

Higher Gas Rate Is Caused By Increased Operating Expenses

Operating expenses at the plant of the New Ulm Gas Co. have been steadily increasing during the past three or four years until the rate charged for the product has not met the expense of manufacture for some time. Furthermore, interest on the primary investment and depreciation have not been considered. This means that returns from the plant have not permitted the payment of interest on capital nor has there been a depreciation fund created. Likewise there have been no dividends paid.

Looked for Break in Prices

The management of the New Ulm Gas Co., conscious of the increasing price of production, did not ask the city council for permission to raise the rate to consumers, until a few weeks ago, presupposing conditions would change and it would not be necessary to do so.

Higher Rate is Compulsory

The increasing cost of production made a demand for a higher rate compulsory and the matter was recently presented to the city council. After due deliberation and being convinced of the absolute justice of the request for higher rates the council arranged that the franchise of the New Ulm Gas Co., be amended to permit an increased rate.

New Rate from \$1.35 to \$1.80 Net

The rate fixed by the city council, according to a sliding scale according to the amount of gas consumed is from \$1.35 to \$1.80 net, per 1000 cubic feet.

The increase is nominal and will just about cover the cost of manufacture. At any future time that the price of production of gas decreases the rate to the consumer will be proportionately decreased.

We are of the opinion the public will appreciate our position and willingly pay the nominal increase in rates granted by the city council.

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BEGIN WORK ON MUNICIPAL PLANT

REPRESENTATIVES OF LAW-
ENCE CONSTRUCTION CO.
ARRIVE IN CITY.

"CHARLEY" HEERS CHOSEN TO
SUPERINTEND WORK ON
NEW BUILDING.

Two important questions were considered at a special council meeting held last week Tuesday, in connection with the erection of the new municipal power plant in North German Park. One was the placing of the \$250,000 city bonds and the other was the early beginning of the work on the new building.

In regard to the latter it was pointed out that several representatives of the Lawrence Construction Company of Minneapolis, successful bidders on the erection of the building, would arrive in the city shortly and that excavating work would begin as soon as successful arrangements had been made for the necessary help. A car of tools was on its way to this city. It was further stated at the meeting that as soon as work on

the building was once started it would not take long to finish it.

Local Superintendent.
Architect Silas Jacobson of St. Paul will supervise the progress of the work. But owing to his inability to remain in the city, Architect Chas. A. Heers of New Ulm was appointed superintendent during the time of construction. His appointment by the council was awaiting the approval by Mr. Jacobson at the time of the meeting last Tuesday. Mr. Heers' name was mentioned for this position when the council made its decision in regard to the building of the new plant.

Committee's Na med.
The sale of the city bonds was the other matter considered by the council at the recent meeting. A committee was appointed to work in conjunction with City Clerk Wm. P. Backer and the city council in the floating of the bond issue. The members of this committee are Fred. Croné, J. A. Ochs and George Marti. A number of people already have shown their willingness to take some of the bonds and there seems to be no question but that the whole issue will be disposed of in a considerably short time.

\$30,000 Taken.
\$30,000 of the bonds have already been placed by J. G. Robertson, successful bidder for the installation of the equipment in the new plant. Mr. Robertson was confident that he would be able to dispose of another \$20,000. Another \$50,000 will be taken care of by city officials who will try to arrange with

outside parties for the placing of the bonds in that amount. There is still an amount of about \$50,000 which may be considered as having been subscribed for. This will be covered by a number of people in the city who have indicated their willingness to buy part of the bonds. Several land owners in the nearby districts are among these, according to City Clerk Wm. P. Backer. The latter

was authorized to make further arrangements for the sale of the bonds.

Miss Gertrude Meisinger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Meisinger of Springfield, was united in marriage to Emil J. Seifert of Searles recently. Miss Meisinger was a member of the teaching staff of New Ulm's public schools the past year.



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