

Vor years a tiny influential faction has run Lawrence as if it were their private property. Successive City Commissions have made it no secret that the needs of influential business, realtors, and land developers were their primary concern. The average citizen and our neighborhoods got what was left, which usually wasn't much.

The priorities of Lawrence government always seem the same: develop business areas, build a new airport, give tax breaks to business, annex land so realtors and land speculators can have a field-day, grant zoning variances to favored interests, and spend more money for lavish city buildings and offices. This has led to encroachment into residential neighborhoods.

This poorly planned and rampant development fosters growth of a huge and impersonal bureaucracy. The City Manager and City Planners, who no one elects, now dictate to the people. Millions of taxpayer dollars, support these bureaucrats and their development schemes. Ask yourself when you were last consulted. The City Bureaucracy simply tells you, and often quite rudely.

It's little wonder that in the last municipal election only 27 per cent of the electorate voted. The number has drastically de-

CITIZENS'-WOTOR.

clined over the years. Apparently, many citizens believe 'that "you can't buck City Hall."

It's time a new voice was heard in Lawrence -- the Citizen's Voice. Citizens' Voice is a group organized to select three candidates for City Commission and for USD 497 School Board. Nonpartisan and independent, we

are strictly a peoples' based organization seeking to serve the needs of groups and individuals historically excluded from City government decision-making.

It's time we demanded: preservation of neighborhoods, affordable, decent housing, equal distribution of all the City services, recognition of munici-



Barbara Willits (left) and Muriel Paul (right), Chairpersons of Lawrence Citizens' Voice. They appeared together at a recent press conference.

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pal employees, impasse procedure for Lawrence teachers, community involvement and participation in the affairs of the school board, orderly development, fair utility rates and deposits, open housing, restoration and development of historical landmarks, fair treatment of persons in jobs and job training, support for the women's community, public transportation, increased services for the aged, appropriate use of revenue sharing and community development funds, and affordable decent child care.

Too often, ambitious individuals have run for public office only to renege on their commitments after election. It's time we have candidates who are not handpicked by a small influential faction, but who are democratically selected by a broad range of concerned citizens, to whom they are accountable.

IT'S TIME PEOPLE CAME FIRST! If you care for your community-raise your voice.

Call Murial Paul, 843-1364; Barbara Willits, 842-2713; Clarence Dillingham, 843-8473; Don Dunhaupt, 842-5657; Peggy Wilson, 841-2924; Norm Forer, 843-9321; Ed Dutton, 843-8185; Chris Bell, 843-9292; Christine Leonard, 842-9935; Steve Watts, 843-8473.

State of Confusion-

Dawrence Citizens' Voice would like to congratulate the people of East Lawrence and the East Lawrence Improvement Assn. for bringing the issue of the Haskell Loop to a reconsideration and turnabout on the commission vote of July 1975. We believe that the emergence of Lawrence Citizens' Voice as a strong force in this community was an important factor in this decision.

The manner in which the Loop situation has been handled gives rise to serious doubts as to the willingness of Lawrence City government to do effective planning. This on again -- off again, studied once--studied twice, voted for--voted against pattern leads us to believe that not one decision on the Loop came from hard facts -- public opinion properly weighed -- data adequately gathered and seriously studied. This inadequate planning seems to be a pattern of City government in Lawrence.

Inadequate planning is further demonstrated in the current problem of trash collection. We would like to commend Public Works Director George Williams who was honest enough to admit that the trash problem was the result of poor planning and administration, and that it was not the responsibility of sanitation employees as the city commission and city manager have previously claimed. The employees have been fully cooperative with the city and management. The suggestion of the "labor pool" now being recommended by some commissioners

was first suggested by the sanitation employees themselves over a year and a half ago. The employees' recommendations, when implemented, have produced excellent trash service. This has been acknowledged many times by the commissioners. We think calls by the Mayor and others for a private contractor is the height of irresponsibility since sanitation costs in Lawrence are among the lowest in the state. Private trash service would significantly increase the costs to the citizens proposal is not based on proof of Lawrence.

Lawrence Citizens' Voice can only conclude that these repeated calls is like buying a "pig in a poke" for private contractors in sanitation are the result of the city's attempt to cover up their inability to plan effectively, consistently and in a cost-conscious fashion.

We believe this failure in planning is also obvious in the recent resolution of intent by the City Commission for the issuance of 3/4 of a million dollars in industrial revenue bonds.

The plan, designed by the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, and endorsed by the City Commission, is to build a 73,800 square foot industrial building in Santa Fe Industrial Park. The Chamber claims this building would be needed to attract industry to Lawrence.

From the date when construction will start the Chamber will have 6 months to find an industrial tenant for the building. If the Chamber cannot find anyone, the contractor for the building,

Timberedge Industrial Development Corp., headed by Bob Moore, would move in using the \$750,000 provided by the Industrial Revenue Bond Issue. Timberedge would then be responsible for subletting the building to whatever business was interested.

The Lawrence Citizens' Voice endorses economic development but we insist that it must be sensible and planned economic development. We feel the current of the positive effect on the local labor force and local small businesses. The present proposal or "signing a blank check". The responsibility for publicly authorized economic development should not be delegated to the whims of the private sector. That responsibility falls squarely on the shoulders of the City government.

The state legislation that authorizes the issuance of such bonds states that its purpose is to "promote, stimulate and develop the general economic welfare and prosperity". The current proposal in no way documents that it will do so.

The current proposal does not provide answers to the following questions which are basic to planned economic development: How many jobs will be created?

salary scale? How many of the new jobs will be available to the present

What will be the wage and

local labor force? What advantages will accrue to local small businesses

including retailers and contractors?

5) What effect will the industry have on the environmental

quality? 6) What effect will there be on

local traffic patterns? 7) If new industry will be bringing in numbers of employees, what effect will this have on our already overburdened City services and school system?



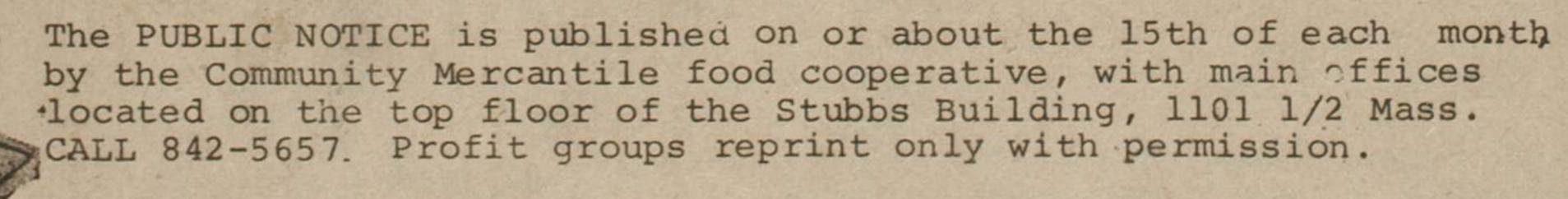
We feel it's inconceivable that a City government would procede on an important bond issue without first obtaining answers to these questions and incorporating these concerns into the guidelines.

The Lawrence Citizens' Voice has proposed that a minimum of a 90 day moratorium be established during which the City Commission will study the impact of industrial bond issuance. This study should include public hearings at which Lawrence citizens can express their concerns relating not only to this current proposal but to the direction of industrial growth in Lawrence. The result of these hearings should produce the hard impact data that would establish firm guidelines for the kind of industrial development that is in the best interest of the people of Lawrence.

PUBLIC NOTICE notes that some commissioners are up to their old tricks again; making decisions BEFORE they adequately plan or consult the citizens.

Following the appearance at Lawrence Citizens' Voice and other citizens at the Dec. 21st Commission meeting the commission voted 4-1 to sign the resolution anyway. Only Carl Mibeck voted against the resolution. They also scheduled public discussion on IRB's for the Jan. 11 Commission meeting--after the decision had been made.

PUBLIC NOTICE



People contributing to this issue: Pat Sullivan, Greg Bashaw, Diane Luber, Dick Dunhaupt, Paul Johnson, George Konetsky, Chip Jones, Chuck Magerl, Kate Duffy, David Hann, Mark Kaplan, John Naughtin, Helene Pesche, Susie Hanna, Paul Hughes, Patti Plamann, Frank Addington, Shirley Scheier, Dorothy Springer, Roger Martin, Jolene Babyak, Rod Runyan, Maura Biesemeyer, Molly Van Hee, Christine Leonard, Floyd Cobbler, Alvin Dahlene, Mona Davis, Charlie Vassallo, Laurie Schwarm, Bill Dan, Elizabeth Johnson House, Don Zavelo, Steve Otto, Marianne Otto. Noel Young, Dana Clinton, Tom Wilson, S.K. Work Collective, Jane Nichols, P.E.P, Richard Kershenbaum, Joe Shenebel, Chris Bell; and Steve Trone.

