

Budget Hearings

'Life Of A Garbageman' Wins No Oscars, But It's Realistic

By Jack Rannells

City councilmen watched their garbagemen in action Friday and were aghast.

They decided something must be done about unnecessarily long carries, stairway climbs, messy commercial refuse areas, and the "free" pickup service.

"Just what" remained unanswered.

Hearings on the \$244,944 sanitation department budget ran smack into the agreed 11:30 p.m. cut-off hour and were set over until Monday night.

Also carried over was discussion of the proposed public works director post.

Councilmen picked up about \$11,537 in hacking at eight other budgets.

Movies depicting the hazards and harrassments of the refuse collector's work-a-day life were shown the councilmen by Loren Scofield, assistant field services director, and Floyd Wolf, sanitation foreman.

Up long driveways, up stairs, into stacks of scattered cartons and papers, and over lot-long stacks of free curb pickup materials the councilmen went on the garbageman's travelogue.

Scofield explained the department's proposal to lease-purchase 90 one-yard roll-away cans for commercial areas. These would be rented to merchants for \$5 a month. In addition to providing neater, more convenient storage, they are dumped by automatic hoist equipment for savings in time and man-hours.

Institution of this containerized commercial route is the cornerstone of an improved service program recommended by City Manager Peter Tedesco in con-

junction with a suggested 30-cent rate increase to \$1.40 per month.

Other points include combination of the "free" trash haul with weekly garbage collection purchase of an additional packer unit and a realistic depreciation schedule for replacement of equipment.

Councilmen seemed amenable to the containerization program but balked at decision on the rate increase.

Dr. Ted Foster said he feels other facets of garbage service should be altered by ordinance changes, if necessary.

These included requirements that garbage cans be placed reasonably near the street and elimination of any pickups that require garbagemen to climb stairways.

Mayor John Daly said he feels the city is going too far in its "free" curb service. He labelled it a "luxury."

Dr. Daly said restrictions, such as number of boxes handled without charge, should be put on it and chastised the department for not making the council aware of the general conditions sooner.

Richard O'Reilly, only non-city official to show at the garbage rate increase discussion, said that the primary reasons for shifting to containerization should be reduced costs. "There should be figures to show this," he said.

O'Reilly pointed out that plans to combine the free haul with weekly pickups would, in effect, establish the 30-cent increase in rates as the haul rate.

He also suggested that six routes — proposed with addition of the commercial route — may be too many. He suggested a thorough study of these points.

Gasoline Truck Overturns.