

# Fred Hedrick

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## Services Slated For Hedrick Today

By **BOB LOVELACE**  
Journal Staff Writer

FORT WALTON BEACH — Funeral services for City Councilman Fred Hedrick, 64, will be held in the First United Methodist Church at 3 p.m. Tuesday. Burial will be in Beal Memorial Cemetery.

Dr. Charles H. Hildreth, church pastor and the Rev. H. Talmadge Smith, pastor of Cinco Baptist Church, will officiate. Hedrick, a Fort Walton Beach resident for 19 years, died of an apparent heart attack at his 125 3rd Ave. home last Sunday night.

His death was pictured as a great loss to Fort Walton Beach by representative citizens in a special Channel 6 television broadcast Monday night.

Although a council member for only two years, Hedrick made his mark as watchdog of the city treasury and one who did careful research on

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all major measures before voting. He spent full time on city business. Because of his independentness he was considered by most residents as the one to call for grievances.

He was a retired civil service worker at Eglin, where he was a personnel management specialist and, at one time, headed the Civilian Personnel Division. Hedrick received many commendations for his work there.

A veteran of World War II, he rose from private to sergeant-major of his regiment. Hedrick received a Bronze Star for meritorious service in the Pacific Theater while a member of the 98th Infantry Division.

Born in Talbott, W. Va., he taught school two years after graduating from Concord College. Then he became employment manager for a Hercules Powder Co. plant.

After his wartime service, Hedrick worked for the State of West Virginia in several capacities before leaving to join federal civil service.

Those participating in the Channel 6 special were Mayor Maurice McLaughlin; Councilman George Palmer; Col. Frank Grubb, vice president First City Bank; and Bob Lovelace, Pensacola News Journal.

Mayor McLaughlin described Hedrick as not a "yes man." "If he thought you were wrong, he fought you on the issue, but never personally. He was a man of fine integrity, strong in support of his beliefs whether others agreed with them or not."

Palmer described Hedrick's death as a great loss to the city. "If he thought he was right he stuck by his guns even if his was the only dissenting vote."

Grubb, a retired Air Force colonel formerly based at Eglin, said "if Hedrick brought you facts and figures you knew they were right."

Lovelace told how Hedrick showed compassion for and helped people in unfortunate circumstances. He also cited his volunteer work for the State, first as a member of the Northwest Florida Housing Authority, and then as a member of the Attorney General's Commission on Dangerous Drugs.

Hedrick was the first secretary for the West Florida Heart Association and president of the Okaloosa chapter. He initiated a campaign for raising research funds on heart disease which was adopted nationally.

He started a plan to get a court house annex in Fort Walton Beach and arranged the details for financing a lease deal with the County Commission. Hedrick lost his battle when the Commission decided upon a Shalimar site.

McLaughlin said this was "Fred's baby and he worked hard at it." At the time of his death Hedrick was opposing another low rent housing complex for Fort Walton Beach. He was not opposed to the idea of helping the unfortunate but did oppose the methods the federal bureaucracy used in handling the program and felt it was encouraging people not to work and bringing in welfare cases from other states.

He successfully opposed the placing of a fire department sub-station on a dangerous curve on Mooney Road and was currently investigating why fault was continually found with alternate sites. Hedrick got a committee appointed which resulted in the new Convalescent Center for Fort Walton Beach.

Hedrick is survived by his wife, Eloise Vaughn Hedrick, and a step son, Bill Thompson of Marien, Va. There are two nieces and a nephew living in Virginia and West Virginia.

The family has requested contributions to the Heart and Cancer funds in lieu of flowers.