City Fathers Discuss Union At Meeting

City commissioners went into an informal huddle with Gobe F. Cravens of Oklahoma City CIO field representative who appeared in the interest of members of the Bartlesville Municipal Employees Local Industrial Union No. 1692, at a meeting Thursday night at the Civic Center.

ACCOMPANIED BY THREE employees from city operating departments, Cravens said he understands the commissioners are of the opinion the union is illegal, and explained he came here at the invitation of a group of city employees.

"Nobody had their arm twisted to join the union," he declared, stating that the local municipal union would like to enter into discussions or negotiations with the city management.

"I haven't been able to find a law restricting the city management from bargaining with employees," the CIO representative declared.

"If it is a question of whether the city could enter negotiations with somebody claiming to represent the employees with the idea of entering into a contract, my own view is that the city can't do that," Mayor R.H. Hudson told the union leader.

"We are perfectly willing for city employees to come before the board," the mayor continued, agreeing "that some inequities and inequalities will have to be corrected and we intend to do that."

"I don't want the commissioners to think we're big, bad wolves," Cravens told the board. "You wouldn't be making a contract with me—you would be making it with employees."

Cravens asked recognition of (Continued on Page 2)