

ing I've never had such a good time in my life. She

America competition preliminary details.

City Employees Issue Bitter Protest Over Pay Increases

5-28-61

City employees, in a surprise move last night, protested the city council decision that across-the-board salary increases are not possible this year.

Issue was taken with both procedures and the ultimate council decision against general salary increases.

Stunned councilmen approved first reading of the basic 1961-62 salary ordinance set up in recent budget hearings. However, a committee will be appointed to discuss the tight fiscal picture with the civil service employees association.

"I'm really offended," said Councilman Harold Carriger.

Mayor John Daly and Councilman Paul Forgey registered similar expressions after the association protest letter was presented "point blank."

Personnel Director Mike Kilgore was instructed to brief the association on proper procedures for submitting letters in advance of council meetings.

The salary ordinance includes about \$35,000 to correct salary "inequities" for about one-fifth of the 290-man city force. Regular merit step raises for employees also are written into the ordinance.

However, the council could not come up with the additional \$87,000 to meet its original intention to grant all employees an additional 4.9 per cent raise.

The employees' protest was submitted by Dorothy Davis, civil service association secretary, in the form of a letter signed by six of the eight executive committee members.

It cites the original council-employee-civil service commission agreement that a raise is justified; employee acceptance of a subsequent recommendation that hikes be effective January 1; and final decision (without referral to the association) to eliminate a general raise.

"It is very true the council had no obligation to check further

with the employees association or their representatives; but after the early spring sessions of good will, cooperation and working together, the association and city employees in general did feel and do feel that the council has let them down."

The letter requested two actions by the council:

1. A council committee begin work at once on the general salary situation in coordination with representatives of the civil service commission, a lay body, and the employees association.

2. Review of the 1961-62 budget with regard to providing the salary increases in January.

Throughout the budget hearings, councilmen rejected the mid-year starting date for salary increases. They pointed out that this would commit them to the full increase next year.

Step or half-step raises considered by the council would have begun July 1.

Kilgore told The Sentinel this morning he had no inkling of the protest last night.

"They (the association officers) just went over everybody's heads," he said.