

Council Chamber, April 21, 1902.

Regular session.

Called to order by Pres. Haarer.

Roll call: Present—Ald. Hamilton, Douglas, Koch, Schlenker, Clancy, Kearns, Schumacher, Johnson, Roberts, Grose, Coon, Jenney, Fischer, Pres. Haarer—14. Absent—Ald. Burg—1.

Minutes of previous meeting read, corrected and approved.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

To the Honorable, the Common Council:

Gentlemen:— It is the custom for the Mayor, at its reorganization, to communicate with the Common Council, reviewing the affairs of the City and recommending such measures as to him seem important. That is my pleasure tonight.

We have survived the ordeal of our annual election. I congratulate the members of this body who have come from the people crowned with the wreaths of victory. It speaks well for the public service of our colleagues that every renominated alderman was returned to his office with a large increase of the public confidence.

While in its personnel the Council is practically unchanged, yet there are voices long familiar in this chamber which will be heard no more during the present administration. It was rarely vouchsafed to me to have the support of Aldermen Richards and Brown, but I am frank to say I always felt more comfortable and much more sanguine of success when assured of their co-operation. They are men of convictions, force of character and determination of purpose. Likewise they have forensic ability that enables them to impress their views upon their fellows. Both are such good social friends of mine that I was often pained to meet their opposition in public affairs. However, as one remembers with pleasure the last meeting with a departed friend, so I recall with gratitude and appreciation the splendid stand they took on the grade separation ordinance which might have been defeated except for their eloquent support.

Alderman Weeks, more quiet in nature, has been a most valuable member of this body. He has always charmed us by his unfailing good nature and never ending patience. He has a breadth of soul which does not permit him to measure public duty by any political standard. As the true servant of the public always does, he set aside party consideration for the common good.

These three men will be missed by their colleagues, the city officials and the general public. We are to be congratulated that the first, fourth and fifth wards have selected most excellent successors. Aldermen Douglas, well known to our citizens in an honorable career, has a reputation already. Alderman Johnson, who has grown up in our midst and been conspicuous for upright business methods, is a welcome addition to the Common Council. Alderman Grose is too well known as an honest and useful member of this humble body in years past to require special mention. We welcome these new members and congratulate you on their quality.

WORK OF THE DEPARTMENTS.

It is fitting at this time to pass in review the work of the various departments of the city government.

FIRE COMMISSIONERS.

Ann Arbor has one of the best fire departments to be found in any city of its size. From a personal experience and from the universal commendation of our citizens I am convinced of this fact. Eternal vigilance, immediate response and intelligent direction of its energies enable our chief and his assistants to use this important department to the safety of our property. The fire losses in Ann Arbor are marvelously small.

It would not be right to pass this subject without special reference to the economical, wise and business-like management of the interests of the Board of Fire Commissioners. If all public affairs were as well conducted an election would be needed only on the death of a public official. Mr. Seabolt, who is the father of our fire department, deserves particular

mention for his single-minded devotion to its needs and interest. He has received the cordial co-operation of the other able members of the Board.

BOARD OF HEALTH.

This has been a trying year for the Board of Health. Even at the present time there is small-pox in two hundred communities in Michigan. We have not escaped the visitation of this dread disease, but with the prompt care of our health officials there has been no spread of the infection and no public alarm so trying to the nerves and comfort.

Such attention has been given to the sanitary condition of our city that infectious disease is almost unknown. The back doors, alleys and dumping grounds have been under constant inspection and the health of our citizens closely guarded. The public little realize how much time, labor and annoyance are spent by this faithful servant of the municipality. It is not the result of accident or favorable location, alone, that we are so blessed. Our Board of Health must be given its share of the praise.

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS.

This Board has been hampered the past year by the lack of funds to carry out its plans. But with the money at its command it has done well. One familiar with the Ann Arbor of twenty years ago is struck at once by the wonderful improvement in the streets, crosswalks and sidewalks. In the old days who didn't lose his rubber in the mud of the crossings or cut his shoes on the nails of the old wooden walks? How different now! During the last year nearly eight miles of cement walks were constructed and any number of brick crossings laid.

The Board has had much extra work by reason of the electric railroad construction. All the duties have been well performed by men who have unselfishly devoted themselves to a difficult task. They deserve the thanks of the community.

THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Of all the occupations open to human endeavor the most difficult, in my

judgment, is to serve on the police force. The constant strife in law courts should convince us that all questions have at least two sides. The construction to be placed upon any legal proposition depends entirely upon the early training, education and experience of the judge or jury. Every citizen has the right to read the ordinances of the city and the statutes of the commonwealth. He places his own construction upon them and passes judgment upon conduct, according to the conformity or non-conformity of human action to his particular theory of what the law really means and the purposes of its enactment.

Naturally, this divides society into the strict constructionist and the loose constructionist, the straight-laced and the liberal. The police officer is between two fires. He cannot serve two masters, for verily if he hold to the one he will be despised of the other and if he hate the one he will be loved by the other. He must, then, go his way determined to enforce the laws in a rational, even, unbiased, impartial manner. Spasms of virtue and spectacular efforts at the suppression of certain crimes may suit some, but the steady, straight-forward, honest and persistent effort to make our city a clean, wholesome, law abiding community must appeal to every citizen. The past year has not witnessed an arrest every twenty-four hours and for that reason is not counted a success by the radical. On the other hand every violator of the law, apprehended in the crime, has suffered the punishment of the offense and probably has not been pleased therewith. But from my standpoint, while I consider the police force too small and for that reason inadequate, I do believe it has given our community a very respectable and decent position in the moral world.

THE CITY OFFICIALS.

We are all indebted to the City Attorney, the Clerk, the Treasurer and the Assessor for the faithfulness and fidelity with which their duties have been performed. No flaw is to be found in the official record of any one

of these devoted servants of the public. One unfamiliar with the multifarious duties of these gentlemen cannot appreciate how much labor is connected with each office.

Personally, I am under particular obligations to the City Attorney for his unvarying kindness and willingness to advise me in all municipal matters. We all know the fulness of his moments and the pressure of his private practice, but every city official will gladly bear witness to his constant readiness to give precedence to city affairs.

It is only right and just that I should speak of the same qualities in the former City Attorney. Coming to the office of Mayor with no past experience in municipal affairs, I found in Mr. Norris a safe adviser and wise counsellor. Putting aside party differences he treated me with the greatest kindness and consideration. Of course he remained in office longer than I really intended he should, but it wasn't because I didn't like him that I tried so hard to appoint a successor.

THE COMMON COUNCIL.

The last year was a busy one for your honorable body. There were held 24 regular meetings, 3 adjourned meetings, and 19 specials, a total of 46 meetings. The electric railroad franchises and the grade separation project necessitated most of these special sessions. As a whole the year has brought forth much splendid fruit. Some of the measures considered are of interest to the new council because they are open questions still. Among these may be numbered the ordinance for the regulation of water rates.

WATER RATES.

By action of the Common Council this ordinance is not operative until June 30. The effect it will have upon the rates to be paid for water is the topic of much discussion. Unfortunately the provisions of the ordinance are not fully understood by many and by others are made a matter of jest. The joke becomes serious when stated as fact, because it reaches people who

are not well enough informed concerning the whole matter to appreciate the fun.

We often hear it said that the income of the water company will be actually increased by the provisions of this ordinance. The ridiculousness of this statement is so self-evident that it seems hardly necessary to refute it. Any water taker can figure for himself whether or not he is entitled to a reduction. Of the 1572 houses supplied by water at least 1527 will be benefited by the change.

The ordinance provides that a house of five rooms shall be taken as the unit and charged for sdfcou hasr unit and charged \$3.00 per annum. The rule in force for sixteen years has permitted the water company to charge \$5.00 for a house of 3 rooms. Under the old rule the company could charge \$6.00 for a house of 5 rooms, or twice as much as under the new ordinance. As a matter of fact, since these houses have no sinks or drain pipes, the rate actually in force now for these dwellings is \$5.00. There are sixty-six such houses using city water. After June 30th they pay \$3.00 instead of \$5.00, a reduction of 40 per cent.

At present there are 100 houses of six rooms paying \$8 for water where the new rate will be \$3.50, a reduction of 56 per cent. Two hundred and five 7-room houses now pay \$8 and will pay \$4, a reduction of 50 per cent. The average water taker will save at least \$3.50 per year. To the holder of a large house this is not a large sum in proportion to the whole amount paid, but the poor people and the people living in a modest way will appreciate a reduction which divides by two the bills of the past sixteen years.

The new ordinance is not nearly so sweeping as the more radical of us would like, but it reduces the income of the Water Company in an amount between four and five thousand dollars. More than that, we have established the principle that the common council can regulate the rates to be charged for water and for domestic purposes. If some future council thinks the Water Company can stand

a further reduction there is precedent for action. In the meantime, I beg of you and of our citizens in general to rest in peace until the July bills are presented. When they appear, if they do not bear out the prophecy of this message, I will gladly inaugurate another attack upon that much discussed corporation. Under those circumstances I am sure your honorable body would approve such a course. But at this time public discussion breeds discontent and can do no good. Let us consider the incident closed, at least until July first.

I cannot pass this question without a reference to the use of meters. The original contract did not contemplate measuring water by any such method, it is not the common way of doing so, and the water containing an amount of lime and other minerals which readily precipitate, such a system is not practicable in Ann Arbor. I am convinced from what our lawyers say, from the attitude of the Water Company, and from a personal inspection of the meters, that it is absolutely useless to press the matter. Personally, I think the use of the meter is the only equitable way to measure the water and to determine the charge to be made for it, but it is the condition and not the theory which confronts us. We cannot have the meters and there is no use discussing their desirability.

Two months from now our water bills will bear evidence to the practical value of the new ordinance. Let us wait and determine later whether further action is necessary.

GRADE SEPARATION.

In the opinion of many of our citizens, the action of the city officials in paving the way for the separation of the grades of the Ann Arbor railroad and the five streets crossing it was the most important action of the year just ended. I am painfully conscious that several members of your honorable body, men whose judgment I honor and whose friendship I prize, differed from the majority opinion in this matter. As I understand it, they voted as they did, not because they disapprove

of the general proposition of grade separation, but because they fear the interests of the city are not properly safeguarded by the ordinance. Many little problems connected with the enterprise remain unsolved. I sincerely hope the whole matter may be so carefully considered by your honorable body that when the final details are acted upon it may be by unanimous vote. In spite of my own enthusiasm for the successful culmination of the plan, I sympathize with the minority in the objections they raise. I believe it possible, however, to remove the most serious of the obstacles and I hold myself in perfect readiness to meet, in a spirit of conciliation and honest endeavor to do what is right to the individual as well as the city at large, the few property holders who still oppose the measure.

We are to be congratulated that the owners of the electric lines are perfectly willing to contribute their share of the amount needed for this permanent and important improvement to our city. On Saturday last Mr. Hawks agreed to take such financial action as will satisfy Mr. Ashley in the sum of thirty thousand dollars. Immediately upon this agreement with Mr. Hawkes I communicated by telegraph with Mr. Boland. He complied with the request and is to place ten thousand dollars at the disposal of the Ann Arbor Railroad.

With this happy arrangement between the corporations involved, the city cannot afford to go halting on its way to such an improvement. It will cost us some money and possibly some property owners may be injured, but the greatest good to the multitude of our citizens must decide us. The interests of the municipality demand that every business enterprise, every mill and every factory be safeguarded. Far be it from any city official to overlook the importance of these commercial and manufacturing institutions of our city. In completing the details of this plan let us study every interest and, so far as we may, remove the honest objection of every individual. But let us not delay matters or suffer

this opportunity to pass. It means labor for our working men, increase in property values and the saving of human life.

ELECTRIC RAILROAD FRANCHISES.

It is unnecessary to review the history of electric railway legislation enacted during the past year. Of the three roads at our gates knocking for admission twelve months ago, one has completed its lines through the city. We are glad to have it and rejoice in the business it brings our merchants.

It gives pleasure to report that Mr. Boland's telegram on Saturday included good news other than his willingness to co-operate in grade separations. It conveyed the joyful information that the rails have been purchased for July delivery to complete the line through Dexter to Ann Arbor. He promises to have the cars running on or before September 1.

Both the Hawks-Angus line and the Boland line have favors to ask of your honorable body. The former corporation desires its franchise to be so amended as to include Packard and Main streets, thus extending the time of its right to these streets, bringing its entire line under the same restrictions. The Boland line wishes a renewal of its franchise, which terminates within a few weeks.

It seems to me both these requests should be granted. So long as the transfer clause and other features in which our citizens are interested are retained there can be no possible objection to extending the life of each franchise. Both Mr. Hawks and Mr. Boland understand that contribution to the separation of grades is an essential condition. To this, as has been said, they have cheerfully consented.

FINANCIAL CONDITION.

While not rolling in surplus wealth by any means, the city is not quite so bad off financially as one year ago. Our overdraft is about six thousand dollars less than it was, but there is the same need for economy and careful inspection of all proposed expenditures. I am sure your honorable body will

use every endeavor to cut out unnecessary appropriations.

CHARTER CHANGES.

It will be remembered that the common council instructed me last year to attempt the passage through the legislature of certain changes to the charter. The house of representatives passed a majority of the proposed amendments, but in the final tie-up of the senate over taxation measures the desired legislation failed.

There are a number of amendments which will make the municipal machinery run much smoother. I suggest that a committee be appointed to formulate the necessary changes, which, after approval by your body, may be presented to the legislature very early in its next session.

CIVIC BEAUTY.

If we may trust our own judgment and the testimony of our visitors, Ann Arbor is a conspicuously beautiful city. It has spacious and well kept lawns, broad streets and, more noticeable than all the rest, wonderful spreading trees.

Very recently the University has established a department devoted to forestry. At the head is Prof. Chas. E. Davis, a gentleman thoroughly versed in the theoretical knowledge of the department, but, what is of greater value he has practical and experimental knowledge of his specialty.

Prof. Davis tells me that the trees of which the city is justly proud and which add so much to the beauty and attractiveness of our streets are threatened with serious injury and, in many cases, with complete destruction. This is due in part to carelessness and neglect, but more frequently to ignorance and thoughtlessness in pruning and trimming them. What Prof. Davis considers a most unwise fashion is the wholesale trimming of all kinds of trees. This originated apparently with the telephone linemen and, if some action of the city authorities is not taken, the trees on some of our most beautiful streets will be dead.

It seems to me this matter should be thoroughly investigated by the street committee and a report made to your

honorable body. If Prof. Davis' criticism is well founded, as I believe it is, further mutilation of the trees by excessive pruning should be prevented. An effort should be made to place the trees already injured in condition to prevent so far as possible the attacks of rot and insects.

In several cities of our state the ladies and school children are devoting themselves to planting the waste places, vacant lots and other neglected spots to flowers, shrubs and vines. The idea has prevailed among lovers of nature in England who have a pretty custom, known as "Mary's meadowing," the planting of roses and rare bulbs in the fields and woods. In Ravenswood, one of the suburbs of Chicago, I have observed with pleasure the woodsy beauty of the place. Throughout certain sections the lawn extensions have been planted to shrubs and flowering plants. To some extent our own citizens have practiced this plan. In shady places, where the grass does not thrive, the shrubs remove the bareness and, to my eyes, are quite as attractive as the green grass.

It should be the duty of some department of the city government to replace, as rapidly as may be, the dead and dying trees by young ones. Then if we may further beautify the streets by the introduction of shrubs and ornamental trees in the vacant places, our city will soon add to its fame as a beautiful place.

Last year the New Hampshire legislature passed what is called "The Tree Law," by the terms of which there has been appointed in every city a tree warden. For this position some person is chosen who is interested in the planting, pruning and preservation of shade and ornamental trees in public ways and grounds. It is probable that under the powers conferred by our charter upon the Board of Public Works such an office could be created here.

I recommend to your consideration the advisability of formulating an ordinance looking to the preservation of our trees and adding to the floral beauty of our city. I hope the com-

mittee on Streets and Ordinances will give this matter such attention as it deserves.

PARK SYSTEM

Our park system is not extensive, but under the action of the council last year a thousand dollars was added to the tax levy to make the beginning of a park fund. Perhaps that particular thousand dollars is lost in the general overdraft, but the spirit of the council was shown by its readiness to make this provision.

There are two regions in our city which are as blots upon an otherwise fair page. I refer first to that dumping ground of dead cats, tin cans and coal ashes, located in the Sixth ward and known as the "Cat Hole." The second place is the unsightly triangle bounded by Beakes street, the Michigan Central railroad and the river.

It has always seemed to me a shame and a disgrace that the Fifth ward should be so shut off from the other parts of our city. To enter Lower Town it is necessary to cross the smoky Detroit street bridge, traverse a long dusty street with the gas tanks on one side and foul smelling dump heaps on the other. How different it would be if the ground east of that street were a green sward, garnished with flowers and shrubs! How much more convenient for the Fifth ward if they could follow a gravel foot path through that Riverside park, climb a flight of steps to a narrow bridge over the tracks and find themselves at the foot of State street! With footbridges over the river and tracks Alderman Roberts would be nearer the high school than is Alderman Burg. Realize this park and the fifth ward is as accessible to the University as are most of the other wards.

The laws of this state provide for the condemnation of land for park purposes. There is no doubt in my mind that the property abutting upon and in the vicinity of the "Cat Hole" would be enough improved in value to offset the expense entailed by the condemnation, appraisal and purchase of that waste place. The assessment against such property would largely or entirely off-

set the expense of that procedure.

That unsightly place could be made magnificently beautiful. Narrow Washington street to a gravel driveway. Slope the hillside to the bosom of a little lake on the placid surface of which would float the pods and blossoms of the water lily, give no more attention to the lawn and trees than is now given Felch park and that neglected corner of Ann Arbor will become one of the most desirable residence places in all our delightful city and return twice as much in taxes as it does today.

As a final word on the park idea, I have an announcement to make. I am authorized to say that a donor, whose name he desired to be suppressed, has agreed to pay one-half of all the expenses incident to the condemnation or purchase of the property between the railroad and the river. If the city will take the legal steps he will pay half of the bills. He believes in Ann Arbor and desires to promote the comfort of her citizens. He believes our city is damaged in the eyes of the traveling public by the unsightly and disgraceful outlook from the car windows. He is disinterested enough to keep his name from the public. It strikes me as one of the most generous gifts ever made to this city.

By all means let us take steps at once to get possession of the Henning and other property in that triangle. It will be wise, it seems to me, to appoint a committee, including the city attorney, empowered to negotiate with the property owners. The thousand dollars already appropriated for park purposes will take care of our share of the expense involved and do something towards improving the new park. The details of the proposition I will explain to the committee when it has been appointed.

CONCLUSION.

I trust that harmony may prevail in all the deliberations of your honorable body and that the year to come may be productive of progress and prosperity in municipal affairs. The people have chosen you, confident that you

will protect their interests and faithfully execute the trust placed upon you. Let us face the year's responsibilities firm in the determination to make the next twelve months conspicuous for unsullied devotion to the city's good.

ROYAL S. COPELAND,
Mayor.

A communication from the Transvaal-American League was received and placed on file.

Office of Board of Public Works.
April 19, 1902.

By Mr. Schleicher:

Resolved, that B. O. W. ask the council for an appropriation of \$600 to replank bridges No. 1 and 2, which we deem very dangerous.

Ald. Hamilton moved to allow the estimate asked by the board for replanking said bridges.

Adopted as follows:

Yeas—Ald. Hamilton, Douglass, Koch, Schlenker, Clancy, Kearns, Schumacher, Johnson, Roberts, Grose, Coon, Jenney, Fischer, Pres. Haarer—14.

Office of Board of Public Works.
Ann Arbor, Mich., April 21, 1902.

By Mr. Sauer:

Resolved, that after examining the petitions for paving Liberty street from Ashley street to State street, State street to Williams street, and N. University avenue from State street to Thayer street, and finding the required number of names, we report same to council, with recommendation to council to use asphalt block.

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS.

WM. M'INTYRE, Pres.

JAS. E. HARKINS, Clerk.

Office of Board of Health.

Ann Arbor, Mich.

Hon Mr. Clancy:

Dear Sir—The attention of this office has been called to a very unsanitary condition of affairs in your ward that might require the attention of the city council. Reference is made to a long pool of water extending from Felch street to Miller avenue, along the west side of the Ann Arbor railroad tracks. It is claimed by some of the citizens in the neighborhood that the water-

way belongs to the city; if so some permanent disposition of the water should be made in the interest of public health.

If the matter properly belongs to the council for disposition, will you and your colleague bring the matter before that body?

Very truly yours,

W. B. HINSDALE,

For Board of Health.

To Hon. W. J. Clancy, Alderman,
City of Ann Arbor.

April 21, 1902.

Chair appointed a special committee consisting of Ald. Clancy, Jenney and Engineer Groves.

The following petitions for walks were received:

Charles Ward for walk on Wilmot street, Elm street and Mack Road.

I. C. Russell et al. for walks on Washtenaw avenue and S. University avenue.

U. C. Leas et al. to grade Hill street and Oxford Road and gravel same; also sidewalks on each side of Hill street between Washtenaw and Oxford Road be graded.

Thomas Collier et al. to extend Fourteenth street southerly to Geddes avenue.

John Reynolds et al. for the paving Ann street between Mam street and Fourth avenue.

All of which were referred to their proper committees.

By Ald. Coon:

Whereas, this common council has been applied to in writing by a majority of the owners of the lands, which are liable to be assessed for the payment of the construction of the same, praying for the grading of Liberty street, from the west line of Ashley street to the west line of State street, within the corporate limits of the city of Ann Arbor Michigan; and

Whereas, the grading and paving of that part of Liberty street, within the limits aforesaid, is deemed and hereby declared to be a necessary public improvement; therefore,

Resolved, and it is hereby declared to be the purpose of the common council to cause Liberty street, within the

limits aforesaid, to be graded and paved under the charter and ordinances of the city of Ann Arbor, and in pursuance of the prayer of said petitioners.

Resolved further, that the cost and expense of the construction of such public improvement shall be charged, assessed and paid as follows: All street and public alley intersections, engineering expenses, and 20 per cent of the remainder, shall be charged to and paid from the street fund, assessed and paid by special assessment levied and assessed according to benefits on and against all the lands, tenements and premises lying on or fronting Liberty street, within the limits aforesaid.

Resolved further that the said petition along with this determination, be and the same is hereby referred to the board of public works, with directions to report to the council with all convenient dispatch, suitable plans with specifications for the said proposed improvements, the kind and quality of materials to be used therefor, together with an estimate of the probable cost and expense of such public improvement.

Ald. Schlenker moved to amend by requesting the board to receive bids for both asphalt block and brick. Carried.

Then the original motion was adopted as follows:

Ayes—Ald. Hamilton, Douglass, Koch, Schlenker, Clancy, Kearns, Schumacher, Johnson, Roberts, Grose, Coon, Jenney, Fischer, Pres. Haarer—14. Nays—0.

By Ald. Coon:

Whereas, this common council has been applied to in writing by a majority of the owners of the lands and premises which are liable to be assessed for the same, praying for the grading and paving of State street, from the north side of Huron street to the south side of William street, and N. University avenue from the east side of State street to the east side of Thayer street, within the corporate limits of the city of Ann Arbor, Michigan; and

Whereas, the grading and paving of that part of State street within the limits aforesaid, is deemed and hereby declared to be a necessary public improvement; therefore,

Resolved, and it is hereby declared to be the purpose of the common council to cause State street, within the limits aforesaid, to be graded and paved under the charter and ordinances of the city of Ann Arbor, and in pursuance of the prayer of the said petitioners.

Resolved further, that the cost and expense of the construction of such public improvement shall be charged, assessed and paid as follows: All street and public alley intersections, engineering expenses, and 20 per cent of the remainder, shall be charged to and paid from the street fund, and all the remainder of the cost and expense shall be raised, assessed and paid by special assessment levied and assessed according to benefits on and against all lands, tenements and premises lying on or fronting State street within the limits aforesaid.

Resolved further, that the said petition along with this determination be and the same is hereby referred to the board of public works with directions to report to the council with all convenient dispatch suitable plans with specifications for the said proposed improvement, the kind and quality of materials to be used therefor, with an estimate of the probable cost and expense of such public improvement.

Ald. Schlenker moved to amend that the board receive bids on both brick and asphalt block. Carried.

Then the original motion was put and adopted as follows:

Yeas—Ald. Hamilton, Douglass, Koch, Schlenker, Clancy, Kearns, Schumacher, Johnson, Roberts, Grose, Coon, Jenney, Fischer, Pres. Haarer—14. Nays—0.

By Ald. Jenney:

Whereas, in the opinion of the council the grade of the sidewalk on the south side of Hill street ought to be changed and fixed and established, to

the end that such street may be suitable for public travel; therefore,

Resolved, and it is hereby ordered that the grade of the sidewalk on and along the south side of Hill street from east line of Oxford Road to the west line of New Jersey avenue be, and the same is hereby changed, fixed and established, so that the grade of said sidewalk on and along the street aforesaid shall be as follows; that is to say: At the east line of Oxford, 886.50; at angle in Hill 345 feet east of Oxford, 896.50; at west line of New Jersey avenue, 896.50; the elevation given being above the official city datum and along the center line of such walk, and the grade lines to consist of straight lines between the several points or stations above stated.

Adopted as follows:

Yeas—Ald. Hamilton, Douglass, Koch, Schlenker, Clancy, Kearns, Schumacher, Johnson, Roberts, Grose, Coon, Jenney, Fischer, Pres. Haarer—14. Nays—0.

By Ald. Hamilton:

Resolved, that we transfer seven hundred dollars from the poor fund, four hundred dollars from the police fund and one hundred dollars from the fire fund to the contingent fund to meet the bills allowed on that fund for the past month.

Adopted as follows:

Yeas—Ald. Hamilton, Douglass, Koch, Schlenker, Clancy, Kearns, Schumacher, Johnson, Roberts, Grose, Coon, Jenney, Fischer, Pres. Haarer—14. Nays—0.

By Ald. Schumacher:

Resolved, that the annual message of the mayor be referred to a special committee composed of the city clerk, Ald. Hamilton, and Jenney to divide the said message into subjects and recommend that the respective subjects be referred to the various committees having such subjects in charge respectively. Carried.

By Ald. Schumacher:

Resolved, that the clerk be directed to notify the Michigan Telephone Co. to have the telephones changed from the residence of Ald. Richards to Ald. Douglass' residence; Ald. Brown's to

Ald. Johnson's residence; Ald. Weeks' to Ald. Grose's residence.

Adopted as follows:

Yeas—Ald. Hamilton, Douglass, Koch, Schlenker, Clancy, Kearns, Schumacher, Johnson, Roberts, Grose, Coon, Jenney, Fischer, Pres. Haarer—14. Nays—0.

By Ald. Clancy:

Resolved, that the chair appoint a committee of three to confer with the Henning heirs and other parties interested relative to that tract of land mentioned in the mayor's message for park purposes; that the mayor and city attorney be included in said committee. Carried.

The chair appointed the mayor, city attorney and park committee.

City Attorney Sawyer reported relative to compiling, arranging and putting in shape the city ordinances to be printed, and that same would cost about one hundred and fifty dollars.

On motion of Ald. Koch the matter was referred to the ordinance committee with request to report at the next meeting. Carried.

By Ald. Jenney:

Resolved, that the city engineer is hereby instructed to prepare plans for the elevation of the bridge across Huron river on Broadway and the grade between said bridge and the bridge over the Michigan Central railroad tracks, with an estimate of the cost of said improvement, and report same to this council at its next regular meeting. Carried.

By Ald. Roberts:

Resolved, that a watering trough be placed in the fifth ward for the purposes of watering horses, etc.

Referred to water committee.

The report of Judge Gibson for the month of March was received and ordered filed.

On motion the council adjourned.

JAS. E. HARKINS, Clerk.