Funding question raised in police investigation

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The question of funding for the Church Point Police Department's continuing investigations was again raised during the Tuesday meeting of the City Council here.

Just prior to adjournment, Chief of Police Floyd Lyons asked the council for $3,000 to continue ongoing investigations in the Church Point area. He explained that progress had been made in a number of cases but that the department was simply out of funds.

He explained that the city presently had $16,000 in the Court Fund.

Councilwoman Sylvia Sims moved that the request be tabled until next month's meeting so that members of the council would have more time to consider it.

When Mayor Harold Beaugh asked Chief Lyons if he could wait until a new budget was adopted, Lyons responded that a wait was possible, but not advisable since all ongoing investigations would have to be stopped until such time as the funds were available.

However, Councilmen Robert Thibodeaux and Percy Venable agreed with Councilwoman Sims' suggestion and the matter was tabled until next month.

Earlier this year the chief had requested $7,000 for the same reason. His request had been denied by a 3-2 vote of the council with Sims, Thibodeaux and Venable all voting against the allocation.

In other business, John Edward Citizen appeared before the council to suggest the placement of concession stands in the city parks. He explained that children were now forced to walk five to seven blocks to the nearest store to purchase refreshments.

Mayor Beaugh, along with Mrs. Sims and Chief Lyons, who also serves as Parks Commissioner, were named to a committee to study the feasibility of Citizen's detailed plans.

In the meantime, Citizen was granted permission to sell concessions in Northwest Park until such time as a decision is reached by the committee.

Also, the Council took under advisement a number of bids on various city projects. City Engineer William Jarrell, with the firm of Morgan, Goudeau and Associates of Opelousas, opened bids on sidewalk improvements, a water and gravity sewer line project and a street improvement program and, upon his suggestion, all were taken under advisement until a detailed study of each was completed.

The council also adopted a new contract with Evangeline Telephone Company for the collection of bills at City Hall. In the past, the Town had been paid a flat fee of $250 per month to collect telephone bills at City Hall.

Mayor Beaugh stated that the company now proposed to pay the Town 22 cents for each bill collected. He went on to say that, with 16,069 hook-ups in the immediate Church Point area, the Town may realize an increase in the monthly allocation.

In other action, the council:
* set July 1 as the date for a public hearing on a proposal to incorporate 200 feet of property along Lilly Street.
* heard a brief report from Billy Owens, Browning-Ferris Industries representative.
* announced that the LMA District E meeting will be held Tuesday, June 24.