

Council Chambers,
April 15, 1901.

Regular meeting, called to order by
President Haarer.

Roll call—Present: Ald. Richards,
Hamilton, Koch, Kearns, Clancy,
Brown, Schumacher, Weeks, Roberts,
Jenney, Coon, Burg, Pres. Haarer—13.
Absent: Ald. Schlenker, Fischer—2.

Minutes of previous meeting read
and approved.

The President then appointed the
following standing committees:

Finance—Ald. Hamilton, Burg,
Brown.

Ordinance—Ald. Fischer, Hamilton,
Clancy.

Sewer—Ald. Richards, Koch, Kearns,
Brown, Weeks, Jenny, Fischer.

Street—Ald. Burg, Hamilton, Schlenker,
Clancy, Schumacher, Roberts,
Coon.

Sidewalk—Ald. Jenney, Richards,
Schlenker, Kearns, Schumacher,
Weeks, Burg.

Fire Department—Ald. Clancy, Rich-
ards, Kearns.

Water—Ald. Schlenker, Hamilton,
Roberts.

Police—Ald. Schumacher, Roberts,
Fischer.

Lighting—Ald. Koch, Coon, Clancy.

License—Ald. Kearns, Richards,
Burg.

Bonds—Ald. Brown, Jenney, Koch.

Parks—Ald. Coon, Weeks, Brown.

Poor—Ald. Weeks, Coon, Koch.

Cemetery—Ald. Roberts, Fischer,
Schumacher.

Ald. Hamilton moved that the rules
governing the past council be adopted
by the present Council.—Carried.

Enter Ald. Schlenker.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

To the Honorable the Common Council
of the City of Ann Arbor:

Gentlemen—I have been long enough
in office to realize that there are not
responsibilities alone, but many bur-
dens connected with official life. I
congratulate you upon your election to
this honorable body, and at the same
time I commiserate you for the hard-

ships which are certain to follow.
Those of you who have been long in
the service of the public have perhaps
come to bear your burdens with fortitude.
I trust, however, that you have
not forgotten the early days of your
first triumphs, but, knowing how it
was yourselves, will the more readily
bear with a novice.

Since preaching is always so much
easier than practice, it is with pleasure
that I call to your attention certain
matters, which in my judgment ought
to be considered by the Common
Council.

THE COLLECTION OF GARBAGE.

A frequent complaint in Ann Arbor
relates to the removal of garbage.
Housekeepers hardly know what to do
with accumulations of this sort, and
the board of health is required to take
frequent cognizance of violations of
the health laws. It is a matter of some
surprise to me that the Common Council
or the board of health has not devised
some means for the solution of
this problem. It is a matter of greater
surprise that some company or corporation
has not asked for a franchise for
the removal of garbage. Is not such a
plan as the following a feasible one?

There are said to be between four
and five thousand residences in this
city. Let every household provide for
itself a galvanized iron receptacle or
other tight vessel in which to place all
its garbage. Let every hotel and business
place make suitable provision for
the reception of its refuse. Twice in
each week, from the first of May to the
first of November, and once in each
week for the rest of the year, these
vessels should be taken to some place
provided by the council and their contents
buried, burned or otherwise destroyed.
To provide for the expense of
the provisions of such an ordinance
every family should pay a sum not to
exceed one dollar per year, and each
hotel and business place as much more
as might be deemed fair. The income
from such an arrangement would
amount to about \$5,000, and would
amply provide for all the expense involved.
It would place at the disposal

of the board of health a sum of money sufficient for all the expenses of that board, and would further provide for the salary of the sanitary police officer, who would act as health inspector and general officer of the board of health. Armed with police authority he would prove to be a most useful official.

Such an ordinance as this, carefully prepared to cover all the necessary details, would promote the comfort, sanitary conditions, and the health of our community. It would add no serious burdens in the way of expense and would solve one of the domestic problems of every household. It might be well in this connection, too, to take into consideration the removal of ashes. A very small additional tax would provide for this matter. Certainly every resident would rejoice in the disappearance of the unsightly ash-heaps and ash-scattered streets, alleys and dumping places of Ann Arbor.

CONSTRUCTION OF SIDEWALKS.

Through the Common Council I desire to call the attention of the board of public works to the condition of the sidewalks in our beautiful city. Congratulations and commendation are due the members of that board for the material improvement of our sidewalks during the past year. Many unsightly and dangerous walks have been replaced by substantial ones of cement. The appearance of the city has been improved and the comfort of its citizens promoted by the painstaking care of the board of public works.

I feel, however, that there is much more work of this sort left to be done before our sidewalks can be considered passable and safe. The street commissioner, if he be the proper official, should be directed to locate and report the property owners in Ann Arbor who need to build or replace sidewalks abutting upon their premises. In many instances, no doubt, the building of a new walk imposes a hardship upon some property-holder illy able to bear the expense of construction. I fully sympathize with every such person, but the safety and health of the community must outweigh the individual

burden. I trust the present season may witness the construction of many rods of new walk.

REMOVAL OF SNOW AND ICE FROM SIDEWALKS.

An ordinance passed and approved in November, 1895, provided for the removal of obstructions from sidewalks. In sections 2 and 3 of that ordinance, recorded on page 94 of the charter and ordinances, directions are given for the removal of snow and ice. In spite of the provisions in section 5, relative to violations of this ordinance, so far as my observation extends, there has been no recent attempt at its enforcement.

It occurs to me that the ordinance is lame in that it requires the service of a notice upon the person charged with the violation of its terms. So much time is consumed by the slow processes of the law that our citizens endure the ills they have rather than to resort to legal measures for relief.

Fortunate indeed has been the alderman or city official who has not plowed through snow banks and waded through miniature lakes during the past six months. Some of our winter sidewalks would make a Leadville politician blush for shame. Even under our present ordinance it seems to me entirely unnecessary to submit to such imposition upon the good nature of the public.

I suggest, however, that your committee on ordinances consider the wisdom of so amending section 5, pages 95 and 96, as to make the property-holder or resident liable to a fine as well as an assessment for the failure to carry out the provisions of this ordinance. I recommend also that its enforcement be made the duty of the police department of the city.

STREET SPRINKLING.

Under this heading I shall make no recommendation. I desire simply to remind you of the condition of our streets. Ann Arbor is universally considered one of the most delightfully located, one of the most beautiful and one of the most desirable places of residence in all America. It may some

day become a place of popular resort. Even now many citizens of the far south come to our city to spend the summer months. We trust their number may increase.

Aside from the heat, which is not excessive in our shaded streets, and upon our fresh and fragrant lawns, the dusty driveways and dirt-impregnated atmosphere are the chief causes of discomfort in the summer season. Personally I do not object to this condition of things, because it promotes and aggravates diseases of certain organs which afford me a living. However, for the common good of our citizens I trust your honorable body may sometime devise a plan for the general sprinkling of the streets.

WATER WORKS.

Our citizens show a feeling of unrest and discomfort because of the uncertainties of the water works question. No matter what may be its origin, the idea prevails that a sale and purchase have been contemplated, involving an expenditure on the part of the city of \$450,000, for the property and franchise of the water company. One must be deaf and blind not to realize that public sentiment is almost a unit against this proposition. I have no doubt our citizens would vote to purchase the property at a reasonable price, but for my part I should consider \$200,000 a most generous and magnanimous offer. Certainly the property will inventory much nearer one hundred thousand dollars than it will half a million.

If we are to involve the city in the expenditure of a vast sum, would it not be to our material advantage to keep the water company demand a price far in excess of the tangible value of its property, why not build our own plant, employ our own labor, and keep the money in our own community? When completed we should have a water system brand new, modern in its equipment and good for at least fifteen years longer service than the present plant. The certain action of the elements and the uncertain effect of electrolysis must not be overlooked in the consideration of this question. The present system

is far from new. So long ago was it granted that 8,000 students have graduated from our University during the life time of its franchise. Fifteen years' time must have produced most marked deterioration in the value of the water company's property.

In the solution of this problem I am sure the wisdom and good sense of the council will prevail. You may decide that to purchase the present system and to create a new one are both uncalled for at this time. In any event the passage of the ordinance now pending for a reduction in water rates is demanded by our citizens. Radical concessions must be made by the water company. The prices now charged water consumers are extortionate, and immediate relief should be given. I am confident that you will take early action in this matter.

I am informed there is now in the hands of the legislature a bill enabling the city of Ann Arbor to construct a water works system. In view of the possibility that we may wish to begin such a work before another legislature assembles, I recommend that steps be taken to bring about the immediate passage of this act.

FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The report of the city treasurer for April 1, 1901, shows a lamentable condition of the city finances. There are heavy overdrafts in the paving, sewer and city funds.

The overdraft in the paving fund is accounted for by the payment of paving bonds matured before the assessments against abutting property have been collected.

The overdraft in the sewer fund was caused by the construction of the surface sewers without providing a means of payment by bonding, or assessment against adjacent property. The money for this improvement was charged against the main sewer account, for which no authority of law appears, causing a very heavy overdraft against this fund.

The city funds show a peculiar condition of things. The bridge, culvert and crosswalks funds, for example,

shows a balance of \$16,870.15. On the other hand two accounts are largely overdrawn, viz.: the contingent fund, \$11,217.95 and the street fund, \$10,879.52.

The total overdrafts are as follows:

Paving fund	\$ 2872 62
Sewer fund	16871 95
City funds	7762 43

Total overdrafts\$27507 00

Taxes are collected and the appropriations are made in July. Examination of the reports for four years past shows that the average city expense for the four months—April, May, June and July—has been \$19,972.57. Added to the present overdraft the deficit on Aug. 1 will amount to \$47,479.57. From this must be deducted the liquor tax of \$8,000 and an unpaid install—a credit of \$12,000, there will be left an overdraft on July 31, of about \$35,000.

As you well know, except by vote of the electors, the aggregate amount which the Common Council may raise by general tax shall not exceed in any one year one-half of one per cent on the assessed valuation of the property in the city. The present valuation, about the same as for several years past, is in the neighborhood of ten millions of dollars. The limit of taxation without special consent of the electors, then, is \$50,000. For several years the full limit of the tax levy has been reached. Indeed, for two years past it has been exceeded by from \$1,200 to \$2,100. It is certainly true that the expenses of the city have gone beyond the limit of the levy.

In the seven main accounts the expenses for several years have been as follows:

1897-'98	\$56,468.66
1898-'99	53,924.33
1899-'00	55,473.43
1900-'01	59,847.78

These figures show quite conclusively that the normal expenses of the city will require every penny we can raise by taxation at the full limit. What, then, can be done to care for the large deficit which confronts the new council?

Were you to levy the same amount as that raised last year the overdrafts of next July would absorb all but \$17,000—an amount less than is required for the cost of police, fire, poor, and water funds alone. This is a serious problem and worthy of your closest attention.

The charter states that "The mayor shall from time to time give to the Common Council information concerning the affairs of the corporation, and recommend such measures as he may deem expedient." Acting on this provision of law I desire to offer some suggestions relating to the financial situation.

I believe in absolute frankness in business affairs. You are here to care for the interests of our citizens. Confronting your honorable body is a problem which cannot be solved without an appeal to the electors. Go frankly before the people and explain the existing conditions. Some time soon, call a special meeting of the electors qualified to vote, and submit to them three questions, namely:

1. Shall there be levied a special tax of \$35,000 to meet the overdrafts upon the city treasury?
2. Shall the city be bonded for \$35,000 to meet these overdrafts? (Provided, of course, this can be legally done, and to make it lawful an amendment to the charter may be necessary.)
3. Shall the city be bonded for \$20,000, the cost of the surface sewers, and a special levy of \$15,000 be made to meet the remaining overdrafts?

Your duty is performed when you have explained the situation and the people must decide for themselves what must be done with this serious indebtedness. I urge you to take this step.

A few suggestions of minor importance occur to me in this connection. There are certain accounts, of sewer funds notably, which are practically at an end, and to save complications and bookkeeping should be officially closed by vote of the Common Council. Some transfers of funds, too, should be made

to equalize the open accounts. Take the bridge, culvert and crosswalk fund, for instance. For four years past the average yearly expenditure from this fund has been about \$3,000. The treasurer's books show for this fund a balance at the end of the year of nearly \$17,000. A transfer from this fund would wipe out overdrafts against other funds which are in daily use.

The charter provides that no transfer shall be made from one fund to another except by a three-fourths vote of all the members of the Common Council elect. I recommend that these suggestions be referred to the finance committee, arranged in detail and acted upon at your earliest convenience. Our present records do not show us to be careful enough of business methods.

Allow me to suggest, further, that greater care be exercised in making up the tax levy. Without knowing or caring to know who is responsible for the figures in the levy of 1899, I wish to call your attention to several items in the tax roll of that year. Under the head of bridge, culvert and crosswalk, \$12,000 was spread upon the rolls and \$2,151.44 expended! For contingent expenses \$7,000 was levied, and \$17,477.13 expended! In 1900-'01 for bridge, culvert and crosswalk there was levied \$10,000 and spent \$1,640.75! For contingent fund there was assessed \$10,000, while for expenses against that fund there was charged \$25,278.17!!!

These facts indicate nothing except a little carelessness, some haste and possibly lack of full knowledge of the exact requirements of the various funds. I have no desire to criticize past officials of the city, but I have called these things to your attention in the hope that they may assist you in performing your whole duty as is your intention, I am sure.

I should not feel that I had done my full duty if I did not remind you that the charter expressly forbids the creation of an overdraft. Section 52 of that instrument states that "no warrant shall be drawn upon any fund after the same has been exhausted." This practice should cease.

LABOR.

I believe in the most rigid economy in the administration of city affairs, provided its exercise does not hamper the growth and proper improvement of the city or work to the detriment of any class of its citizens. The sort of economy which holds the nose of the workingman against the grindstone of existence is not to my liking. Of all the men in the world the laborer is worthy of his hire. The professional or business man is afforded frequent opportunity for fortunate investment, or has at his command facilities for increasing his revenue at more than the ordinary rate. It is true he may not grasp the opportunity and may end his days in the most abject poverty, but yet he had the chance of accumulation.

All this is denied the wage earner. He is limited in his earning capacity by his physical endurance and the scale of prices too often manipulated by the selfishness of a corporation.

Therefore, I most earnestly recommend that this honorable body in negotiating with labor upon our streets and in our various departments deal as liberally as is consistent with your conscience and judgment.

The demand for teamsters and day laborers in this vicinity is so great at present that it seems to me entirely proper to slightly increase the scale of wages. We will be doing no more as a city than any contractor does as an individual if we regulate our prices to the demand for labor. For this reason I hope the board of public works may find its way clear to pay the teamsters \$3.50 per day, and the other laborers a corresponding increase.

I trust, too, that in the selection of men to work upon our streets, or in any of our departments, there may be no discrimination on account of nationality or creed, that equal opportunity may be given to all men, organized or unorganized, union or non-union, black or white. The men who labor at day's work and the men who serve as wage-earners are just as important citizens of this community as men who have

earned the right to a degree. As citizens they have the same duties and responsibilities, and are entitled to the same consideration at our hands. I am sure no one will question the propriety of such an increase in wages as I have here recommended.

CONCLUSION.

In administering the functions of the office to which the people have called me I have but one ambition. Before God and this honorable body I desire to do my whole duty as mayor of Ann Arbor. I shall endeavor not to be swayed by sympathy and emotion, but to do solely what my judgment dictates to be best and right. I cannot please everybody, doubtless I shall frequently displease myself, but I do hope to do what seems best for the common good of our citizens.

I think the members of the Common Council are actuated by like motives, and in your dealings with me I shall believe that you are as honest and well meaning as I intend to be. With mutual respect and common interest we may work together to the profit and advantage of our municipality. In the language of the preacher, "Whom God hath joined together, let no man put asunder!"

ROYAL S. COPELAND.

Ann Arbor, April 15, 1901.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

A recommendation from the Board of Works to the Council for an appropriation of forty (\$40) dollars for the construction of a brick crosswalk on South State st. opposite the athletic grounds was received and a motion made to concur in the recommendation.

Ald. Hamilton offered as a substitute that the matter be referred to the Sidewalk Committee.

Lost as follows:

Yeas—Ald. Hamilton, Weeks—2.

Nays—Ald. Richards, Schlenker, Koch, Kearns, Clancy, Brown, Schumacher, Roberts, Jenney, Coon, Burg, Pres. Haarer—12.

The recommendation from the Board for an appropriation of (\$300.00) three hundred dollars for the purchase of 27 inch tile for creek on W. Williams st., between Third and Fourth, was received and referred to Sewer Committee.

STREETS.

The following petitions were received and read:

That Hill street between Washtenaw and Geddes avenue and Oxford Road be graveled and brick crossings made.

That the grading of Observatory st., from Geddes ave. to Ann st., and of Belser st. from Observatory to Fourteenth st. be completed, and surfaced with gravel. Referred to Street Committee.

SIDEWALKS.

The following petitions for walks and grades were received and read:

For a grade on the north side of Belser st. and walk thereon.

That new walk be ordered on south side of Belser st.

That new walk be ordered on both sides of Hill st. between Washtenaw ave. and Oxford Road, and on Washtenaw ave. near eastern boundary of city.

That a new crossing be placed at the intersection of Huron and Ingalls st.

For walk on south side of East Catherine st. in front of F. Minnis', Mrs. Carroll, Mrs. Hendricks, Warren Parsons and John Rocol.

For crosswalks east side of S. Fifth ave. and north side of East Jefferson at intersection of S. Fifth ave. and E. Jefferson st.

To grade sidewalk extensions in front of Dr. Lombard and Professor Lloyd.

Referred to Sidewalk Committee.

LIGHT.

The following petitions for lights were received and read:

For a light on corner of Mosley and First st.

For a light on Hill st. and Oxford Road, Vine and W. Washington sts.

On Lawrence st. between State and Division, on Maiden Lane in fifth ward.

Referred to Lighting Committee.

HYDRANT-WATER.

The following petitions were received and read:

For hydrant on Washtenaw ave. beyond the last one now on the street.

That hydrant be placed at intersection of Hill st. and Oxford Road, and on Washtenaw ave. near eastern boundary of city.

Referred to Water Committee.

The matter of taking water from hydrants for sprinkling purposes was considered, and on motion of Ald. Brown the matter was referred to the Water Committee with power to act.—Carried.

A bill of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00) from Koch Bros. for work done on the second ward building was received.

Ald. Brown moved that rule 21 be suspended.

Adopted as follows:

Yeas—Ald. Richards, Hamilton,

Schlenker, Koch, Kearns, Clancy, Brown, Schumacher, Weeks, Roberts, Jenney, Coon, Burg, Pres. Haarer—14.

Nays—None.

By Ald. Brown:

Resolved, That a warrant be drawn in favor of Koch Bros. for two hundred and fifty dollars.

Adopted as follows:

Yeas—Ald. Richards, Hamilton, Schlenker, Koch, Kearns, Clancy, Brown, Schumacher, Weeks, Roberts, Jenney, Coon, Burg, Pres. Haarer—14.

Nays—None.

Several street and sidewalk grades were presented by the engineer and referred to their proper committees.

An estimate of \$2060.30 for taking care of the water which was formerly taken care of by the race was received and ordered filed.

On motion the Council adjourned.

JAS. E. HARKINS, Clerk.