618H for a two-week trek recently on the trails of high adventure in the mountains around Cimarron, New Mexico, on the Philmont Scout Ranch.

Each boy of this expedition is an Eagle Scout and earned the Arrowhead Patch, the "We All Made It," and the Fifty-Miler Award. Their itinerary was scheduled for 65 miles but due to extra endurance of the entire group, the trails were something over 85 miles including the side hikes.

Camps were made at the following locations in Philmont: Aspen Springs, Visto Granda, Head of Dean,

Miranda, Ute Park, Copper Park, Pueblo Ruines, Ponil (hot showers and cantina here), Old Camp and Indian Writings.

The programs provided an unforgettable adventure in sky high backpacking country featuring gold panning, living history, wilderness survival, conservation, rock mountain climbing and mountain search and rescue. This is an unbeatable recipe for fast moving fun and he-man outdooring.

Fellowship within our own unit as well as meeting and sharing experiences with other Scouts and leaders from all over America and other countries is unequalled anywhere in America.

Philmont comprises 137,493 acres of rugged wilderness in the Sangre de

Cristo range of the Rockies with the largest mountain peak (Mount Baldy) 12,441 feet in elevation. Philmont has a unique history of ancient Indians, Spanish conquistadors and rugged mountain men like Kit Carson, land barons like Lucien Maxwell and gold miners seeking their fortune.

It is abundant with wildlife, bears, deer, elk, coyote, antelope, mountain lions, buffalo, beaver and wild turkey. Streams abound with fish. Its cool mountains harbor a wilderness of botany-trees, shrubs, flowers and grasses. It is rich in natural beauty including the soaring Tooth of Time, the sunrise from lofty mountains, and the blue water of Cimarroncito Reservoir.

There was a panaramic view of the valleys and plains from atop the mountain ridges with sunlight filtering through aspens along the way, old gold mines to view and past history of Baldy Town that once thrived with over 6,000 population and now only a history in a small museum and relics along the trail to Baldy.

Philmont is like a magic spell that captivates all of those who have had the pleasure and most will find and feel a necessity to return. It is difficult to appreciate the feeling of accomplishment without having had the experience and yet it turns young boys into young men and men into better men just for having been there.