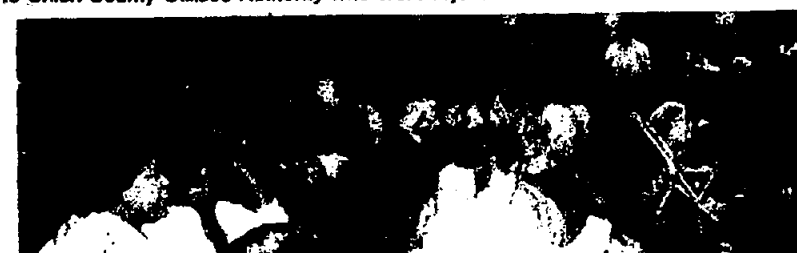


Moratorium on incinerator withdrawn

Attorney rules holdup would invite lawsuit



SIGNS OF THE TIMES - Anti-incinerator protest signs are stacked up outside City Council Chambers during Council meeting. Moratorium on building resource recovery plant was withdrawn, and Council concurred with Mayor Jim Kennedy's appointments to Union County Utilities Authority who were rejected two weeks earlier.



CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER PACKED - Part of crowd attending City Council meeting to express regional concern over regional trash incinerator to be located in Rahway. Most of audience appeared to oppose siting of resource recovery facility in city.

Where does Kennedy stand? Mayor straddles fence on burner

By Pat DiMaggio
City officials have wondered where Mayor Jim Kennedy stands when it comes to the planned resource recovery facility to be built in Rahway. The mayor has been accused of side-stepping the question of "Are you for it, or against it?" "Personally, I am opposed to incineration," said the mayor in an interview held last week. "However, as the chief administrator, I must keep in mind the total best interest of the city."

Kennedy said he was concerned with two basic issues - the environment and economics. "The mayor has absolutely no control over the situation of siting the incinerator," he noted. "The best we can do for the community is to ensure the highest standards of environmental safety as well as the best economic scenario available. We need to make sure we get the lion's share of the host community's agreement."

The mayor said he will work to see that Rahway's Host Community Contract is enforced. In accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding approved by the Municipal Council in 1985, the city, the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Union County Utilities Authority agreed to enter into a Host Municipality Agreement to regulate the development, construction and operation of an incinerator to be built on Route 1.

Under a Hiring, Good Neighbor and Local Purchase provision, the vendor operating the facility promised to set forth a plan for the hiring and staffing of the project to include, when possible, a preference in hiring and job training to qualified residents of the city. The vendor would also be encouraged to become a "good neighbor" by participating in both neighborhood and city civic organizations, educational programs, and youth and community service organizations.

At last month's public hearing on the construction and service agreement with Ogdin Martin Systems Inc., Union residents of the city's Fourth Ward vehemently opposed the incinerator, citing health and safety concerns.

Members of the Rahway-based Concerned Citizens of Union County have also spoken out in opposition to mass-burn incinerators, saying they spew dioxins into the air and pollute the environment. Members have also questioned if the facility will have enough garbage to burn when the state meets the governor's 1995 mandate

of a 60-percent recycling rate. The proposed facility has already received all the necessary environmental permits needed, and the agreement with Ogdin Martin were closed on March 6. If the agreement is approved, construction for the regionalized incinerator can begin as early as May.

Members of construction unions, who were trying to guard against the loss of job opportunities. It has been proven that incinerators emit dangerous toxins which would adversely affect our health and the health of future generations," stated the resolution. "Proven alternatives exist which negate the need for the burning of garbage." The resolution requested a three-year moratorium in order to study alternatives to incineration.

After a 30-minute executive session, City Attorney Louis Rainone explained the legal ramifications of the resolution. He said the city remains as a partner with the resource recovery

facility as a result of a series of resolutions, agreements and memorandums of understanding. The city also has contractual obligations with trade councils, unions, the vendor of the facility, bond holders and taxpayers. "The city does not have the ability to stop or affect this process," said Rainone.

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regular meeting held on Monday night. Two weeks ago, the mayor could not draw enough support for his reappointment of Councilman Chester Holmes as an officer of the authority, and his nomination of William Wolf as a council member was removed from the agenda.

Before Monday night's vote was taken, several members of the Concerned Citizens of Union County asked the council to reconsider the nominees. "Was anybody else considered, was anybody considered who opposes incineration and who will represent the citizens of Rahway?" asked Robert Carson, Central Avenue.

The mayor said he had to appoint someone who could gather the required five votes for confirmation. "I am trying to balance the authority in the state it is in at this stage," said Mayor Kennedy. "There are different factions within the council and I am trying to find a compromise that council is willing to live with."

The council confirmed the appointment of Chester Holmes on a vote of five in favor, with Councilmembers Michael Esposito, Katherine Fulcomer and William Wanck opposed. Councilman James Jones Jr. abstained.

The appointment of William Wolf was confirmed on a vote of five in favor with Councilmembers Esposito, Fulcomer, Jones and Wanck opposed.

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Parents of students with handicaps from Union County are invited to apply for membership on the state Parent Advisory Council for the Handicapped.

Parents are needed to serve for three-year terms on the Council, which meets every other month and advises the Department of Education on critical issues affecting special education.

Nominates must be parents or guardians of children with handicaps who have been or are involved in special education. All applications must be submitted to the Council by Friday, March 22.

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Current Council members will review applications and interview candidates. Dr. Jeffrey Oowski, Director of the Division of Special Education, will make final selections based on recommendations from Council members.

Applications may be obtained from the Department of Education, Division of Special Education, Attention: State Parent Advisory Council for the Handicapped, 225 West State St., CN 500, Trenton, NJ 08625.

Following retirement, Palsi continues to reside in Point Pleasant Beach with his wife Bernice and spends much of his time with his growing family. His daughters Marianne and Sarah and sons Michael and Tom are all graduates of the Point Pleasant Beach school system.

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Board of Ed candidates file

By Pat DiMaggio
Two incumbents and three challengers will vie for three available seats on Rahway's Board of Education in the schools election to be held on April 30.

Announcing their intention to seek a seat on the district's governing body are incumbents Lillian Henderson and Antonio Garay and challengers Steven Okaly, Charles Laskowski, Jr. and Samsom D. Steinman. Incumbent Raymond Grimes will not seek reelection.

School board elections and budget adoptions have been delayed until April 30 because of difficulties in implementing the Governor Florio's Quality Education Act (QEA). Districts have not yet been notified of 1991 state aid figures and have delayed the introduction and adoption of their tentative budgets.

On Monday, the Democrat-controlled Assembly approved a \$360 million tax relief program funded with money originally designated for public schools. The program would provide \$4.245 billion in state school aid and set up a \$360 million aid program whereby monies would be diverted to municipalities to be used for property tax relief. The plan calls for \$4.1 billion in foundation aid, \$120 million in wealthiest districts and \$25

million in a discretionary fund. The \$360 million for tax relief will be distributed to all 567 municipalities in the state through a formula, \$25 million through the Urban Aid program and \$30 million set aside for emergencies. Teacher pension and social security contributions will remain with the state for the next two years.

The package now goes to the governor for his signature.

Former Rahway educator honored at Shore dinner

More than 400 people turned out recently at the Lobster Shanty, Point Pleasant Beach, to honor retired school principal Marino Palsi.

A surprise visitor was Marine Corps Commandant Alfred M. Gray Jr., who flew in to pay tribute to his long-time friend, Palsi, who retired in 1984 as principal at the G. Harold Antrim School, Point Pleasant Beach.

Gray was a surprise speaker at the belated event honoring Palsi. The general flew into Alaire Airport in Wall Township and returned to Washington after the affair.

Gray and Palsi lived two blocks from one another in Rahway as boys, and their families moved to Point Pleasant Beach, where their friendship continued.

The huge turnout for Palsi overflowed the Lobster Shanty, filling every room in that river-front restaurant to capacity. Two former students organized the tribute to raise funds for a scholarship for a Point Pleasant Beach High School graduate in Palsi's name.

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Police seeking pair in Radio Shack holdup

Rahway Police are investigating an armed robbery by two men which occurred on Feb. 27 at about 6:56 p.m. at Radio Shack, 1648 St. George Ave.

The two suspects are described by police as a black male in his late teens, 6 feet tall, with a thin build, 150 to 170 pounds, and a black male also in his late teens, 5 feet 5 or 6 inches tall, 180 to 190 pounds. They were last seen fleeing on foot toward the rear of the Pathmark shopping center, police said. The weapon allegedly shown was described as a large machete. Police said employees reported that the pair entered the store on the pretense of buying some items. When the sale was rung up, the second man

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It's a boy... Rahway, is boy and wife... February 28 at 11 p.m., and... pounds. Mom and baby were... delivery. Taylor was... Arban... Chrywell... Williams, Assistant... great... of National... winner.



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