

City To Make \$4419 Survey Of River

Mount Vernon city councilmen voted four to one last night to make a \$4419 engineering study of the Skagit river to clarify status of the city's Edgewater park and garbage fill operation.

The study, to be directed by City Engr. Denny LeGro, was tentatively agreed on at a meeting Mayor Herman I. Hanson called here Dec. 6 with county, state and federal waterways and sanitation officials. It will consist of a dike-to-dike width and depth study at 19 points along the river from Penn road on the south, three-quarters of a mile south of the city limits, to a point in the river bend half a mile northwesterly of the city limits.

As agreed on at the Dec. 6 meeting, the suggested cross-section points on the river were outlined on a map prepared by the U.S. Corps of Engineers. Their recommendation, mailed to state officials Dec. 10 and relayed to city officials Dec. 24, surprised LeGro and other officials in its extending so far out of the city and, especially, in that it called for no cross-sections along the main 1300 feet of Edgewater park waterfront. Five cross-sections additional along the park were included in the study authorized last night, at LeGro's suggestion.

The state Department of Water Resources letter suggested the surveys be completed by Jan. 15, an impossibility, LeGro indicated, in anticipation of completion of an evaluation by the U.S. Engineers by Feb. 1.

Councilman Vernon Johnson, who cast the lone "no" vote, said he didn't "think it's necessary to get so involved . . . just think we should go over there and move some dirt."

"I feel somewhat like Vern, but if we just move some dirt, I'm not sure our problems are over," responded Councilman Henry Vanderpol, who had seconded Councilman Richard Schimmel's motion to authorize the river survey.

The study is intended to provide data on which a decision can be made as to how much of the park riverbank should be cut back to provide additional river flow at flood time to make up for high water channel room taken by the garbage fill.

LeGro said the study would involve surveys of the river length between the upper and lower points chosen by the U.S. Engineers and channel depth soundings, possibly at ten-foot intervals, across the stream at the 19 cross-sectional sites. Calculations as to available

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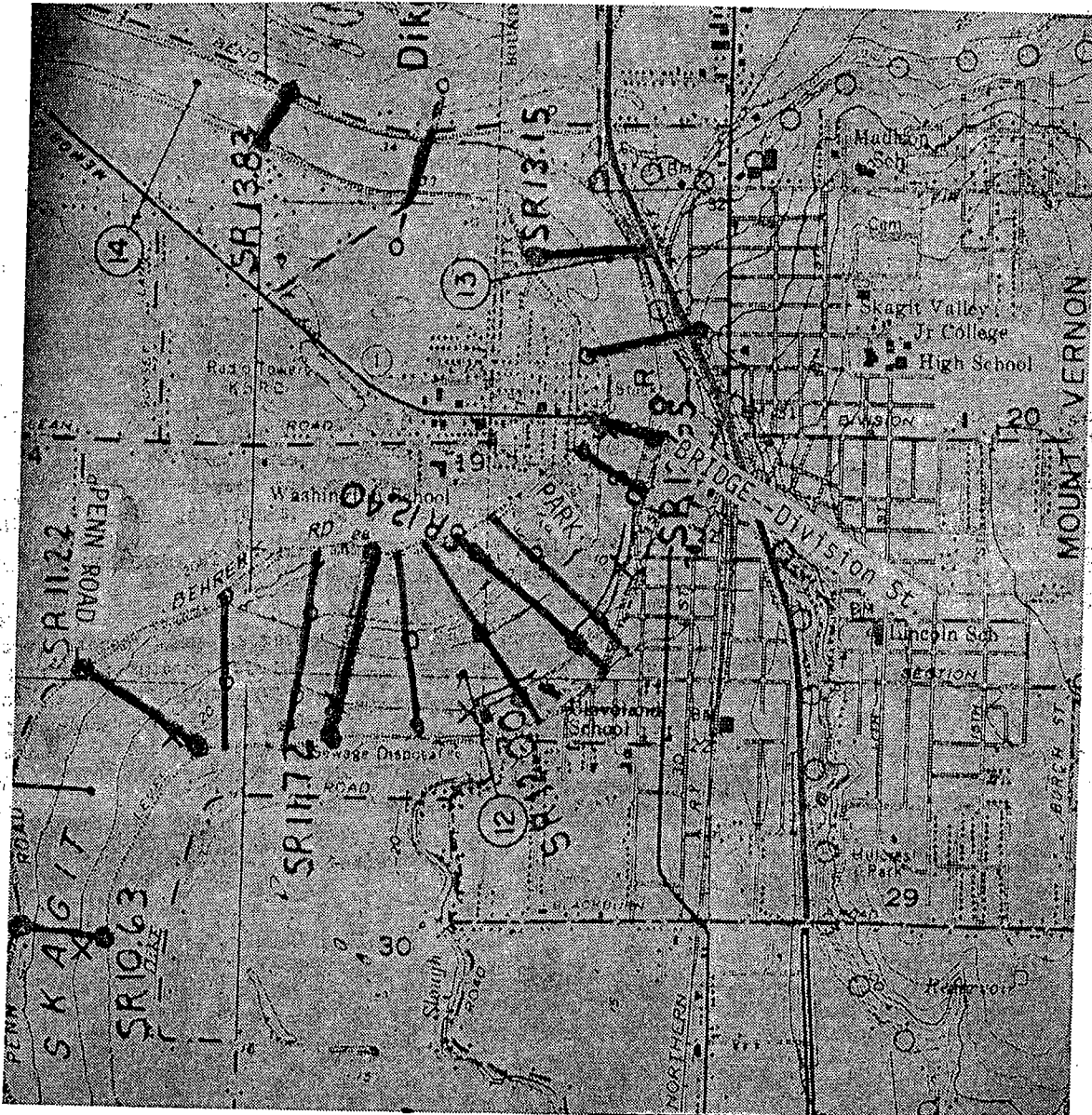
channel water volume capacity at each point would be made.

Other council business included:

Notice received from Mount Vernon Veterinary hospital of rate increase for impounded dogs, request for city to collect all charges and for city eventually to relieve the hospital from responsibility for providing impounding service; public hearings set Feb. 12 on final assessment rolls for LID 216, the Spruce street paving, and LID 217, the East Division street sewer; resolution asked for initiation of LID 219 for paving East Cedar street from Fourth to Eighth; bids called Feb. 12 for four-wheel street sweeping machine; contracts awarded Texaco for gasoline and Mac's Cleaners for uniform cleaning; deed to 665-foot extension of Mohawk drive accepted; out-of-city sewer connection approved for mobile homes park on south side of Blackburn road, asked by Thomas Pate, granted; committee report accepted classifying city employes' positions and fixing wage scales, base and increment pay levels.

THE MOUNT VERNON ARGUS

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RIVER SURVEY POINTS DESIGNATED—Dark lines crossing Skagit river on map above show 14 points at which U. S. Engineers recommend City of Mount Vernon conduct channel surveys dike-to-dike to determine channel capacity and, eventually, to help decide how much of Edgewater park needs to be cut back to replace river

flood capacity loss caused by development of garbage fill on Blumberg island (the park). Corps of Engineers asked for 14 cross-sections. City Engr. Denny LeGro recommended and city council last night authorized five more in vicinity of park, extending to parking revetment on downtown Mount Vernon side.

—Argus Scanagraving.