

Library Turns

Down Off-Street

DEC 14 1954

Parking Plan

Board Says Move Unwise Due to Charter Restriction

The James Prendergast Free Library has decided against converting at this time any portion of its property for off-street parking facilities.

The decision was made by the library board of trustees, headed by Wesley A. Nord, at a meeting Friday afternoon in the Hotel Jamestown.

Announcement of the decision was made by Councilman Ernest D. Swanson, chairman of the Public Safety Committee, late Monday afternoon, on receipt of a letter from the library board.

The letter, sent by Gordon Taylor, secretary of the Library Board, contained a copy of a resolution adopted by the board at the Friday meeting. The resolution said:

"While the library board is fully aware of and sympathetic with the City's need for parking facilities and the progress that has been made in this area, as well as the Library's dependence upon income from the City, it is of the opinion that, because of the legal restrictions of its charter prohibiting the use of its property for other than Library purposes, the few Public Park areas in the downtown section, the possibility of extending meters and the possible changes that may be made because of the Washington Street Bridge, it would be unwise at this time to consider conversion of any portion of its property to use as a parking area."

The library, the only one in Jamestown, is located at 106 West Fifth Street. In the rear, it has a large expanse of land, suggested by the Public Safety as a site for off-street parking facilities early this year.

Last Aug. 4, Mr. Swanson made public at a Safety Committee meeting a letter, dated July 28, which he had written to the board president calling attention to the fact that he had heard no further word on the proposal.

In his letter, he said in part: "I hope that you and the Board do not take this as a political issue. The men on the Safety Committee, elected from both sides, have stated in open session that they will oppose funds to the library next January if the City is not given some consideration."

Mr. Swanson commenting on the library's decision this morning said he felt construction of the Washington Street Bridge would create more traffic and require additional parking space in the area.

About the library's appropriation from the City budget, he said that was up to the full Council and that he intended to make no special urgings one way or the other.

The library operates partly on funds from a trust and yearly allocation from the City budget.