

Friday, August 17, 1973

# City Hall Site Will Be Named

The City Council has scheduled a special meeting Monday at 4 p.m. to make an announcement concerning the proposed site for the new city hall.

The council met in executive session Tuesday after the regular session to discuss the site, according to City Manager Jim McAlister.

The council also passed an ordinance Tuesday regulating property owners who allow silt and sand to drain onto city streets. The ordinance was passed unanimously after a second reading.

The ordinance requires a hearing within three days after the problem has come to the notice of the Chief of Police. If the property owner refused to clean up the street, he may be fined up to \$200 per day of violation.

In other action, the council appointed W.E. "Brick" Lowry and Rev. Carroll Pickett to the Library Board. Lowry is a math professor at Sam Houston State University and Pickett is pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Huntsville.

The council also praised Lonnie Scasta of the Goodyear store for donating a used tire changer to the city.

The council passed a resolution authorizing the City Secretary to appoint an Assistant City Secretary who

will be authorized to carry out the duties of the City Secretary in his absence or under his direction.

City Manager Jim McAlister also reported to the council bids the city had received on the maintenance of office equipment. The council voted to accept the low bid of \$500 from Office World.

Wednesday, August 22, 1973

# New City Hall On 13th Street

A site for the proposed new Huntsville City Hall has been selected.

The City Council announced in a special meeting Monday afternoon that the new building will be located on the north side of 13th Street between Avenue M and N.

Negotiations on all the tracts in the three-acre site are well advanced and the city has selected the site. The funds for part of the site will come from the money received from the sale of city acreage at I-45 and Highway 75 North. The building is scheduled to be built from revenue sharing funds.

The city will purchase 81,069 square feet of the land from W. S. Gibbs and the W. S. Gibbs Trust at \$1 per square foot. The city does not have to make any down payment and will pay for that part of the site in equal installments over the next 10 years at six per cent interest. City Attorney Martin Colley said that he felt that this was "an excellent transaction for the city."

The site on 13th Street was chosen over several others because of its

proximity to the downtown area. The location is also close to the Courthouse and the Police, Fire Station and Library Complex, which are on Avenue M.

The council determined that a new building was needed after a recent study was conducted by Peal, Marwick and Mitchell in Housatonic, an existing and deteriorating firm.

Presently, the municipal departments are operating from the old fire station built in 1929 and the old City Hall building on the south side of the square.

Other departments are located on Avenue F and at the Water Plant on Palm Street. These separated locations and the rapid growth of the city necessitate the need for a central building housing all business and administrative functions. The result will be better planning and coordination of city services, according to a statement read by Mayor Morris Waller.

City Manager Jim McAllister said, "To offer increased efficiency and improve the service to the people, a

central building housing all operations is a must. I believe it will be a building all Huntsville can be proud of because it's their building." People often get upset when they go to one building and are told they have to go somewhere else, McAllister added. He said that the city will have a "more effective and functional operation when we can get in

one building."

Mayor Waller told the council that the city hopes to have the new City Hall completed within two years.

Councilman John Amick said that the city should consider using the land as a temporary park until construction begins on the building, and the council voted to study that possibility.