

REGULAR MEETING.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,
 CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS,
 March 5, 1900. }

The Common Council of the City of Indianapolis met in the Council Chamber, Monday evening, March 5, 1900, at 8 o'clock, in regular meeting.

Present, Hon. John H. Crall, President of the Common Council, in the chair, and 17 members, viz.: Messrs. Bernauer, Billingsley, Daller, Evans, Higgins, Horan, Kaiser, Keller, Kelly, Moriarity, Munro, McGrew, Negley, Perrott, Reilly, Spiegel and Wheeler.

Absent—3, viz.: Messrs. Dickson, Knight and Megrew.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal, whereupon Councilman Bernauer 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:

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
 CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS,
 INDIANAPOLIS, IND., February 25, 1900. }

To the President and Members of the Common Council:

Gentlemen—I am unable to approve Resolution No. 5, 1900, for many reasons, some of which are as follows:

1. Said resolution is in conflict with the ordinance of 1894 on the same subject. Ordinances cannot be changed, modified or repealed by resolution.

2. Under the provisions of said resolution the committee thereby created is instructed "to investigate also any and all acts, both public and private, official and unofficial, of any and all officers and employes

of said city, both elective and appointive, which are or may be found to be prejudicial to the public welfare and good government." An investigation into the private and unofficial acts of officers and employes is entirely unprecedented and without warrant. It is difficult to believe that your honorable body desires its committee to engage in a crusade of this kind.

3. The resolution contains no charges against any department, officer or employe of the city, unless the "current report" and "open statements" therein referred to concerning the Board of Public Safety may be called charges. These were covered fully by your Resolution No. 1, which I approved.

This Resolution No. 5 does not even hint at, or suggest, any official misconduct on the part of any other department officer or employe.

Whenever any specific charge of official misconduct is made by any responsible party, I will cheerfully and promptly co-operate with your honorable body in the investigation of the same, but I cannot approve a resolution which undertakes to cast suspicion upon all officers and employes, and provides for an investigation of the private affairs of all, in their absence, without charges against any.

For these and other reasons, which will be apparent to all fair-minded men who have read the resolution. I am compelled to withhold my approval.

Very respectfully,

T. TAGGART,
Mayor.

Which was read and ordered spread on the minutes.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS.

Communication from City Comptroller:

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE,
OFFICE OF CITY COMPTROLLER,
INDIANAPOLIS, IND., March 5, 1900. }

To the President and Members of the Common Council:

Gentlemen—I refer to you a communication from Charles W. Moores, signed for the Board of School Commissioners, in regard to the action of said Board in the matter of contributing toward the payment of the fee of General Harrison in the support of the validity of school bonds.

I regard the question as one of very great importance, and have therefore prepared, and submit to you herewith, an ordinance appropriating the sum of six hundred dollars as the city's portion of said expense, and I hereby recommend the passage of said ordinance.

Very respectfully,

E. M. JOHNSON,
City Comptroller.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., March 5, 1900.

Mr. E. M. Johnson, City Comptroller:

Dear Sir—As you have been advised, the holders of certain bonds of the Board of School Commissioners have employed General Benjamin Harrison to make an argument before the Supreme Court of Indiana in

support of the validity of the school bonds in the appeal now pending in the case of Campbell against the City of Indianapolis and the Board of School Commissioners of the City of Indianapolis. The fee to be paid General Harrison is two thousand dollars; of this sum, two hundred dollars has been contributed by two public-spirited citizens. Both the City and the School Board have able counsel regularly employed to conduct their litigation. It is the view of this Board that the present appeal is one of such magnitude, and the possibility of an adverse decision is such a serious menace to the credit of the city, that the employment of General Harrison to assist in establishing the validity of these bonds and the credit of the city is not only a wise step, but, in the present very grave emergency, it is a necessary step.

Under these circumstances, we feel that the expense of additional counsel should not fall entirely upon the holders of these bonds.

This Board authorizes me to say that it has agreed to give six hundred dollars toward the payment of General Harrison's fee, and that it desires a like contribution from the City of Indianapolis.

It is hardly necessary to say that a decision by the Supreme Court against the City of Indianapolis and the School Board must not only invalidate the school bonds, but will inevitably render worthless many recent issues of municipal bonds by the City of Indianapolis, such as those issued for the purchase of the park system, for the equipment of the Fire Department, and the like.

I have talked with Mr. John W. Kern, City Attorney, and he assures me that the co-operation of General Harrison in this case will be entirely agreeable to him, although he makes no request for General Harrison's assistance. Mr. Albert Baker, the attorney of this Board, has expressed the same opinion.

On behalf of the Board of School Commissioners of the City of Indianapolis, I ask you to recommend to the City Council that this appropriation be made.

Yours very truly,

CHARLES W. MOORES,
For the Board of School Commissioners.

Which was read and referred to Committee on Finance.

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCES.

Under this order of business, the following ordinance was introduced:

By Mr. Billingsley:

App. O. No. 2, 1900. An ordinance appropriating the sum of six hundred dollars (\$600) to the Department of Law to be used in the compensation of special counsel in the suit of Campbell et al. vs. The City of Indianapolis et al. in the Supreme Court of Indiana, and fixing a time when the same shall take effect.

Whereas, There is now pending in the Supreme Court of the State of Indiana an action brought by Eddy M. Campbell et al. against the City of Indianapolis et al., seeking to enjoin the issue of bonds by the Board of School Commissioners of said city, and praying that the indebtedness of said Board and said City be added in determining the two (2) per cent. limit of indebtedness prescribed by the Constitution of the State of Indiana; and

Whereas, Counsel to assist the attorneys of the School Board and the City have been employed by the holders of said bonds, in said litigation; and

Whereas, The Board of School Commissioners has appropriated the sum of six hundred dollars (\$600) to assist in the payment of said special counsel; and

Whereas, It is regarded to be to the best interests of the City of Indianapolis that the city's contention in said suit be sustained; now, therefore,

Section 1. Be it ordained by the Common Council of the City of Indianapolis, Indiana, That there be and is hereby appropriated to the Department of Law, out of any funds in the city treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of six hundred dollars (\$600) to be used as a contribution of the city's portion of the expense in the employment of special counsel in defending the suit of Campbell et al. vs. the City of Indianapolis, et al. in the Supreme Court of Indiana.

Sec. 2. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

Which was read a first time and referred to Committee on Finance.

INTRODUCTION OF GENERAL AND SPECIAL ORDINANCES.

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

By Mr. Daller (by request):

G. O. No. 5, 1900. An ordinance providing for the change of the name of Ash street to Ashland avenue, and fixing the time when the same shall take effect.

Section 1. Be it ordained by the Common Council of the City of Indianapolis, Indiana. That the name of Ash street, running from Massachusetts avenue on the south to Twenty-first street, and from Twenty-third street to Twenty-ninth street, its terminus on the north, be and shall hereafter be known as Ashland avenue.

Sec. 2. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

With the following petition:

To the Common of the City of Indianapolis, Ind.:

We, the undersigned property owners living on Ash street from its junction with Massachusetts avenue to Twenty-first street, and from Twenty-third street north to the terminus of Ash street, respectfully petition the Common Council of the City of Indianapolis, to change the name of the above described Ash street to that of Ashland avenue. The upper portion of this street was formerly known as Ashland avenue, and was changed against the wishes of the people living thereon.

(Signed by 94 property owners.)

Which was read a first time and referred to Committee on Sewers, Streets and Alleys.

By Mr. Billingsley:

G. O. No. 6, 1900. An ordinance annexing certain territory to the City of Indianapolis, 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 boundary lines of the City of Indianapolis be and the same are hereby extended so as to include the following described contiguous territory, all of which is hereby annexed to and made a part of the territory constituting and forming the City of Indianapolis, in Marion county and the State of Indiana, to-wit:

Beginning at the present corporate limits in Thirtieth street and Fall Creek, thence west along the center of said Thirtieth street to a point 200 feet east of Central avenue; thence north and parallel with said Central avenue to the center of Thirty-eighth (38th) street; thence west along the center of said Thirty-eighth (38th) street to the corporation line; thence south, and following along the said corporation line, to the center of Fall Creek; thence east and northeasterly along the corporation line, the same being the center of said Fall Creek, to the place of beginning in said Thirtieth (30th) street.

Sec. 2. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication for two consecutive weeks in the Indianapolis Sentinel, a daily newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the City of Indianapolis, Indiana.

Which was read a first time and referred to Committee on Ordinances.

By Mr. Munro:

G. O. No. 7, 1900. An ordinance fixing the salaries of the telephone operators employed by the Board of Public Safety in the Fire Department of the City of Indianapolis, repealing all ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict therewith, and fixing a time when the same shall take effect.

Whereas, This Council, by its last general appropriation ordinance, appropriated the sum of \$821.25, or two dollars and twenty-five cents per day, for the salary of each of the telephone operators employed by the Board of Public Safety in the Fire Department of this city; and

Whereas, The said operators are being deprived of the full benefit of said appropriation because of the provisions of the general salary ordinance of January 18, 1894; therefore,

Section 1. Be it ordained by the Common Council of the City of Indianapolis, Indiana, That the salary of each telephone operator employed by the Board of Public Safety in the Fire Department of said city be and the same is hereby fixed at two dollars and twenty-five cents per day, or eight hundred and twenty-one dollars and twenty-five cents (\$821.25) per annum.

Sec. 2. That all ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance be and the same are hereby repealed.

Sec. 3. This ordinance shall be in full force from and after its passage and approval by the Mayor.

Which was read a first time and referred to Committee on Finance.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

The following communication was read:

HOBOKEN, N. J., February 20, 1900.

To the Chairman of the Common Council of the City of Indianapolis:

Dear Sir—I entreat permission to inform you that several citizens of Hoboken have decided on a patriotic scheme, namely, to interest all friends and sympathizers of the Boers of South Africa in behalf of creating a grand silver trophy or loving cup, intended to commemorate the gallant struggle of the brave Afrikaners for independence. It is suggested that appropriate symbols and mottoes, moral as well as patriotic in character, will be employed to render the souvenir most attractive and imposing. Through the instrumentality of this unique loving cup we desire to convey (most emphatically) the sympathies of the people of this country for the maintenance of the South African Republics.

The idea is likely to encounter stern opposition in many quarters; nevertheless, we believe that the moral influence of such an undertaking may be far-reaching in the direction of winning friends for the cause in this country, and possibly in France and Germany. In lending our moral and material support to this patriotic effort, let us hope that we may be instrumental in hastening the consummation of that magnificent conception, a "United States of South Africa," that is become the dream of the struggling Boers.

It is very important that we should receive a few lines of encouragement from the honorable members of your Council, so as to recommend the project to other sources and circles.

I sincerely trust that the idea will meet the approval of the Boer sympathizers of your State.

Hoping to be honored with your distinguished attention in the matter, and that I may hear from you, I remain,

Very sincerely,

645 Garden St.

ERNEST T. ZELTNER.

And, on motion of Mr. Daller, was ordered spread on the minutes.

On motion of Mr. Keller, the Common Council, at 8:20 o'clock P. M., adjourned.

Geo. H. Grace

 President.

ATTEST :

John F. Geske

City Clerk.