

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
COMMON COUNCIL.  

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CALLED SESSION.

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CHAMBER OF THE COMMON COUNCIL, }  
*Thursday, September 20th, 1877—7½ o'clock P. M.* }

The Common Council of the City of Indianapolis met, as above,  
pursuant to the following call :

*City of Indianapolis, September 20, 1877.*

To the Members of the Common Council and Board of Aldermen of said City :

You are hereby notified to meet at the Council Chamber, on this (Thursday) evening, September 20th, at 7½ o'clock, to concert and act upon measures for fire protection for the city.

JOHN CAVEN, Mayor.

H. C. NEWCOMB, Pres't B. of A.

Present—His Honor, the Mayor, John Caven, in the chair, and the following members: Concilmen Bagby, Brown, Bugbee, Byram, Case, Cochran, Dill, Izor, Layman, Marsee, Morse, McGinty, Pouder, Reading, Reed, Sindlinger, Steinhauer, Walker, Watts, Wood, A. L. Wright, and W. G. Wright—22.

Absent—Councilmen Stoner, Thomas, and Tcuker—3.

His Honor, the Mayor, stated the object of the meeting, and then read the following communication, addressed, by him, to Chief Fire Engineer Sherwood :

*Indianapolis, September 20, 1877.*

Chief Sherwood :

*Dear Sir:*—Please prepare, by this evening, if you can, a statement of the condition of our Fire Department, as to the number, location, capacity, etc., of Fire Cisterns; where more are needed; what the probable cost; whether we should advertise for contracts, or whether some should be proceeded with at once, and if so, where; what additional wells and supply pumps will be needed, and probable cost; and what are the urgent needs of the Department, resulting from the action of the Water-Works Co. Also, any other information, calculated, in your opinion, to aid the Council and Board to act understandingly on the matter of fire protection.

Please inquire about the condition of the old Kentucky avenue cistern. Also, be present at the special session of the Council and Board this evening.

Respectfully,

JOHN CAVEN, Mayor.

Chief Fire Engineer W. O. Sherwood made a verbal report upon the inquiries contained in the preceding communication, and stated, among other facts, that if the Water-Works Company should shut off the supply of water from the fire-plugs, at 12 o'clock midnight, this date, it would be necessary to build, as promptly as possible, six additional cisterns in the central portion of the city.

The "situation" was then quite thoroughly discussed, and the same was ended by adopting the following resolution, offered by Councilman Marsee:

*Resolved,* That the Common Council adhere to its former action on this subject.

Which was adopted by the following vote:

Affirmative—Councilmen Byram, Case, Cochran, Dill, Izor, Layman, Marsee, Morse, Reading, Sindlinger, Steinhauer, Watts, A. L. Wright, and W. G. Wright—14.

Negative—Councilmen Bagby, Brown, Bugbee, McGinty, Pouder, Reed, Walker, and Wood—8.

Councilman Reed offered the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That a committee of eight be appointed, consisting of His Honor, the Mayor, the President of the Board of Aldermen, the City Attorney, three members of the Common Council, and two members of the Board of Aldermen, to confer with the officers of the Water-Works Company regarding the further use, by the city, of the water heretofore supplied by said company.

Which, on Councilman Marsee's motion, was laid on the table by the following vote :

Affirmative—Councilmen Byram, Case, Cochran, Dill, Izor, Layman, Marsee, Morse, Steinhauer, Watts, A. L. Wright, and W. G. Wright—12.

Negative—Councilmen Bagby, Brown, Bugbee, McGinty, Pouder, Reading, Reed, Sindlinger, Walker, and Wood—10.

Councilman A. L. Wright offered the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That the Fire Board, Chief Fire Engineer, and City Civil Engineer report, at the next meeting of the Common Council, on the following points :

1. What additional number of cisterns it will be necessary to provide, in case the Water-Works Company refuses to supply water for the extinguishment of fires.
2. The best locations for such additional cisterns.
3. The probable cost of building the necessary number of cisterns, with the wells to supply them with water ; and, also, whether it will be necessary to provide larger and deeper wells, to supply the cisterns already constructed.
4. What action ought to be adopted, touching the modification or repeal of the several ordinances of the city conferring privileges upon said company relative to the use of the streets, or otherwise.
5. Also, to make any recommendations that, in their judgment, will increase the efficiency of the Fire Department, and secure our citizens from the ravages of fire.

Which was adopted by the following vote :

Affirmative—Councilmen Bagby, Brown, Bugbee, Byram, Case, Cochran, Dill, Izor, Layman, Marsee, Morse, McGinty, Pouder, Reading, Reed, Sindlinger, Steinhauer, Walker, Watts, Wood, A. L. Wright, and W. G. Wright—22.

Negative—None.

Councilman Case offered the following motion ; which was adopted :

*Moved,* That, in case the Water-Works Company shall cut off the supply of water for fire purposes from the city, that the Chief Fire Engineer, together with the City Civil Engineer, be authorized to put in driven wells at the various engine houses not supplied with water.

Councilman A. L. Wright offered the following motion ; which was adopted :

*Moved,* That when this Council adjourns, it adjourn to meet on Monday evening, September 24th, 1877, for the purpose of receiving and acting upon the report from the Fire Board, Chief Fire Engineer, and City Civil Engineer, on the several subjects of inquiry mentioned in last preceding resolution.

On motion, the Common Council then adjourned.

JOHN CAVEN, Mayor.

Attest :

BENJ. C. WRIGHT, City Clerk.