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PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
CT-18

Pipe Buying Economy Urged

Pipe-Buying Economy Eyed

By JIM SQUIRES

Metro Government could save $300,000 over the next 18 months by switching from cast-iron to asbestos-cement pipe in its water system, Metro Council was told last night.

The report came from the council's new "watchdog" committee on purchasing which is now investigating the government's water pipe purchases that total more than a million dollars annually.

The economy-minded council also:

- Delayed action on a request by Mayor Beverly Briley for an additional $47,500 appropriation this fiscal year for the operation of his office until the mayor submits a list of government spending priorities.
- Adopted a Public Safety Committee report which, in effect, issued an "executive order" directing the administration to call in all government-owned automobiles now assigned for 24-hour use, re-

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assign them on a limited basis, and submit 30-day reports to the council on their use.

- Passed on second reading an ordinance establishing fees ranging from $100 to $1,000 for licenses to sell liquor by the drink.
- Deferred a hotly contested proposal to appropriate $10,000 for a feasibility study by outside consultants on the extension of Capitol Boulevard—a proposal already disapproved by the Metro Planning Commission.

Metro's pipe purchasing has been the subject of much controversy since an investigation by THE NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN disclosed earlier this year that one pipe company, James B. Clow & Sons, has won every Metro pipe contract in the last four years.

Through a hodge-podge pattern of bidding, Clow has gotten all Metro business, while its two major competitors have been equally successful in Chattanooga and Memphis and in small towns surrounding Nashville.

Councilman James LaPenna, chairman of the purchasing committee, presented a letter to the council last night from the Johns-Manville Co., an asbestos-cement pipe manufacturer, offering its product at a "savings" to the government.

Based on anticipated expenditures for cast-iron pipe in 1968, the letter said, the cost would be $277,050 for cast iron and $182,340 for asbestos-cement—a difference of $94,710.

LAPENNA SAID further projections for an 18-month period call for cast-iron pipe expenditures of $900,000. The same amount of asbestos-cement pipe, he said, would be $300,000 less.

Following the session, La Penna said he was not suggesting that Metro switch to the asbestos-cement but merely rewrite purchase specifications so that asbestos-cement manufacturers would be allowed to bid.

"If these pipe manufacturers are allowed to bid against each other," he said, "cast iron prices will be lower."

ROBERT L. LAWRENCE, Metro waterworks director, has opposed any broadening of specifications because "asbestos might win and I don't want it in my system."

The issue over the mayor's increased budget request was actually settled earlier this week when Kenneth Miller, chairman of the council budget and finance committee, asked the mayor for the spending priorities.

Briley indicated the police department ranked highest on his list but that his office could not operate effectively without the supplemental appropriation.

The council cut the mayor's $210,000 budget request by $69,000 earlier this year, granting the mayor some $40,000 less than he had last year.

THE PROPOSAL WAS deferred by voice vote last night without controversy.

Although councilmen haggled over minor issues, the only major dispute came as Councilman Robert Lillard made a strong pitch for a $10,000 appropriation for an outside study on the proposed Capitol Boulevard Extension.

Lillard termed the extension "a vital project" to the life of the downtown area and implied that the Metro Planning Commission did not keep this in mind in recommending against the project.

He urged that city planners give more weight to the recommendations of numerous downtown businessmen who favor the extension.

COUNCILMEN James L. Warren and Richard Adams joined budget and finance committee spokesmen to defeat Lillard's motion and defer action until the planning commission can defend its position before the entire council.

In a surprising and somewhat complicated move, the council also deferred action on a bill that would prevent the unnecessary use of government-owned vehicles.

Instead, it accepted a committee report which provided that the bill be "held in abeyance" for 90 days. The report also recommended that the bill be amended to provide that any employe found guilty of misuse be suspended for five days and that any department head who knowingly allows misuse be suspended for three days.

MANY COUNCIL observers indicated they believe the bill to be "punitive legislation" outside the legislative powers of the council.

Although the bill was not actually passed, the committee report directs Col. John Sullivan, head of the department of general services, to recall all automobiles except those of the mayor, police chief and fire chief.

The report says the automobiles are to be reassigned to employes designated by department heads, but that Sullivan is to submit a written report every 30 days concerning their use.

In other action, the council:

- Directed the planning commission to prepare the necessary documents to implement the expansion of Urban Services to the General Services District during the next four years.
- Heard Councilman Robert McBride warn that Central High School is in such deplorable condition that it could easily be destroyed by fire as Dupont High was Monday night.
- Passed a resolution offering its cooperation to the Metro Board of Education to assure that Dupont students resume classes with a minimum of delay.
- Authorized the issuance of $87,500 in promissory notes for the purchase of property on Fifth Avenue, North, across from the courthouse as a site for a new Metro Office Building.