

Mayor, council battled over police force in 1912

Looking back, from page A1

been elected in 1910.) The council appoints the policemen, and the Mayor is responsible for their efficiency."

According to the *Star*, the council and mayor had been cross with each other since the council appointed Hugh Hinkle as a policeman. "Mr. Hinkle says that efforts have been made to oust him for a year and a half, but that he has stuck to his job, not particularly because he wants the place, but because they started the fight on him and he wanted to show them that he could stick."

In the fine print of the law regarding the metropolitan force was a provision for who did what. "The police board fixes the salaries of the policemen, and all other officers, and the city council fixes the salaries of the police commissioners."

Whatever the real reason for the council's objection to a metropolitan force, its "up front" one was that it would cost the city too much money. The law stipulated that officers appointed were to be equally divided between the two political parties, and that their salaries had to be within the \$550-\$850 per year range. Bloomington police,

according to the *Star*, received \$750. Other stipulations of the law were that there should be one policeman for each 1,000 persons and one officer for each 5,000.

The *Star* speculated that in the near future one of the policemen might be a policewoman, instead. "It is reported on the streets that if a metropolitan police board is sustained, at least one policewoman will be appointed. The suffragettes have asked it, so the report goes, and the board will grant their request by appointing a woman on the police force. The women favoring this think that a woman police officer should be appointed particularly to look after the enforcement of the curfew law and young girls who run the streets after dark."

Though the 1910 census did not give the city the required minimum of 10,000 inhabitants, the mayor contended that by 1912 the number was there. Since their bluff had been called, the council filed an injunction against the mayor. City attorney R.L. Morgan knew which side his bread was buttered on. He prepared the injunction papers, which put the issue in limbo until a court hearing scheduled for May 22.

Next week: Bloomingtonians take time out for a head count.