

SPECIAL MEETING.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
SATURDAY, June 10, 1905.

The Common Council of the City of Indianapolis, met in the Council Chamber, Saturday June 10, 1905, at 12:30 o'clock P. M. in special session, pursuant to the following call:

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., June 8, 1905.

W. M. Fogarty, Clerk of the Common Council:

The undersigned petition you to call a special meeting of the Common Council Saturday, June 10, 1905, at 12.30 P. M., at the Council Chamber, for the consideration and passage of General Ordinance No. 18, 1905, and to receive communication from the City Controller.

ALBERT B. UHL.
FRANK S. FISHBACK,
M. J. SHEA.
LEW W. COOPER.
FAY WRIGHT.

I, W. M. Fogarty, 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.

W. M. FOGARTY, City Clerk.

Which was read.

The Clerk called the roll:

Present: The Hon. W. A Rhodes, Vice-President of the Common Council, and 12 members, viz: Messrs. Cottey, Crall, Davis, Fishback, Gasper, Hofmann, Moriarity, Shea, Storm, Uhl, Wolsiffer, Wright

Absent, 8, viz: Messrs. Cooper, Eppert, Krause, Linus, Murray, Sullivan, Wahl and President Billingsley.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICERS.

From the City Controller:

To the President and Members of the Common Council:

Gentlemen: In compliance with the request of your Committee, I have investigated the question of bath house sites, and have obtained

from the Hilgemeier heirs a thirty (30) days' option on 158½ feet front of Madison avenue on the north end of this property, for \$500.00. Pleasant Run cuts their land diagonally, and this frontage on Madison avenue will give the city the entire frontage on the south side of the Run, west of the avenue, at the "swimming-hole," which is unquestionably the best and most accessible bathing place on the South Side. I think it would be wise to purchase this property, and I also recommend the purchase of the Schissel property at \$2,250.00. It cost \$2,150.00 to recover the Schissel building, and with the posts and frame work intact, and the expenditure that has commonly been spoken of as for "repairs" is not for repairs alone, but largely for improvements, especially for the construction of a floored space for small children.

The Schissel house is at the most accessible point near the center of the city, considering the three years' lease of the canal to Sixteenth street, which goes with it. The objections that have been made to its purchase have no tangible foundation. The claim that the canal water is not suitable for bathing is sheer nonsense. People have been bathing in the canal ever since it was constructed, and with beneficial results, except when they happen to drown. The canal water will be purer hereafter than it has been for years past, on account of the measures taken by the city and the Water Company for protecting it from pollution above the intake of the new filter beds; and, aside from this, it is unquestionably purer now, at the city, than the water of White River, Fall Creek, or Pleasant Run, all of which are commonly used for bathing.

Public bath facilities have been discussed in this city for years, and now for the first time there is offered a practical method of obtaining them. Unfortunately, whenever public spirited people come forward with a generous proposition, they are met by a chorus of objections and suspicions from the class of people who some centuries since wanted to sell the "precious ointment" and give the proceeds to the poor. As a matter of fact the gentlemen who have offered to undertake the burden of maintaining the bath houses without cost to the city, and at actual cost to the patrons, are entitled to the warm thanks of the public. There is not the slightest opportunity for their making a profit from it, and not the slightest justification for the ungracious suggestion of such a thing. Undoubtedly they will agree to turn their task over to the city at any time in the future, if it desires to assume the burden.

The practical question for the city now is whether the dog shall drop the bone he has, and go after a shadow in the water. I recommend the appropriation of \$5,000.00 for bath houses—\$3,000.00 for the Schissel house, \$1,000.00 for the house on Pleasant Run, and \$1,000.00 for the house on Fall Creek in the Northwestern part of the city. I enclose an ordinance for this purpose, which I recommend to be substituted for the pending ordinance, or that its provisions be inserted in the pending ordinance by amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

J. P. DUNN,
City Controller.

Which was read.

By the City Controller:

Appropriation Ordinance No. 19—1905: An ordinance appropriating five thousand dollars for the purchase, construction and repair of bath houses.

Section 1. Be it ordained by the Common Council of the City of Indianapolis, That there be and is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Public Works, the sum of five thousand dollars for the purchase, construction and repair of bath houses, as follows:

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For the Schissel property, \$3,000.00; for a bath house and property on Pleasant Run, \$1,000.00; for a bath house and property on Fall Creek, \$1,000.00.

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

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

There being no quorum to act on appropriation ordinances at 12:55 P. M., Mr. Wolsiffer moved to adjourn. Carried.

W. M. Wolsiffer

Vice-President.

ATTEST:

W. M. Wolsiffer

City Clerk.

