

CITY OWNERSHIP OF DIKES HERE IS AGAIN DEBATED

New arguments for city ownership of all dikes within Mount Vernon, in the event the dike commissioners do not order them repaired sufficiently to prevent a disastrous flood here, were heard at last night's meeting of the city council. Thomas K. Chambers declared he was certain the dike commissioners would cooperate with the city, but if they don't, he said he was inclined to support the attitude of Mayor C. W. Vaux, that it might be best for the city to take over the dikes and maintain them.

Fire Chief Schlanser reported that the dike district is already making repairs at strategic points in this city. They are working on the spots that threatened to give way during the recent high water, he said. Chambers declared that he did not wish to minimize the work that is being done, but he maintained that considerable work is necessary, aside from general repairs.

The discussion arose after passage of an emergency ordinance whereby the city will furnish \$2,313.39 on a WERA project for work on the dikes now owned by the city. The city owns and maintains the dike between Montgomery and Myrtle streets, two blocks. The dike committee was given authority to make contracts and hire a foreman when the project gets under way, which is expected to be in the near future. The committee was also asked to continue negotiations with dike commissioners to determine if general improvement of the remainder of the dike system cannot be brought about under a WERA project.

Emanuel Alm told the council the city should have an ordinance covering drunken driving so that the city can profit by the fine money derived from convictions. At present, city law covers only drunkenness and disorderly conduct, and those arrested for drunken driving are turned over to state patrolmen and the state gets the fines. Police Chief Cranston thought the law should also cover those driving without licenses, etc. Alm's committee was instructed to have an ordinance drawn covering the points suggested and offer it for passage at the next meeting, March 13.

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Jim Powell, the city's dog catcher, told the fathers he'd have to have police power if he takes the job this year. "When you are out collecting dog taxes you run into some arguments, and I want some authority so a fellow can't ride all over me without me riding with him," Powell explained, and those in the council chamber roared. Powell also wanted his pay straightened out. Last year he received over \$90 for collecting \$276. He was paid at the rate of \$3.00 a day. He said he'd take the job on a 50 per cent basis and the council authorized the license committee to enter a contract with him after all differences have been ironed out.

Henry Stark wrote post cards to the mayor and several councilmen asking them: "Why did the council let the garbage contract to a single man?" Someone else said the garbage man resides outside the city. Another piped up that the new night policeman, Tip Conn, also lives outside the city.

It was declared a resolution provides that anyone working for the city must reside inside the corporate limits, but Clerk Frank Hunt said the resolution sets forth that "anyone hired" by the city must reside here. This would not affect the garbage hauler because he is on contract, several argued. Stark's question went unanswered.