

3-12-68

City Sticks To X-Way Alternate

Despite a warning from Washington, the City Council today retained its position in opposition to the east-west expressway going through Overton Park.

Jerred Blanchard, councilman, introduced a proposal to rescind the one which was adopted last week opposing the route. The Blanchard substitute still would have said Council "prefers" the expressway be routed along the north perimeter of the park instead of through it, provided that such a change would not unreasonably increase the cost or unreasonably delay its completion.

Blanchard had trouble getting a second, and Phil Perel finally said he would second it if Blanchard would change his resolution from "rescind" to "amend" last week's resolution.

LOST

However Blanchard and Perel were the only two who said they would vote for it; so it lost.

The council delayed for a week an ordinance to accept the right of way agreement with the state of Tennessee covering the purchase of property for the expressway between Claybrook and McLean. The council took the position that it would wait and see what Lowell K. Bridwell, federal highway administrator, would recommend on the expressway routing through Overton Park.

MAXSON

Tom Maxson, city engineer, said 176 out of 188 parcels for the expressway have already been purchased between Claybrook and Collins, some on each side of Overton Park.

The admonition from Washington came from federal highway officials who warned the City Council that the Council had better be specific in calling for an "alternate" route for Interstate 40 other than that through Overton Park.

"If the Council is going to express an opinion on the I-40 matter," said a spokesman for Bridwell, "it should

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