

City Will Not Hire Special Counsel In Library Action

No special counsel will be hired to defend the Bartlesville city commissioners, city manager, the library board and Miss Virginia Lasley, present librarian, in a civil action filed in district court Tuesday by Miss Ruth W. Brown, who was discharged as city librarian last July 25.

Mayor E. S. Dunaway, one of the defendants in the action, reported Wednesday that the defense will be in charge of City Attorney Alton Rowland and that no other attorneys will be employed.

Thurman S. Hurst, a former Tulsa district judge and a former member of the state supreme court, who now is engaged in private practice, has been hired by a committee aiding Miss Brown in the prosecution of the suit, Mrs. F. E. Rice, treasurer of the committee, announced.

MRS. RICE SAID the committee, composed of 12 persons, represents 193 Bartlesville residents.

She named the other members of the group as Anthony Andrews, Rowert W. Manuel, Mrs. Darlene Essary, who is a co-plaintiff in the suit; John W. Upham, Mrs. F. J. Spies, Mrs. Edith Jones, M. L. Studebaker, Miss Hannah Parry, Mrs. Jean Barker, John Widowson and Mrs. Alberta Bradstreet.

CLAIMING THAT a new city ordinance under which she was discharged is in conflict with state laws, Miss Brown's petition asks that she, as well as members of the old library board which was dissolved on June 14, be reinstated.

Mayor Dunaway reported Wednesday a committee composed of Mrs. Essary, Mrs. F. E. Rice, Miss Brown and Upham called on him Tuesday morning shortly before the petition was filed and demanded that Miss

Brown be reinstated and that the keys to the library be turned over to her.

HE SAID HE ADVISED the group he is only one member of the city commission and that any decision made by the commissioners would have to be rescinded by them and not by one member alone.

Dunaway said he also invited the four to appear at the city commissioners meeting Wednesday and present their request, but they declined the invitation.