

M U N I C I P A L   W A R   S E R V I C E   R E S O L U T I O N S

(Adopted by the Unanimous Vote of the Executive Committee

League of Kansas Municipalities, January 17, 1918.

2/12/18

WHEREAS, The supreme need of the time is the concentration of the energies of all individuals, organizations, and units of government upon work necessary for the winning of the war; and

WHEREAS, It is the desire and determination of the municipal authorities and citizens of the cities and towns of Kansas to aid in every possible manner in the conduct and success of this struggle for the honor and safety of our Nation and our allies, and for humanity and democracy; and

WHEREAS, It is desirable that a statement of proper war-time policy for the municipalities of Kansas be formulated and submitted on behalf of the organized cities and towns of the state, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE LEAGUE OF KANSAS MUNICIPALITIES:

RECOMMENDATION 1. That it is recommended that during the period of the war each and every city government in this state shall undertake only such paving and other improvement work as may be actually necessary to be undertaken at this time; thereby releasing men and money for the service of the National government.

It is understood that adequate local public utility service must be maintained and that to that end the municipal operation and ownership of any privately owned public utility may be or become a matter of vital public need and necessity.

RECOMMENDATION 2. Municipalities should make themselves efficient agencies of publicity and education in matters relating to the war and war problems; and should set a good example to their citizens, as for example in the purchase of Liberty Bonds for sinking funds.

RECOMMENDATION 3. Cities should place at the Nation's service such municipal property and such time and energy of their officers and employees as may be utilized without detriment to the safety and welfare of the city.

RECOMMENDATION 4. Municipalities of size should organize and train their police and fire departments for emergency riot service; should render all possible and proper aid to the home guard companies; and should cooperate loyally and efficiently with the federal authorities for the discovery and suppression of sedition, treason, incendiarism and sabotage. A vigorous and just enforcement of the law, as a preventive of crime and disorder, is a duty of the utmost importance incumbent upon the responsible city authorities.

RECOMMENDATION 5. Cities should strictly observe the principles of efficiency, rational economy and the elimination of waste, through the perfecting of their organizations, the constant study and improvement of municipal methods, and the utilization of community wastes such as garbage and paper, in such manner as may be possible and practicable under local conditions.

RECOMMENDATION 6. For any family or person within the borders of a city to suffer unjustly from want of fuel or food is a disgrace to that community and its municipal government.

We commend the initiative and efforts of the city of Lawrence in establishing an emergency municipal wood yard, supplying families of that city with wood for fuel, when coal was unobtainable, and furnishing and delivering such fuel at reasonable prices based

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not on the privateering principle of all that could be obtained, but upon cost; and we commend this example to the cities throughout the state.

It is earnestly to be hoped the next legislature of Kansas will see fit to grant to the cities of this state the legal authority and financial power to establish municipal fuel yards for the sale of coal and wood to citizens, and likewise to permit cities to establish municipal ice plants for the benefit of their people.

We further suggest to interested cities and citizens the advisability of their publicly questioning all candidates for governor of Kansas and of all candidates for the legislature, as to the stand of all such candidates on the question of permitting cities to establish municipal fuel yards, ice plants and markets for the benefit of their people.

RECOMMENDATION 7. Municipalities must now put forth unusual efforts to protect the public health. Efficient local health departments should be supported loyally by cities and citizens. Inefficient health officers should be relieved of their duties, and through a reorganization of their departments the public be better protected against disease. Increased attention to child hygiene and welfare is also undoubtedly a vital necessity; and municipalities should heartily cooperate with and support the work of the state board of health in this service.

RECOMMENDATION 8. The production and conservation of food being essential to victory in the war, we recommend as touching our obligations

and opportunities in this connection:

- (1) That the cities and city officers lead wholeheartedly in the campaign for war gardens and vacant lot cultivation. Cities should throw open to cultivation all available unused land owned by them, and should either rent other vacant lots for the purpose or lend their support to obtain the donation of the use of such land by their owners.
- (2) The local authorities should aid in seeing that the ground is plowed. If necessary, hiring the plowing and harrowing of lands which could not otherwise be gotten ready for cultivation.
- (3) Seeds should be supplied at cost or less, and water for garden use should be supplied by the city at very low rates.
- (4) Expert advice and demonstrations should be provided to aid first-gardeners in carrying out their good intentions.
- (5) Municipalities should aid in the enforcement of food control orders and requests of the federal government. For this purpose the cities may well stretch to the limit every power they possess. In the same manner,
- (6) It is the duty of the cities to see that there is no suffering of families for want of food. Municipal food kitchens may become necessary in Kansas cities as they have in the land of our ally whose navy is one of our greatest protections. We would, however, especially recommend to city officials earnest consideration of the establishment of municipal markets; and of the purchase of needed staple articles of food, in quantities, for sale to their people. Especial credit and distinction will come to those cities which work out this problem intelligently and courageously.

RECOMMENDATION 9. It is recommended that for the purpose of coordinating the patriotic work of individuals, societies and organizations in the various cities of Kansas, the municipalities arrange for city war committees or war councils, in which the patriotic agencies referred to may be directly or indirectly represented, and through which their efforts may be coordinated and unified in the service of the Nation.

It is recommended that this suggestion first be submitted to Hon. Arthur Capper, Governor of Kansas, and if the same meets with his approval he be requested to issue a statement urging the mayors of the various cities of the state to proceed with the appointment of city war committees or war councils.

RESOLVED, That we approve the Boys' Working Reserve plans of the federal government and urge all city officers in Kansas to cooperate with the federal state director of this work, Mr. W. L. Porter, Commissioner, Topeka.

RESOLVED, That we heartily approve the action of the President of the United States in taking over the control and operation of the railway of the Nation, under the act of August 29, 1916; and we earnestly urge the Representatives and United States Senators of Kansas in Congress to provide by legislation that government operation of the railroads shall continue until changed by act of Congress.

RESOLVED, That free labor employment service should be established in the cities of the state, and that we recommend that such service be established by the municipalities.

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