

6-21-51

City To Hold Hearing On Fluoridation Plan

Set July 24 As Date For Discussion

A public hearing will be held July 24 to decide whether fluoride should be added to the city's water supply, it was decided by the city council last night at a budget session.

The council said it would pass an ordinance for publication for adding fluoride to city waters, and then listen to the hearing before taking final action, either pro or con on the matter.

On hand last night in favor of adding the chemical substance to the water were Dr. Rutherford Ingham, retiring county health officer, dentists Dr. Marshall W. Cowden and Dr. Pierre W. Marquess. A letter was also read from the California State Dental association approving of addition of fluoride to drinking water.

The Christian Science Committee on Publications submitted a letter to the council objecting to the project, and W. E. Daglish of 708 Water street passed out mimeographed sheets opposing the addition of fluoride to the city water.

It was decided \$9500 needed for adding fluoride, should it be adopted, would come out of funds originally marked by the water department for the purchase of property. It is estimated by City Manager Neal D. Smith and John Luthin, head of the water department, that \$6000 would be needed to obtain equipment to add the fluoride, and \$3500 for the material and servicing.

The water department budget and three other departmental and special fund budgets were approved without a single change, except the above, during the fourth budget session of the city council.

Tentative figures approved last night were: Water department, \$510,753; Garage, \$186; Sanitation department, \$80,352, and Civil Defense, \$1750.

The council also decided against making use of the city garbage service mandatory. At the present time only 68½ per cent of the population uses the service. It was believed that by education this figure could be raised.

This evening the council will take up the library, engineering department, municipal wharf, and airport. Friday night they will take up the budgets of the city manager and purchasing office, city clerk and treasurer, city attorney, city hall, parking meters and special funds.

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