

SPECIAL MEETING.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

MONDAY, October 12, 1908.

The Common Council of the City of Indianapolis met in the Council Chamber, Monday evening, October 12, 1908, at 7:30 o'clock, in special session, President William J. Neukom in the chair, pursuant to the following call:

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., October 10, 1908.

To the President and Members of the Common Council and City Clerk:

GENTLEMEN: You are hereby notified that there will be a special meeting of the Common Council held in the Council Chamber, City of Indianapolis, on Monday evening, October 12, 1908, at 7:30 o'clock, for the purpose of receiving, referring and taking action upon an ordinance appropriating the sum of \$4,000.00 to and for the use of the Board of Public Health and Charities, such sum to be appropriated to the Contagious Disease Fund of said Board, and to be used in stamping out the epidemic of diphtheria now threatening the City of Indianapolis.

I have the honor to remain,

Yours very truly,

C. A. BOOKWALTER,
Mayor.

I, James McNulty, Clerk of the Common Council, do hereby certify that I have served the above and foregoing notice to each and every member of the Common Council, prior to the time of meeting, pursuant to the rules.

JAMES McNULTY,
City Clerk.

The Clerk called the roll:

Present: The Hon. William J. Neukom, President of the Common Council, and 16 members, viz.: Messrs Brown, Cottey Hamlet, Wood, Davis, Rhodes, Bangs, Stickelman, Hartmann, Royse, Donavon, Sullivan, Hofmann, Hilken, Wright and Henry.

Absent, 4, viz.: Messrs. Eppert, Smither, Uhl and Porteus.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS.
INDIANAPOLIS, IND., October 12, 1908.

To the President and Members of the Common Council:

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to submit to you the following communication, which has been received by me from Dr. Eugene Buehler, Secretary of the Department of Public Health and Charities:

"INDIANAPOLIS, IND., October 8, 1908.

"Honorable Charles A. Bookwalter, Mayor of Indianapolis:

"DEAR SIR: I have been instructed by the Board of Public Health to inform you as to the diphtheria situation at this time. We do not believe that the number of cases reported could be classed as an epidemic, but nevertheless, we are having more diphtheria than we should have, and it appears to be of the malignant type.

"In the month of September we had sixty cases. Of this number, twelve died, or twenty per cent.

"This mortality is exceptionally high, for with proper care and the prompt use of antitoxin, the mortality should be less than ten per cent.

"The following is a table showing the number of cases reported and the number of deaths each month for the year 1907, and also for the year 1908 to date. You will note that in the month of September, this year, the cases have taken a sudden bound, and for the eight days in October, twenty-eight cases have been reported:

	January	February	March.	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Reported cases	23	29	17	18	11	9	9	7	14	44	48	38	267
1907 deaths.....	3	2	2	3	1	.....	1	1	3	2	5	2	25
Reported cases	43	22	14	17	12	19	5	16	60	Oct 28 8	.....	.....	.....
1908 deaths.....	5	5	1	1	2	3	1	1	12	3	.....	.....	.....

"We believe that inasmuch as diphtheria is a disease of childhood, and is especially prevalent in children under ten years of age, and that the majority of these children are in attendance in our public schools, that the opportunity for contact infection is very great, and that some step should be taken to exclude all children who show the least tendency of throat trouble or favor of any kind.

"We recommend that for the next sixty days all school children be examined daily by competent physicians appointed for this purpose under the direction of the Board of Health.

"We desire that at least ten physicians be appointed who shall devote sufficient time to make these examinations thoroughly.

"We ask that an appropriation of \$4,000 be added to our Contagious Disease Fund for this purpose.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) EUGENE BUEHLER,
Secretary Board of Health."

I am satisfied that the condition of affairs outlined above will convince every member of your honorable body of the necessity that exists for immediate action. After conference with the President of your honorable body, and the Chairman of the Finance Committee, and the members of the Department of Health, it was agreed that the interests of the city demanded that immediate action be taken to institute a comprehensive system of inspection, and believing that your honorable body would approve of my action in the matter, I at once gave instructions to the Department of Health to employ a corps of competent physicians to commence work at once, such physicians to be paid from the Contagious Disease Fund heretofore provided.

There will be submitted to you at this evening's meeting an ordinance appropriating the further sum of \$4,000.00, such money to be used in the defraying of expenses of inspection. I earnestly urge upon you that immediate action be taken upon this ordinance. The funds now remaining in the contagious disease appropriation will not be sufficient to carry on this work without additional money, and, as an emergency exists, I believe that you would be justified in acting upon this ordinance under a suspension of the rules.

I have the honor to remain,

Yours very truly,

C. A. BOOKWALTER,
Mayor.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS.

From City Controller:

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE,
OFFICE OF CITY CONTROLLER.
INDIANAPOLIS, IND., October 12, 1908.

To the President and Members of the Common Council:

GENTLEMEN: I herewith present a communication from the Department of Public Health and Charities, requesting an appropriation in the sum of \$4,000.00 for the Contagious Disease Fund in such department.

The necessity for this additional appropriation is fully set out in the special message to your honorable body from his honor the Mayor.

I submit herewith an ordinance providing for the appropriation asked for and recommend its passage.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. T. BREUNIG,
City Controller.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND CHARITIES.
OFFICE OF THE BOARD.
INDIANAPOLIS, IND., October 12, 1908.

George T. Breunig, City Controller, City:

DEAR SIR: I have been instructed by the Board of Public Health to ask you to take the necessary steps to have an additional appropriation of four thousand (\$4,000.00) dollars added to the Contagious Disease Fund.

Yours truly,

EUGENE BUEHLER,
Secretary Board of Health.

INTRODUCTION OF APPROPRIATION ORDINANCES.

By City Controller:

Appropriation Ordinance No. 39—1908: An ordinance appropriating the sum of \$4,000.00 to and for the use of the Department of Public Health and Charities, and fixing a time when the same shall take effect.

SECTION 1. Be it ordained by the Common Council of the City of Indianapolis, Indiana, That the sum of four thousand (\$4,000.00) dollars be, and is hereby appropriated to and for the use of the Department of Public Health and Charities, to be added to and form a part of the appropriation heretofore made for "Prevention of Contagious Diseases."

SEC. 2. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Which was read a first time.

Mr. Davis moved that the rules be suspended and Appropriation Ordinance No. 39, 1908, be placed upon its passage

Mr. Royse called for the "ayes" and "noes."

The roll was called and the motion of Mr. Davis was lost for the want of a unanimous vote as provided by the rules, by the following vote:

Ayes, 13, viz.: Messrs. Brown, Cottey, Hamlet, Wood, Davis, Bangs, Stickelman, Hartmann, Donavon, Sullivan, Hofmann, Henry and President William J. Neukom.

Noes, 4, viz.: Messrs. Rhodes, Royse, Hilkenne and Wright.

The ordinance was then referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion of Mr. Royse, the Common Council at 8:05 o'clock P. M., adjourned.

W. J. Neukom

.....
President.

ATTEST:

Jane M. Kelly

.....
City Clerk.

