

PURCHASE - HYDROSTONE HOUSES

To His Worship the Mayor and
Members of the City Council.

The Finance and Executive Committee at a meeting held on July 30, 1959 considered a report from Dr. A. R. Morton, Acting City Manager recommending the acquisition from the Halifax Relief Commission, the properties known as 33/34 Columbus Place, 33/34 Sebastian Place, 33/34 Merkel Place and 33/34 Cabot Place, at a cost of \$70,000.00 for the purpose of carrying out street improvements at a later date.

The rents received would be in the vicinity of \$700.00 per month.

Your Committee concurs in this recommendation funds to be provided by Capital Borrowing.

Respectfully submitted,

R. H. STODDARD,
CITY CLERK.

Council,
July 30, 1959.

Alderman Greenwood: "What is the official civic reason for buying them?"

His Worship the Mayor: "The official civic reason is to buy them for the removal and clearing up of the streets. For instance, you will recall reading about one Alderman raising a question of a building in the west end of the City which could have been purchased for \$7,400.00 some years ago. Council turned it down. These houses are now in the hands of a public authority, and if we should require these properties or any portion of them to remove and widen the boulevards for traffic improvement in the future, as I can foresee, we will need it, because the boulevard houses do provide a block in so far as cars are concerned leaving east, going west on the north side of the boulevard. Secondly, the sale of these to private individuals would mean a portion of the boulevard proper would be sold off. We would have considerable control over them as long as these houses are rented out to tenants. I don't think we should remove them now because of the housing situation but if we want to remove them for traffic improvement, we will be free to do so as the owners then."

Alderman Connolly: "If the City buys these houses, will you sign leases with the individuals in the apartments?"

His Worship the Mayor: "The arrangement is this. We will take over the buildings and the Relief Commissions will undertake to remove the present tenants into other properties they own. The City will then be free to place its own tenants."

Alderman Connolly: "If the City does place tenants in, I think a new lease should be arranged between the City and the tenant."

His Worship the Mayor: "Definitely."

Alderman Connolly: "The point I want to make is this; I understand now that the people in those houses have access to about 20 feet of that boulevard, so if they want to park their cars on it, they can. They have a small amount of room in back toward Isleville Street. If the City wishes to take them over, I believe that the new lease should read just the house, no property on the boulevard at all. I would recommend that the individual only occupy the house and no part of the boulevard."

Council,
July 30, 1959.

Moved by Alderman Connolly, seconded by Alderman Lane, that the report be approved. Motion passed.

A Borrowing Resolution in the amount of \$70,000.00 was submitted.

Moved by Alderman Connolly, seconded by Alderman Wyman, that the Resolution be approved. Motion passed unanimously the following members being present and voting therefor: Aldermen DeWolf, Abbott, Dunlop, Lane, Macdonald, Fox, Ferguson, Traill, Wyman, Connolly, O'Brien and Greenwood.

HYDROSTONE HOUSES - RELIEF COMMISSION

Alderman Macdonald: "How many of the Hydrostone houses are still owned by the Relief Commission?"

His Worship the Mayor: "As I understand it, all the duplex dwellings on Gottingen Street are still owned by the Halifax Relief Commission."

Alderman Macdonald: "What percentage would that be?"

His Worship the Mayor: "There are four buildings on some streets and two on others."

City Assessor: "Twenty-nine buildings are duplexes. There are 44 units still owned by the Halifax Relief Commission."

Meeting adjourned. 9:10 P.M.