

Mayor loses when council approves Griffy waterworks

In September 1923, over Mayor John G. Harris's objections, the Bloomington City Council voted for a \$1.54 tax levy, which included 38 cents earmarked for developing a waterworks at Griffy Creek.

HARRIS HAD favored enlargement of the old Leonard Springs site and had already used some legal obstructionist tactics to stop the Griffy Creek plan. (The new project had already received the blessing of the State Tax Board and the Public Service Commission.)

Looking back

By Rose H. McIlveen
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Unable to block the proposed development single-handedly through veto of council votes, Harris enlisted the help of

friends to petition for a re-hearing with the Public Service Commission. A second remonstrance was filed (against the tax levy) with the State Tax Board. The latter move did have the effect of a 32-cent reduction in the tax rate, but that was not enough to scuttle the Griffy Creek waterworks.

According to Burton D. Myers, an Indiana University historian and faculty member, some 98 percent of Bloomingtonians favored the new site — Griffy Creek

— but the mayor still had options in the battle of wills. Will H. Adams then took the matter to court and asked that the Public Service Commission's approval be reversed. The mid-October filing of that case produced another six-month delay, but the court ruled in favor of the commission's earlier decision.

A FEW CONDITIONS were yet to be determined at a continuance of the State Tax Board's jurisdiction in the matter. At
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