

Court Proposals Tabled; *A, Wed April 9, 1975* Park Referendum Eyed

By THOMAS JORDAN

Final consideration of four proposed ordinances designed to improve the City Court system was postponed for a week yesterday by the City Council.

Councilman Robert James asked that final reading of the proposals be postponed until Tuesday. He said George Supensky, city director of budget and finance, wanted to meet with city judges and the council's police committee.

James said Supensky objected to some provisions in the measures. Supensky was out of town yesterday.

Chairman Bob Love said Administrative City Court Judge John Getz also had requested that the council delay final consideration of the proposed ordinances.

Coordinators of the plans to improve the court system Friday asked that prior proposals be scrapped in favor of a major restructuring.

The plan the coordinators recommended calls for the creation of a new division of city government under the City Court clerk. The clerk would be elected.

The proposal also calls for all administrative duties to be taken from the city judges so they "can be free of these duties which only impede their foremost responsibility and acknowledged expertise, prudently rendering justice."

Jack Wallace, deputy police chief for administration, and Steve Cohen, assistant police legal adviser, were appointed coordinators by a special

committee of councilmen, judges and city officials.

The council's police committee has been working with the judges to improve the court system.

The proposed ordinances would place the Traffic Violations Bureau under the direction of either Supensky, the administrative judge or the court clerk. The court clerk would be under the jurisdiction of the administrative judge.

Love announced at the council's executive session that he will introduce a proposed ordinance next week calling for a referendum to determine if the public supports the Overton Park expressway, which has been blocked by environmentalists.

The referendum would be held on Oct. 9, the date of the city elections, Love said. The results of the referendum would be sent to Transportation Secretary William Coleman.

Coleman, who indicated March 17 he would have a decision in the expressway case by April 1, said Monday he needs a few more days.

If Coleman makes a decision before Oct. 9, the referendum will not be necessary, Love said.

Councilman Jack McNeil said he doubted if the courts would ever permit the expressway to go through the park.

Councilman Billy Hyman said, however, he thinks 95 per cent of the residents of Memphis want the highway constructed through the "heart" of the park.

James said he opposed extending the

highway through the park because of the estimated cost.

The expense of a cut-and-cover design has been estimated at more than \$178 million, and the cost of a bored tunnel would be \$775 million.

On another matter, Councilman J.O. Patterson Jr. withdrew his proposed ordinance to eliminate the council's executive sessions. He said he will introduce the proposal Tuesday.

In other business, the council:

- Passed on final reading an ordinance defining switchblade knives and nunchakus, or fighting sticks, as prohibited weapons.

- Authorized closing Alva, Lagrue and Lima between Swinnea Road and Groveland. No residences are on the streets, which will be used by the Memphis-Shelby County Safety Council as an emergency driver training range.