

REGULAR MEETING.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS, }
February 1, 1892. }

The Common Council of the City of Indianapolis met in the Council Chamber, Monday evening, February 1, at 8 o'clock P. M.

Present, Hon. Martin J. Murphy, President of the Common Council, in the Chair, and 19 members, viz: Messrs. Allen, Colter, Cooper, Costello, Gasper, Gauss, Halloran, Laut, Linn, McGill, McGuffin, Olsen, Puryear, Ryan, Schmidt, Schrader, White and Young.

Absent, 2, viz: Messrs. Rassmann and Sherer.

The Proceedings of the Common Council for the regular session held Monday, January 18, 1892, having been printed and placed upon the desks of the Councilmen, said Journal was approved as published.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal, whereupon, Councilman Linn, moved that the further reading of the Journal be dispensed with.

Which motion prevailed.

COMMUNICATIONS, ETC., FROM MAYOR.

His Honor, the Mayor, presented the following communication:

Gentlemen of the Common Council:

It is my duty once each year to communicate to your honorable body a statement of the finances and general condition of the city affairs.

I have selected January 1st as the date up to which report of work done should be made—both, because it is the end of the year and, also, because outdoor work has ceased for the season at that time. In order that you may have a full and accurate knowledge of these matters, I have requested the various departments to furnish me with a detailed statement of the work done by them up to January 1, 1892, and it gives me pleasure to send you these reports and to recommend them to your careful consideration. They show painstaking accuracy, and testify to the earnest desire of the gentlemen of the Boards to improve, to the utmost, the opportunities nature and the new charter have given to Indianapolis.

As these reports are the first ever made, necessarily, in most instances, they are only for the fractional year, commencing March 9, 1891, and ending December 31, 1891.

The report of the Comptroller, submitted to you, is gratifying in the extreme. It shows that money due the city of Indianapolis has been carefully collected and so judiciously expended by the various departments, that, while the city is rapidly acquiring lasting improvements, we are also living within our income, and close the year with no temporary loan whatever, except such as was made necessary by the partial collapse of our fire department, whose rickety condition, representing years of unremitting service, was bequeathed to us by our predecessors.

These reports are made with the greatest accuracy and detail, it being the desire of the executive branch of our municipality that you should know not only the financial condition of our city, but the items that go to make up that condition.

The difference in the amount of warrants drawn, as shown by the Comptroller's books and the accounts of any of the Boards, is occasioned by the fact that an account is put on the books of the Board ordering it as soon as finally passed, but does not appear on the Comptroller's books until it is presented to him for approval and a warrant on the treasury. If, however, we deduct from the cash on hand, as shown by the Comptroller, the accounts allowed by the Boards and not yet paid, because not audited by the Comptroller, still it would leave a balance in the treasury December 31, 1891.

The Department of Public Works is clothed with great responsibility, and affects a greater number of our citizens than perhaps any other branch of the city government, and the report of the Board in charge of that department is accompanied by the report of their Clerk, the City Civil Engineer and the Street Commissioner—each of whom is intrusted by the Board with the discharge of certain duties belonging to the Department of Public Works, and I feel warranted in saying to you that a careful perusal of these reports will satisfy you, as it will satisfy any citizen, that no effort is being spared by this Department to return to each citizen a full equivalent for every dollar he pays in the way of taxes. The work being done by the Board of Public Works is new in this community.

No such burden was ever assumed before by any of our citizens, and it is undertaken now by the gentlemen of this Board because of their appreciation of the duty that came to them unsought, and their earnest desire to lay broad and deep the foundation upon which to build their city's future prosperity.

A vast amount of work has been accomplished by this Department during the last year—the result of which is apparent upon every hand. During the year 1892 as much more will certainly be done, the extent of work being only limited by the amount of money at their disposal. It has been determined, however, that no street will be paved until the necessary sewer, gas and water pipes are all laid and properly settled.

No improvement is needed more in Indianapolis than an adequate system of sewerage. Up to this time we have had no system of sewerage at all, properly speaking. The Board of Public Works has, however, this year caused a topographical map of the city to be prepared, showing its elevation and drainage areas, and this year a large amount of work will be done in building sewers that will be adequate, both for to-day and also for the Indianapolis of the future.

Indianapolis has within its limits 287.82 miles of streets, of which about 14 miles have been permanently improved. To keep the streets of Indianapolis clean is a herculean task, and I believe the Street Commissioner has done good service when we consider the miles of streets under his supervision and the scanty appropriations we have been able to give him, it being only six-tenths of the amount expended by his predecessor. It will be of great assistance to this Department if your honorable body will enact such an ordinance as will more effectively prevent the sweeping of refuse material from stores upon the streets and sidewalks, and also compel all wagon beds, hauling earth or refuse matter, to be so constructed as to prevent a scattering of the contents upon the streets of the city.

STREET SWEEPING AND CLEANING.

The permanently improved streets of the city will this year be cleaned by sweeping—daily in the business portion and tri-weekly in the resident portion—and this done at a cost of \$4.67 a mile, or .0008 per foot for each sweeping. This work is paid

for by the property owner, and in no way affects the amount of money that is expended by the Street Commissioner in cleaning streets. During this year the principal business and resident streets of the city will be sprinkled as an entirety, and the health and comfort of our citizens will be greatly enhanced thereby.

What to do with the city garbage is a perplexing subject for consideration. The present method of burying it in trenches and covering it with earth is unsatisfactory, and in time may be injurious to public health. The best method of disposing of it is, no doubt, by cremation, and it is probable that during the year the Council may be asked for an appropriation to purchase a cremator to be used for that purpose.

Your predecessors thought it expedient to cut down the appropriations asked for by the executive branch of the city government. Of necessity this will compel you to make additional appropriations for several of the departments during the present fiscal year. Such appropriations will not be asked for until the executive department is compelled to do so, and is fully prepared to show to you the absolute necessity for such expenditures.

The report of the City Civil Engineer made to the Board of Public Works is full of the most useful information. The amount of work done in that branch of the city government has been enormous, and is of the very highest importance. Detailed plans and specifications of all public improvements are made there. Maps showing the location of all water mains and fire hydrants; extensive surveys have been and are being made, not only of the entire city, but adjoining territory, in order that the Board may have full information to enable it to adopt a comprehensive drainage and sewerage system for the city. Much work of a permanent character remains to be done, such as maps locating all sewers, gas pipes and electric wire conduits, and the great labor of preparing the maps of seventy-one and fifty-three hundredths (71.53) miles of streets that are to be sprinkled during the coming summer, giving the name of the abutting property owner and such other detail as is necessary to carry out the provision of the law in this respect.

This is one of the departments where the appropriation was

cut down by the former Council, and it is hoped the Board will not be hampered through lack of funds in its endeavor to have the Engineer's Department faithfully and efficiently discharge its duty to the city.

The Building Inspector—an office created by the Charter—is one of great necessity and importance. Since May 18, 1891, forty-eight buildings have been reported by him for condemnation. No doubt there are many buildings in the city that are unsafe and should be condemned, either because they lack strength in construction or facility for escape in case of fire, and I assure you, and through you the citizens of Indianapolis, that whenever knowledge of such defective building is obtained its unsafe condition will be changed if the law will permit it, and I recommend to the Council that, after consultation with the City Attorney, the Building Inspector, and such others as may be desirable, you so change the ordinance under which the Building Inspector is acting as to give him and the Board of Public Works all the power possible under the Charter. For instance, fire escapes or means of exit should be erected to the satisfaction of the city authorities upon all buildings where, in case of fire, the number of people congregated endanger the safety of any, and the exit should be constructed, not as though for athletes only, but as a safe and easy way of escape for women and children—not by a perpendicular ladder, but by steps, railing and landings. It is obvious that the safety of the occupants of a building depends upon its adaptability to the purposes for which it is to be used, and it is most desirable that the city authorities should have the right, as a matter of law, to full information upon that subject, with power to provide for the safety of the most feeble and dependent.

The Commissioners of Public Health and Charities have submitted a full and detail report of the work in that department, including the City Hospital and Dispensary.

The Commissioners call attention to the fact that there is great need for the passage of an ordinance in regard to the Pest House; one to regulate the removal of vault contents and garbage of the city; and a third in regard to the receptacles for manure and garbage. Each of these ordinances was prepared by the Commissioners of Health and Charities, referred

to committees of the last Council, and had not been reported on at the expiration of that body's term.

The statistical information of these reports is of the greatest interest, showing, as it does, a vast amount of labor done and the very highest care exercised in the discharge of the all-important duties with which this department has been intrusted. For instance, during the year there was condemned :

1,681 vaults.

43 wells condemned and closed.

3,370 sewer connections ordered.

2,127 contagious disease cards placed.

287 houses disinfected by the Board since November 1.

2,244 cases of contagious disease reported and daily reports made to Superintendent of Public Schools, giving name and residence of all persons having contagious disease, so that children from infected houses could be kept from school.

The wholesale fruit and vegetable houses are inspected daily and all unwholesome food destroyed. Among the fruit destroyed was :

10,672 quarts of strawberries.

3,132 quarts of blackberries.

1,504 quarts of cranberries.

1,076 quarts of cherries.

400 bushels of bananas, and other fruit in smaller quantities.

Daily inspection of slaughter-houses and markets is made and there has been condemned during the year :

77,285 lbs. of beef.

740 lbs. of veal.

4,012 lbs. of pork.

660 lbs. of mutton.

One hundred dairies, containing 2,000 milch cows, were inspected; 113 different samples of milk tested—taken from delivery wagons and milk depots.

The death rate during the past year was 17.73 per 1,000, which is as low as the minimum death rate per annum set down by statisticians for cities.

I have gone somewhat into detail and quoted liberally from the Commissioner's report, for the reason that I believe the

amount and character of the work done under the direction of these gentlemen will be a matter of surprise, as well as satisfaction to most of our citizens.

The work done by the Dispensary during the past year is nearly double that of any previous year, and it has been done by the same force. The City Hospital is over-crowded and is in need of very many things that are necessary for its efficiency. The fact is, each department of the city government must and will exercise the strictest economy, and still, through lack of money, be deprived of much that is essential to a satisfactory administration of the city's affairs.

Every citizen of Indianapolis ought to feel proud of our police force and of our fire force, and the report I herewith send you from the Department of Public Safety gives reasons in detail for our pride and trust in these great Departments. The report of the Commissioners, through their chairman, made to me, is supplemented by reports made to them from the Chief of the Fire Force. Superintendent of the Police, Clerk of the Department, Superintendent of Fire Alarm Telegraph, Veterinary Surgeons, Police Matron, the Surgeon in charge of the Department, Building Inspector and Market Masters, all of which I take pleasure in submitting to you and through you to the citizens of Indianapolis, in order that all may be informed as to the detail workings of this Department.

Among the first important duties required by law of the Commissioners was to divide the Police and Fire Force equally politically. At the head of the Police Force was put a Democrat, who, because of his great ability as a disciplinarian and experience as an officer was given the place. The Chief of the Fire Force is a Republican, who, by years of faithful service in the Department, has won the confidence of this community, both as a fire fighter and fire chief. Proceeding on this theory—retaining the fittest—the forces were re-organized according to law, and now we have a Police and Fire Force of which we have a right to be proud. No member of it need fear dismissal except for cause, and that after a public trial with every opportunity given to learn the truth. Each force is too small for the service required of it. Indianapolis covers 15.03 square miles, equal to 9,610 acres, and is protected by 121 firemen, including substitutes, and 112 policemen, including

officers, whose duty it is to protect 287.82 miles of streets. The effective manner in which this is done speaks conclusively as to the thorough discipline of the force and reflects great credit, both upon the officers and the men.

We have been obliged to expend large sums of money during the present fiscal year for the Fire Department. Hose, horses, four engines, one truck, one chemical engine and two hose wagons have been purchased or made as good as new, and as is stated by the Fire Chief, within sixty days the Department will have seven reliable engines in service, instead of three, and its efficiency greatly increased in other respects. All of this has cost money, and a good deal of it, but the Commissioners in charge of the Department have expended the money honestly and carefully for the public good; full details of which are set out in the reports I have the honor to send you.

The report of Mrs. Buchanan, the Police Matron, is full of interest and marks a step forward in christian civilization. I can bear personal testimony to the effective work that lady is doing among the criminal class of our city, and the great assistance she is to the Police Judge in dealing satisfactorily with the unfortunates among the petty criminals of a city.

I refer you to the report of the Surgeon in charge of the Police and Fire Department for much valuable information furnished by him.

In conclusion I desire to say again, these are the first annual reports made by the Executive Departments. They are minute in every detail; magnifying nothing; concealing nothing. They show that Indianapolis has taken long steps forward towards becoming the city she ought to be. Hand in hand the legislative and executive branches of our city government will work together, striving to bring prosperity and happiness to the city that has honored us with its confidence.

THOMAS L. SULLIVAN,

Mayor.

REPORTS, ETC., FROM CITY OFFICERS.

Report of the City Comptroller for the calendar year ending December 31, 1891.

Was received and ordered filed.

REPORTS FROM OFFICIAL BOARDS.

First annual report Department of Public Works of the City of Indianapolis, for the year ending December 31, 1891.

Received and ordered filed.

Annual report of the City Civil Engineer for the year ending December 31, 1891.

Received and ordered filed.

Annual report of the Street Department for the year ending December 31, 1891.

Received and ordered filed.

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

First annual report of the Department of Public Safety for the year ending December 31, 1891.

Received and ordered filed.

Annual report of the Building Inspector for the year ending December 31, 1891.

Received and ordered filed.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

Report of the Department of Public Health and Charities for the year ending December 31, 1891.

Received and ordered filed.

Report of Indianapolis City Hospital for the year ending December 31, 1891.

Received and ordered filed.

REPORTS, ETC., FROM STANDING COMMITTEES.

Mr. Ryan, on behalf of the Committee on Contracts and Franchises, asked for further time to report on G. O. No. 1 (Water Contract), 1892, for the purpose of securing better rates to private consumers.

Which was granted.

Mr. Costello, on behalf of the Committee on Sewers, Streets and Alleys, to whom was referred G. O. No. 4, 1892—an ordinance annexing certain territory constituting and forming a part of Indianapolis, Indiana—made the following report :

INDIANAPOLIS, February 1, 1892.

To the President and Members Common Council :

GENTLEMEN—Your Committee, to whom was referred General Ordinance No 4, 1892, would respectfully recommend that the same be passed.

Respectfully submitted,

JAS. H. COSTELLO,
A. A. YOUNG.

Which was read and concurred in.

INTRODUCTION OF GENERAL AND SPECIAL ORDINANCES.

Under this order of business the following entitled ordinances were introduced :

By Mr. Halloran :

G. O. No. 6, 1892. An ordinance to repeal section 7 of an ordinance regulating the disposition of dead animals and animal offal and blood in the City of Indianapolis, and within two miles of the corporate limits of said city, and upon what is known as the Sellers' Farm, ordained August 20, 1878.

Read first time and referred to Committee on Puplic Health.

By Mr. McGill :

G. O. No. 7, 1892. An ordinance regulating the transportation of petroleum products, prohibiting the kindling of fires or the placing of mortar or mortar boxes or injurious chemicals upon, along or across any asphalt or vulcanite pavement in the City of Indianapolis, and prescribing a penalty for any violation thereof.

Read first time and referred to Committee on Sewers, Streets and Alleys.

By Mr. Olsen :

G. O. No. 8, 1892. An ordinance providing for the inspection of steam boilers and all steam generating apparatus under pressure.

Read first time and referred to Committee on Public Safety and Comfort.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

Mr. Costello offered and moved the adoption of the following motion :

Moved by the Common Council of the City of Indianapolis, That the City Attorney be, and is hereby requested, to give his opinion to the Council, as to whether or not the use of streets paved with asphaltum or other smooth pavements, for stands for hacks or other vehicles used for conveying goods or passengers for hire or pay in the City of Indianapolis, would be such an unusual or extraordinary use of such streets as would release the company paving the same from its liability to keep said pavement in repair.

Which motion was adopted by the following vote :

AYES—Viz.: Councilmen Allen, Colter, Cooper, Costello, Gasper, Gauss, Halloran, Laut, Linn, McGill, McGuffin, Olsen, Puryear, Ryan, Schmidt, Shrader, White. Young and President Murphy. NAYS—None.

Mr. McGuffin offered the following motion and moved its adoption :

Moved by the Common Council of the City of Indianapolis, That the City Clerk be and is hereby ordered to secure, for the use of the members of the Common Council, and other City Officers, fifty copies of the City Charter properly bound.

Which motion was adopted by the following vote :

AYES—Viz.: Councilmen Colter, Cooper, Costello, Gasper, Gauss, Halloran, Laut, Linn, McGill, McGuffin, Olsen, Puryear, Ryan, Schmidt, Schrader, White, Young and President Murphy. NAYS—Councilman Allen.

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING.

On motion by Councilman Ryan, the following entitled ordinance was taken up; read second time; ordered engrossed and then read the third time.


G. O. No. 4, 1892. An ordinance annexing certain territory constituting and forming a part of Indianapolis, Ind.

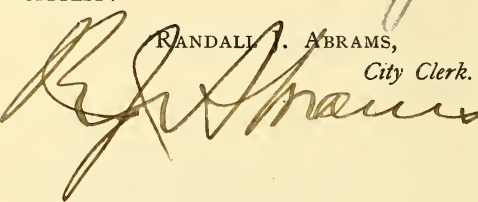
And was passed by the following vote :

AYES—Viz.: Councilmen Allen, Colter, Cooper, Costello, Gauss, Halloran, Laut, Linn, McGill, McGuffin, Olsen, Ryan, Schrader, White, Young and President Murphy. NAYS—Councilmen Gasper, Puryear and Schmidt.

On motion of Mr. Ryan, the Common Council, at 9:25 o'clock P. M., adjourned.

ATTEST:


MARTIN J. MURPHY,
President.


RANDALL J. ABRAMS,
City Clerk.