

Office of the Board of Public Works, Ann Arbor, Mich., August 4, 1915.
Regular session.

Meeting called to order by the president. Present—Messrs. Reule, Schmid, Cornwell, Rehberg, James, Pres. Scott, 6. Minutes of previous meeting approved.

Council Matters.

By Ald. Sherk: Resolved that the plans and specifications for the construction of a storm water sewer on Geddes avenue, from Linden street to the Boulevard, as presented this date by the City Engineer, be accepted and approved.

Resolved, further, that the Board of Public Works proceed with the construction of said sewer according to the charter and ordinances governing the same.

Resolved, further, that the construction of the storm water sewer on Geddes avenue is hereby deemed and declared to be a necessary public improvement. Adopted by council.

(Action of board.)

Moved by Mr. Schmid that the board advertise for bids to be received Tuesday, August 10, 1915, at 7:30 p. m. Adopted by unanimous vote of those present, 6.

(From Council).

Petition of August Barth and others, requesting the Council to cancel and annul the permit granted the Good Roads Construction company to operate a stone crusher near the intersection of Fifth ave. and Madison st., received, and following motion adopted:

Moved by Ald Sink, that the Council recommend to the Board of Public Works that they rescind their action locating paving plant.

(Action of board).

Moved by Mr. Rehberg, that recommendation from Council be received and placed on file. Adopted.

Moved by Mr. Cornwell, that the Good Roads Construction company be permitted to crush stone now on ground at Fifth ave., near Madison st., on condition that the company will then move their plant. Adopted by unanimous vote of those present, 6.

(From Council)

The Council concurred in the recommendation of the board that they be authorized to purchase 1,000 feet of two inch and 3,000 feet of three inch oak plan.

(Action of board).

Moved by Mr. Cornwell, that the Street Commissioner and City Clerk purchase oak plank as authorized by

Council. Adopted by unanimous vote of those present, 6.

(From Council).

Council concurred in the recommendation of the board that the contract for paving Geddes ave., from Oxford road to Oswego st. be let to Barns & O'Neil at 4,691.00.

(Action of board).

Moved by Mr. James, that the President of Board and Clerk sign contracts when City Attorney presents same, approved. Adopted by unanimous vote of those present, 6.

(From Council).

By Ald Fiegel: Resolved, that all pavements taken up by Water Department, Gas company or any other firm or corporation be replaced by our Street Commissioner and charged to the party that took up the same. Adopted by Council.

(Action of board).

Moved by Mr. Rehberg, that Street Commissioner carry out order of Council. Adopted.

(From Council).

By Ald. Sherk: Resolved, that the Board of Public Works be and they are hereby authorized to have a thorough inspection made of the condition of Broadway bridge, and report findings to the Council as soon as is possible. Adopted by Council.

(Action of board).

Moved by Mr. Reule, that the President appoint a committee to comply with the order of the Council. Adopted, and the City Engineer, Mr. Cornwell and Mr. James were appointed such committee.

Ann Arbor, Mich., Aug. 2, 1915.

To the Honorable, Board of Public Works: Gentlemen—We respectfully request the use of one-third of S. Thayer st., in front of No. 220, for building purposes.

C. A. Sauer & Co., by C. A. Sauer.

Moved by Mr. Reule, that the request be granted. Adopted by unanimous vote of those present, 6.

Street Commissioner's report for month of July received, and referred to Council on motion of Mr. James.

July 29th, 1915.

To the Honorable the Board of Public Works of the city of Ann Arbor: Gentlemen—Since my election to the office of mayor of the city, I have been giving the matter of the expenses of the city considerable attention, and from my observations and investigations, I feel that in some of the departments of the city, the cost of maintaining them and doing the work which should be done in

those departments is much too high. I feel that this is true in the office of the City Engineer. It is a matter which has reached the attention of many of the taxpayers, and I have received numerous complaints from them relative to the same.

From my investigation I feel that there is no need of so much extra help in the office of the City Engineer. I feel that much of this help could be disposed of, if those employed in that office would give their entire time to the work of the city. I know of no reason why the City Engineer should be permitted to do outside work, or private work, such as is being done by that office at the present time. The office of the City Engineer is supposed to be an exclusive office, and the salary paid is supposed to be paid for a man who will give to the city his entire time, and not to a man who will be looking after private work when he should be doing city work. I feel that with the salary that is now being paid the City Engineer, he should devote his entire time to the duties of his office. In my business, if I hire a man and pay the salary demanded, I expect and I insist on him giving me his entire time, or if he can not afford to do that, I discharge him.

I desire to know whether or not your board has given the Engineer permission to do as he has been doing in this regard, or whether it is being done with your knowledge. I cannot understand why you have allowed such a condition to exist, and I feel that you should remedy it without having any other officer call your attention to the matter. Of course if you have given your consent, the employe is not the party to be blamed.

Trusting that you will thoroughly investigate this matter and report to me at your earliest convenience, I am, very truly yours, C. A. Sauer, Mayor.

City Engineer's Report.

City of Ann Arbor, Mich., Aug. 3, 1915.

To the Board of Public Works, Ann Arbor Mich.: Sirs—In accordance with suggestion at the last meeting I beg to submit the following report concerning the men employed, work, and general conditions in my department.

The men employed, the nature of their work, and their rate of pay is as follows:

A. L. Sloman, assistant engineer (in office), \$85 per month.

W. C. Russell, instrument man, in

charge of field party, 33 1-3 cents per hour.

H. H. Person, instrument man, 30 cents per hour.

C. J. Rash, rodman, 30c per hour.

A. H. Niles, rodman, 25 cents per hour.

F. R. Finch, inspector on Division and Jefferson street pavement, \$4 per day.

H. A. Miles, inspector of materials, \$3.50 per day.

V. R. Burton, Steere farm, \$4.25 per day.

F. E. Williams, clerical, 30 cents per hour.

This includes only the men doing strictly engineering work and not those engaged in the building and maintenance of sewers.

I have on file in my office time-sheets showing just exactly the work that each man did during each day. I have also daily reports filed each day by the man in charge of the field work, showing the work accomplished by the field party each day. These are public records and can be inspected at any time by interested parties, and I am sure that they will convince you that every man employed has been working faithfully for the city. I have never heard any complaints that all the men out with the field party were not working all the time, and so long as these men do work faithfully during working hours, and work still keeps ahead I do not think that it should be said that I have too many men. This is exactly the condition of affairs.

In all case when a man came to me to do private work for him I have tried to send him elsewhere. If he insisted that he wanted the city engineer to do the work I informed him that my time from eight in the morning until five at night belonged to the city of Ann Arbor and that personally I could not give any time during those limits. Private work which I have done personally has been done outside working hours. Private work done by my assistant engineer, who is working for the city on a monthly salary, has likewise been done outside of working hours. I have on several occasions taken men who were working for the city by the hour and sent them to private work but on all such occasions the time spent on private work has never been charged to the city. I have always, as the city clerk will tell you, paid

the city through him for any blue-print paper or stakes used by me in connection with private work. I can faithfully say that the city of Ann Arbor has never lost one thing or paid for one thing in connection with the private work done by me and those working for me. Further, that the private work that I have done has amounted to very little, and that if I should take no private work whatever it would not be possible to reduce the engineering force now employed in my office and still properly perform the work there to do. I think that if the mayor had investigated these things before his communication, I could very easily have satisfied him that what we are doing is absolutely necessary, and could not be done with fewer men, and that every man employed in this department is working faithfully for the interest of the city. If the time should come when the work can be handled with fewer men, I can assure you that I will discharge all those not absolutely necessary. In our work we are following good accepted engineering practice.

You have employed me to do the engineering work of the city—work which, from your several occupations, you can not be familiar with. If you can not trust in my judgment as to how this work should be done, and in

the employment of the necessary help to do it, I would suggest that you employ a man in whose judgment you will have absolute confidence. I have tried, in all things, to conduct the affairs of this office exactly as I would conduct a private enterprise of my own. I have spent on city work since the first of January, an actual average of between eight and one-half and nine hours per day, including only the time which I was actually engaged in work for the city. Part of this time was on Saturday afternoons and holidays when other city offices were closed.

I trust that you will give this matter full consideration and that your findings will be an entire vindication of the accusations inferred in the mayor's communication.

Very respectfully submitted,
MANLEY OSGOOD.

Moved by Mr. James, that the report be received, filed, copy delivered to the mayor, and the matter taken up by the board later. Adopted by unanimous vote of those present, 6.

Moved by Mr. James, that the board recommend to the Council that Huron st., between Fifth ave. and Ashley st., be repaired with asphalt block now on hand. Adopted by unanimous vote of those present, 6.

The board adjourned.

ROSS GRANGER,
Clerk.