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Council Approves Buying X-Way Land Up to Park

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By CLARK PORTEOUS
Press-Scimitar Staff Writer

Although City Council is on record opposing the East-West Expressway route through Overton Park, today it took a new step toward thrusting the thoroughfare squarely through the park.

Today's action was an agreement in executive session to pass on first reading an ordinance accepting the right-of-way agreement with the state covering acquisition of property for the expressway from Claybrook to McLean.

UP TO PARK

This brings the expressway on both sides right up to the park, and negotiations to purchase the park property itself will be next in line.

The Overton route got renewed support today from the Memphis Chapter of the Society of Professional Engineers which wrote Council reaffirming its stand.

The letter said the routing has been studied, restudied, analyzed and re-analyzed too much already. Moreover, said the letter, if the route were moved to the north as has been suggested, "more trees would be taken, the route is longer and would cost more, as well as taking more park acreage."

Council also decided to enforce compulsory retirement at 70 for department heads and instructed Downing Pryor, chairman, to write Mayor Loeb that this will be done beginning July 1. The matter came up in the case of James H. Moore, superintendent of flood control, who is past 70 and a resolution was on the agenda to continue his employment for a year.

Councilman Billy Hyman questioned approval of a

resolution to spend \$170,000 from the city's \$30 million bond issue on improving Harrison Creek. Bob James said the decision had been made by the previous administration. City Engineer Tom Maxson said the reason the creek will be concreted on bottom, and sides

put on each side between Jackson and Chelsea, is that three children were killed when a cave in a bank caved in just north of Chelsea. He said that last summer the city had to knock down 12 caves started in this bank.

Council ruled work should proceed.

(Is this true?)

Memphis - Xway TAC Again Endorses Park X-Way Route

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The Traffic Advisory Commission today was on record again as favoring the east-west expressway going through Overton Park.

On motion of Dave Ballon, former chairman, TAC passed a resolution directed to the City Council repeating a stand it has taken previously, favoring Overton Park route. Ballon said property has been acquired and a route change at this late date would inconvenience many persons.

Robert Fosnaugh, traffic engineer, said a light will be put at Sharpe and Prescott, just north of the Lamar interchange. He said it is a major crossing for Sharpe School, near the old Cherokee golf course. He said a flicker light operating during school hours will be placed at Hollywood and Heard.

OTHER SIGNALS

Fosnaugh said signals also are planned for I-240 and Perkins and I-240 and Mt. Moriah. He said the light at Chelsea and Watkins needs to be changed because of traffic in and out of Dixie-mart.

Fosnaugh said Memphis spends 70 cents per capita per year on traffic engineer-

ing compared to \$2.28 in Los Angeles, \$3.24 in Fort Worth, \$1.87 in Tallahassee, \$2.37 in Greensboro, \$1.61 in Pensacola, \$2.53 in Seattle-Tacoma, \$5.82 in Washington and 82 cents in Philadelphia. New Orleans, at 64 cents, spends less than Memphis.

REQUEST

At the Bruce plant on Thomas, Fosnaugh said he has asked that the light be regulated automatically instead of being changed by a plant guard in a tower. He said left-turn lanes will be painted for southbound traffic at Bruce and HumKo plants.

TAC plans to recommend again that white-on-green street signs be used in new subdivisions to replace concrete posts. This has not been done. One member said "it takes a Chinese person to read the concrete signs," with the lettering up and down.

But cf early TAC report under Ragdale!

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Obviously we need a good one here!

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