

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,
ANN ARBOR, April 15, 1895.

Regular session.

Called to order by President Hiscock.

Roll called. Quorum present.

The journal of the last regular session and the special session prior approved.

COMMUNICATIONS.

FROM THE MAYOR.

*To the Honorable, the Common Council
of the City of Ann Arbor.*

Gentlemen:

It is a duty, as well as a pleasure, incumbent upon me on entering upon the duties of my office, to confer and advise with your honorable body, as to how we can best promote the welfare of our city. I sincerely believe that our city's interests are first in the hearts of every member of its council and such being the case it is very essential that we should act in harmony and assist each other in bearing the burden of responsibility attached to our several offices. As prosperity is the outgrowth of economy and as each and every member of this council is equally interested in the prosperity of our city, it is hoped and expected that the common council of the city of Ann Arbor will join hands with its mayor in an honest endeavor to manage the affairs of our city in the most economical manner possible consistent with progress and good government.

As the enforcement of the law and the preservation of good order is, by recent amendment of our charter, placed entirely in the hands of the mayor, I will advise nothing, but trusting to our police and the support of all law abiding citizens, backed by your honorable body,

await results to prove our ability to maintain good government.

I have but a few suggestions to offer. I have but little advice to give. I rely largely upon your knowledge of the needs and demands of the city.

I would advise the repairing and putting in good condition of our streets at as early a date as possible, so that the public may have the use of them for as long a period as possible before the fall rains again put them in bad condition. Some of our streets have been badly torn up in the construction of lateral sewers and will need prompt attention for when the frost is coming out of the ground the dirt in newly filled trenches will be apt to settle.

The street railway company should be required to fill and keep well filled between and outside of the rails of their tracks, in such a manner as to allow free travel of vehicles across them.

State street should be re-opened direct to the Huron river bridge.

Steps leading in that direction should, I think, be taken immediately, as in case of any extensive repairs on, or obstruction to, the bridge over the Michigan Central railroad, communications with the fifth ward would be confined to bridge number two nearly a mile below.

Some steps should be taken before going to the expense of re-planking the bridge over the Michigan Central railroad, should it devolve, by order of the court, upon the city, to see if it cannot be lowered. It is five or six feet too high and the bridge just north of it over the Huron river nearly as much too low and by lowering the first and raising the last named, what is now almost an impassable road for teams drawing heavy loads would thus become a useful and accessible thoroughfare.

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The lighting of the city is becoming a serious matter and no time should be lost in doing something toward stopping the terrible flow of money from the city treasury for this one purpose. Other cities owning their own lighting plant, I understand, are furnished light at one-half the cost of light furnished Ann Arbor. I hope your honorable body will take immediate steps to investigate this matter and should you find my information correct devise means to give to our city a lighting plant of its own. And should your investigation not quite justify the city's owning its own plant, then as the next best thing send a representative to Lansing to take from the hook and put upon its passage the bill to allow the city to make a five years contract, which will give us a chance to get outside competition and without a doubt, in my mind, greatly reduce the cost of lighting.

It would seem to me, judging from the number of people who have been injured more or less, by falling upon cement walks which are left with a smooth and glassy surface, that such walks should not be allowed to be finished in that manner, as they can as easily be finished under a wood float and thus do away with this nuisance.

There is another matter which I desire to bring to your attention, which to some of you, who have never been so unfortunate as to experience, may think a trivial matter. I refer to the smoke nuisance. There are certain sections of our city which after years of toil, honest and industrious citizens have succeeded in establishing pleasant homes, only to have them rendered nearly untenable because of the smoke and soot from the chimneys of the several industries which have, later, sprung up in the neighborhood. It might be said that the individuals suffering from this cause have their redress at law, but while that may be true, the citizen who pays his taxes does so with the implied guarantee of protection and has a right to look to you, gentlemen, whom they have chosen to care for the interests of all, to protect them in their homes and not to compel them to go down in their own pockets again to protect their own property, after they have paid their taxes, which was for that very purpose. It is my opinion that there should be prepared an ordinance covering this matter.

The investigation of the charges

against one of the members of the board of public works, now pending, should be handled with great care, with right and justice as the objective points. The charges against the member are of a serious nature and I hope it is to the gentleman's interest to have this investigation thorough. It is your duty, I deem it on behalf of the gentleman accused, to leave no stone unturned to get at the bottom facts in the case, so that in your findings, should he be innocent, you can fully vindicate him, and should the findings be against him, then you would be better prepared to our city.

WARREN E. WALKER.

Ald. Prettyman moved that the message of the mayor be referred to a committee of three for division and reference. Adopted.

Pres. Hiscock appointed the following as such committee:

Ald. Prettyman, Ferguson, Brown.

Pres. Hiscock addressed the council as follows:

Gentlemen of the Council:

In assuming the position of presiding officer of this body I commence my labors with some hesitation, but with an earnest desire to faithfully perform all the duties relating thereto. It is my hope that we can work together for the advancement of the city's interests and maintain the reputation our city has of being one of the best governed of its class in the State. And Arbor is enjoying a steady growth and our efforts should always tend toward its continued advancement and prosperity. In our labors this year I hope the members will bear in mind that all monies appropriated by our votes come from the tax-payers, and in times like the present it is our duty to make their burdens as light as possible; no condition is more important to a city than a low rate of taxation.

I think his honor, the mayor, will join me in the wish and assist in every way possible in making this a safe, economical and conservative administration. Asking your indulgence for a time until I become better acquainted with the rules governing this body, I desire to announce the following committees for the ensuing year.

Finance—Brown, Cady and Coon.

Ordinance — Prettyman, Butterfield and Maynard.

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Sewers—Cady, Koch, Laubengayer, Brown, Taylor, Prettyman and Moore.

Streets—Taylor, Snyder, Prettyman, Butterfield, Allmendinger, Moore and Ferguson.

Sidewalks—Coon, Laubengayer, Shadford, Brown, Koch, Maynard and Cady.

Fire Department—Moore, Shadford and Koch.

Water—Ferguson, Laubengayer and Butterfield.

Police—Maynard, Taylor and Ferguson.

Lighting—Allmendinger, Ferguson and Cady.

Bonds—Butterfield, Prettyman, and Taylor.

Licenses—Snyder, Koch and Coon.

Parks—Shadford, Moore and Allmendinger.

Poor—Laubengayer, Snyder and Coon.

Ald. Prettyman moved that the rules of the former council be adopted for this session and that a committee of three be appointed to formulate the rules of the council.

Pres. Hiscock appointed the following as committee on rules:

Ald. Butterfield, Moore, Brown.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

A petition signed by H. Reeve and five others, asking for a sidewalk grade on Catherine, between 13th and Clark streets, was read and referred to Street Committee.

A petition signed by H. J. Brown and thirty-three others, asking for the completion of the sewer of the Detroit street district, was read and referred to the Sewer committee.

A petition signed by J. C. Knowlton and all other residents on the north side of Hill, between Forest and Washtenaw avenues, asking for a change in the location of the hydrant in front of A. H. Pattengill's property, was read and referred to the water committee.

A petition signed by Matthew Lutz and nineteen others, asking for the location of a fire hydrant at the corner of West Liberty and Eighth streets, was read and referred to the water committee.

A petition signed by W. F. Stiegelmaier and eleven others, asking for a location of a fire hydrant near the corner of Mary and Benjamin streets, was read and referred to the water committee.

A petition signed by Charles C. Church and fifteen others, asking for a location of an electric light at the corner of West Jefferson and South Seventh streets, was read and referred to the lighting committee.

A petition signed by George Spathelf and ninety-six others, asking for the completion of that portion of the main sewer located in the Fourth and Fifth wards, was read and referred to the sewer committee.

A petition signed by John V. Sheehan and thirty-one others, asking for the suspension of the building of the Huron street sewer, was read and referred to the sewer committee.

Ald. Maynard moved that the petition of J. C. Knowlton and others be referred to the water committee with power to act.

Adopted as follows:

Yeas—Ald. Moore, Maynard, Allmendinger, Koch, Snyder, Laubengayer, Brown, Ferguson, Taylor, Shadford, Prettyman, Coon, Butterfield, Cady, Pres. Hiscock—15.

Nays—None.

FROM BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS.

To the Common Council:

The Board of Public Works respectfully represent that it is impracticable for want of cheap suitable gravel to continue as heretofore to gravel some of the streets of this city, also that it is not economical to do so.

We therefore recommend that measures should be taken to pave the business streets of the city. Vitrified bricks are being used to great advantage and satisfaction in neighboring cities, and as our natural foundation is such as to allow the use of bricks for paving without the expense of grout foundation. We recommend that Main street between Washington and Liberty streets, with the intersection of these two streets and the walk crossings, be as an experimen-

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tal start paved this season with vitrified blocks, such as the Board now have, and which we invite the council's attention to.

We also ask that the board be allowed to purchase a car load of these blocks to be used in building street crossings with instead of making the same of cement which has been found slippery for horses.

Also Mr. Arthur Brown has tendered to the Board swamp oak plank to be sawed to such thickness as the Board may direct; 16 ft. in length for \$18 per M. f. o. b. Ann Arbor.

We recommend the purchase of at least one car load (two can be used to advantage) of such plank to be used for crossings and for culvert and bridge coverings.

To the Common Council:

Gentlemen: I would respectfully call your attention to that part of the main sewer commencing at the blind man-hold in front of the Michigan Central passenger depot thence up the sewer to about the northwest end of the M. C. freight depot as lying off grade in part and with a large part of the tile broken.

I deem it dangerous and unsafe to turn about all the sewerage of the city into this sewer in its present condition, and I recommend to the Council that the sewer, at the point indicated, be rebuilt on the present line. We had bids to do this work last fall for about \$1,000, the city furnishing the tile, which the city has on hand.

I call your attention to this matter, as I wish to wash my hands of responsibility in this particular.

GEO. W. BULLIS.

Referred to the sewer committee.

To the Honorable the Mayor, the President and the Common Council of the City of Ann Arbor.

The undersigned would respectfully represent that he is president of the Board of Public Works of said city. That he has been a member of said board since the 15th day of May, 1894.

That he has learned through the newspapers that certain charges have been made against him, in his official capacity. That he has had no official notice of any such proceedings. That here, now and at all times and places he most earnestly protests that he is entirely innocent of any and every charge made against him and is ready at all times to proceed in any way that

the wisdom of the Common Council of the city of Ann Arbor may dictate, to defend himself against each and every of said charges. That he hereby waives the notice required in such cases and announces himself ready at any time when it shall please the Common Council to take up the consideration of said charges, and respectfully requests that said Common Council shall proceed with greatest dispatch consistent with justice to all, to the consideration of said charges, and that all persons who are competent witnesses and who claim to have any knowledge on the subject of said charges may be summoned and subpoenaed to appear at the time and place fixed by the Common Council to give their testimony on the subject of said charges; and he hereby invites and demands the most thorough and careful investigation possible of each and every charge made.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Dated April 15, 1895.

ALBERT M. CLARK,
Pres. Board of Public Works,
Ann Arbor, Mich.

RESOLUTIONS.

By Ald. Butterfield:

WHEREAS, certain charges of misconduct in office have been made and filed against Albert M. Clark, President of the Board of Public Work which the Council deems it its duty to investigate.

Resolved, That Wednesday the 8th day of May be the time fixed, and the Council Chamber of the city of Ann Arbor be the place fixed for the hearing of the same. And be it further

Resolved, That the clerk be directed to cause to be served upon said Albert M. Clark on or before the 17th day of April instant a certified copy of said charges and of this resolution. And be it further

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the President of the Council to formulate an order of business and rules of procedure for said investigation and report the same to this Council at its next regular meeting.

Adopted.

Pres. Hiscock appointed the committee on rules together with the City Attorney to act as a committee to formulate an order of business and rules of procedure.

By Ald. Butterfield:

Resolved, That we respectfully re-

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COUNCIL CHAMBER,
ANN ARBOR, APR. 22, 1895. }

Special session.

Called to order by President Hiscock.

Roll called. Quorum present.

Absent—Ald. Moore, Laubengayer,
Brown, Butterfield, Cady,

COMMUNICATION FROM THE MAYOR.

Glen V. Mills, City Clerk—

Sir: Please call a special meeting of the Common Council to be held on Monday, April 22, at 7:30 p. m. to consider the question of fixing the amount of bonds to be required of liquor dealers and druggists for the ensuing year, and to approve the same; also for the purpose of adopting rules for the governing of the council for the coming year, and to determine the salaries of city officers.

Yours, etc.

Warren E. Walker, Mayor.

Ald. Prettyman moved that the bonds of liquor dealers be fixed at \$3,000, and that the bond of druggists be fixed at \$2,000 for the ensuing year.

The motion prevailed as follows:

Yeas—Ald. Maynard, Allmendinger, Koch, Snyder, Ferguson, Taylor, Shadford, Prettyman, Coon, President Hiscock—10.

Nays—None.

Ald. Laubengayer, Brown, Butterfield, and Cady entered.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RULES.

To the Honorable Common Council:

Your committee to whom was referred the matter of rules governing the deliberations of the council beg leave to report the following changes in the rules as compiled in pamphlet form in 1891 and 1892.

Rule 1. Strike out the word "standard" and insert the word "local."

Rule 2. In the fourth line from the bottom of page 1 after "read" insert "or placed in the hands of each member." And on page 2 at top after committees insert a comma and after "questions" insert a comma.

Rule 3. After "ordinance" insert

quest Albert M. Clark to file with the clerk, on or before the next regular meeting, a written answer to the charges pending against him, and a statement in writing of his defense thereto, and that the city clerk cause a copy of this resolution to be served upon said Albert M. Clark, together with the copy of said charges heretofore provided for.

Adopted.

By Ald. Prettyman.

Resolved, That the Board of Public Works and Street Commissioners be instructed to report a proper grade for Geddes avenue.

Adopted.

By Ald. Prettyman.

Resolved, That the mayor be, and he is hereby authorized to offer a reward of \$100 to any person furnishing evidence that shall lead to the arrest and conviction of any one guilty of wilfully and maliciously administering poison to any dog or of exposing any poisonous substance with intent that the same shall be taken or swallowed by any dog.

Adopted as follows:

Yeas—Ald. Moore, Maynard, Allmendinger, Koch, Snyder, Laubengayer, Brown, Taylor, Shadford, Prettyman, Coon, Pres. Hiscock—12.

Nays—Ald. Ferguson, Butterfield, Cady—3.

Ald. Butterfield moved that the President of the Council act as a member of the committee on rules.

Adopted.

Ald. Brown moved that the communication from the Board of Public Works be referred to the street committee.

Ald. Prettyman moved that the board be authorized to ask for bids for two car loads of swamp oak plank.

Adopted as follows:

Yeas—Ald. Moore, Maynard, Allmendinger, Koch, Snyder, Brown, Ferguson, Taylor, Shadford, Prettyman, Coon, Butterfield, Cady, Pres. Hiscock—14.

Nays—Ald. Laubengayer.

Ald. Prettyman moved that the street committee be empowered to secure the figure at which a road roller and stone crusher can be secured.

Adopted as follows:

Yeas—Ald. Moore, Maynard, Koch, Snyder, Laubengayer, Brown, Ferguson, Taylor, Shadford, Prettyman, Coon, Cady—12.

Nays—Ald. Allmendinger, Butterfield, Pres. Hiscock—3.

On motion the Council adjourned.

GLEN V. MILLS, City Clerk.