



City of Sisters 75th Anniversary Jubilee Minute 1946-2021

FOR: May 26, 2021 Council Meeting

One of the first issues the business community wanted the new city to sort out was the licensing of Dances, Music Boxes, Pin Ball Games, Card Tables, Pool Tables and Punch Boards.

In August 1946: Rates were proposed as follows:

| | |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Dances | \$5 per dance |
| Pin Ball Games | \$7.50 per month/per machine |
| Card Tables | \$25 per quarter for each money table |
| Punch Boards | 5 percent of the gross |
| Music Boxes | \$5 per month per machine |

On September 16: Ordinances were prepared with a first reading:

- One for the licensing of pool rooms and or/billiard rooms/and or card tables.
- One for regulating and licensing games of skill, such as marble and pin ball games and mechanically controlled and operated musical instruments or machines.
- One licensing public dances; and
- One imposing a tax on punch boards.

On October 10, Council was prepared to have the second reading with an amendment to the sections pertaining to licensing of card tables to apply only to those card tables operating for profit. The ordinances were passed with one no vote as councilman McKensie said it was his opinion that “if the pool rooms were taxed too heavy, they would push the music machines in the corner and not use them so as not to have to pay any tax.”

On October 16, Mr. Jesse Owsley, proprietor of the Pastime, objected to the taxes that had been imposed particularly on his type of business. It seemed to him that the pool hall businesses had been singled out from the taxing standpoint. While he did not object to paying taxes that were just; he did not feel that the tax of \$10 per month per pool table and 4% of the gross on punchboards was just. In view of this discussion, council decided to make no effort to collect taxes from the pool halls until they could study it further.



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October 24 the mayor said he had met with the concerned business owners and suggested the following changes to the ordinances: Charges would be amended to include:

3% of the gross would be charged for each punch board;

\$10 per year for the first pool table, and \$5 per year for all other tables; and

\$9 per month on each card table operated for profit (payable in advance).

The ordinance was read with the proposed amendments and then approved unanimously.

To get an idea of how these license fees and/or taxes would impact the city budget, in July of 1947, a financial statement for the city, indicated:

- Total Assets in the General Fund were \$413.12.
- \$92.09 was the punchboard tax for June alone.