

No contests this year

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Peace comes to Belmont



SCHUTZ

By DAVE SCHUTZ

When Belmont voters went to the polls four years ago this spring to elect two city councilmen they culminated one of the wildest municipal campaigns in recent history on the Peninsula.

There were five persons competing for two positions, and the only incumbent in the race was Mrs. Eve Sterry.

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Mrs. Sterry had won election to the city council four years earlier after years of attendance at council meetings in which she had become known as the "watchdog of the city treasury." Much more than that, she had campaigned for honesty in government and had waged a one-person battle for completely open deliberations. She had become a student of municipal government.

Despite her efforts to save the city money through tightening up city spending practices, she couldn't gather enough votes in 1970 to win reelection, finishing third behind Robert A. (Bob) Jones, a 33-year-old economist for the Bank of America, and William H. (Bill) Hardwick, 43-year-old architect who served as a planner at Stanford University and had been a Belmont city planning commissioner.

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Hardwick and Jones, finishing in that order well

ahead of the pack in the 1970 Belmont election, seemed to bring harmony back to a city council that had been a study in discord for most of two decades.

Even though the two have been on the council for only a single four-year term, both popular officials have been honored by being selected by their fellow councilmen to serve a year as mayor.

Thus, when the voters in Belmont go to the polls March 5 they will, for the first time in the memory of the town's oldest residents, be selecting from two unopposed council candidates: Bill Hardwick and Bob Jones.

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Much has happened in this community that now boasts some 28,000 residents. After years of encouraging apartment construction it has blown the whistle. The city has taken some steps toward providing its people with additional open space by purchasing the sanitarium property on Ralston Avenue that became available two years ago.

But the people have been reluctant to alter the rural atmosphere of the community. The battle two years ago to construct a multimillion dollar overpass at El Camino Real and Ralston was soundly defeated and undoubtedly cost former Mayor Joseph Zucca his job on the council. He had been a staunch supporter of the plan.

Interestingly, both Hardwick and Jones have supported an expanded downtown shopping area for Belmont, a concept which moved ahead slightly this past month with the widening of the parking areas west of El Camino Real at the Ralston intersection.

One of the happier persons in Belmont must be Jim DeChaine, the energetic redheaded city manager who has put together a professional staff at City Hall which seems to be running like a well-tuned engine. Whereas the city administration has been right in the middle of previous election campaigns as an issue in Belmont, this year there seems to be nothing but total agreement.

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This seems to carry over to the city clerk's office where likable James W. McLaughlin, a poetry-writing clerical worker, was first elected eight years ago on a promise to do a good, honest job and has managed to win reelection against formidable competition. McLaughlin is unopposed this year. So is City Treasurer Florence Holland, who was appointed in 1965 and has been reelected twice.

It should be satisfying to Belmont's elected officials that they seem to have the confidence of the voters at this time. Not all elected officials can make that statement.

BELMONT CITY GOVERNMENT
(PERSONNEL) CITY COUNCIL
COURIER-BULLETIN
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Belmont wage hikes get unanimous okay from city council

JUN 25 1974

By OTTO TALLENT

Belmont police and general employees under the American Federation of State, Federal and Municipal Employees Union will receive pay checks including raises of more than 9 per cent after July 1, while management employees will get a salary adjustment of more than 8 per cent.

The Belmont City Council last night unanimously passed without comment a compensation plan for the fiscal year 1974-75. The councilmen had spent considerable time in executive sessions discussing the adjustments.

The 62 employees from the police department and the A F S F M E will receive an 8.1585 per cent increase, based on the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index, plus an additional one per cent. This had been agreed to last year under a two-year memorandum of understanding.

Twenty-one management employees will receive a blanket 8.1585 per cent salary adjustment. One exception was for the assistant civil engineer, Adelaido Nepomuceno, who was given a special 5 per

cent adjustment, giving him a total increase of 13.1585 per cent.

Biggest salary increase goes to City Manager James P. DeChaine, whose annual salary under this arrangement goes from \$28,344 to \$30,420. DeChaine became Belmont's city manager in 1970 at a salary of \$20,000.

Among other management personnel raises were for City Engineer James Doerksen, from \$1,832 to \$1,982 a month; Police Chief William Singer, \$1,770 to \$1,914; Building Official Alex Hokamp, \$1,466 to \$1,586; Recreation and Parks Director Richard Perry, \$1,411 to \$1,526; Assistant City Manager-Finance Director Allen Beck, \$1,346 to \$1,440, and City Clerk James McLaughlin, \$1,260 to \$1,363.

Health insurance benefits for employe and dependent coverage are provided by the city at the rate of up to \$35 per month, with the exception of the city manager and assistant city manager, whose coverage levels will be up to \$55 per month.

Dental insurance benefits for employe coverage are provided by the city at the rate of \$5 per employe per month.

SM Times 1974

Belmont OKs Dog Fees After Debate

An increase in dog license and animal impound fees was approved by the Belmont City Council Monday night, but only after more long arguments and by only a 3-2 vote.

Belmont thus becomes one of the last cities in the county to approve the hike, requested by the Peninsula Humane Society, and that okay was accompanied by a resolution to the county Board of Supervisors asking it study new methods of raising humane society revenue.

After weeks of argument, Belmont dog owners now will pay \$7 for licenses for unaltered dogs and \$3.50 for altered canines. "Whether my dog is altered is nobody's business but mine and the dog's," Councilman Edward D. Vallrga grumped in his opposition to the ordinance.

Vallrga suggested the resolution to the supervisors propose that fines from citations to errant dog owners

issued by the humane society be given to the society instead of being earmarked for the cities from which the dogs come.

Denny Lawhern, 408 Hiller St., a dog owner, said he had found that of 4,700 redemptions by dog owners in 1973 at society shelters, there had been no citations issued. "The society doesn't get the money so they didn't write the citations," Lawhern explained.

Mayor Ferdinand J. Giuliani and Councilmen Eugene P. Sullivan and William H. Hadwick voted for the ordinance, with Councilman Robert A. Jones joining Vallrga against it.

In other business the council:

- Amended the city compensation plan to provide for pay hikes averaging 3.6 per

cent for management level employes, the "merit adjustments" effective Dec. 1:

- Approved tree pruning and removal on Ralston Avenue from South Road west to the College of Notre Dame entrance road at a cost of \$1,711;

- Authorized retaining the Wilsey and Ham engineering firm to prepare a Cipriani Park master plan and first phase specifications, at a cost of up to \$2,500;

- Okayed reductions of \$27,400 in the current budget, mostly in miscellaneous cuts, the largest is a \$3,700 elimination of a police recruit;

- Passed an ordinance renewing the business permit of the Diane Adams astrology and palmistry studio at 230 El Camino Real.