

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
COMMON COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION.

CHAMBER OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE }
CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS, }
MONDAY, JUNE 1ST, 1868, 7½ O'CLOCK, P. M. }

The Common Council met in regular session.

Present—His Honor, the Mayor, Daniel Macauley, in the chair, and the following members :

Councilmen Brown, Coburn, Cottrell, Davis, Foster, Geisel, Goddard, Henschen, Jameson, Loomis, MacArthur, Schmidt, Seidesticker, Stanton and Woodburn—15.

Absent—Councilmen Burgess, Colley and Kappes—3.

The proceedings of the regular session held May 25th, 1868, were read and approved.

The Board of Managers of the Home for Friendless Women being present on business connected with said Home,

Mr. Brown moved that the rules be suspended, in order that said Board might be heard from.

Which motion was adopted.

Mr. Hays, one of the Trustees, then briefly stated the general wish of the Committee, which was to ask of the Common Council assistance to build a suitable home for those falling under their care.

Mrs. Smith then addressed the Council, giving somewhat in detail the workings of said Home.

On motion, the subject matter was referred to the Committee on Benevolence.

By consent, Dr. Mears, from the Board of Health, submitted the following report:

INDIANAPOLIS, June 1, 1868.

To the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Indianapolis:

The Board of Health, to whom was referred the petition of citizens residing in the south-west part of the city, praying for abatement of nuisance, &c., beg leave to report that they have carefully examined the premises whence the objectionable effluvia issue, and present it as their opinion that if the manufacturers of soap and candles, as well as those engaged in the preparing of hair and crushing of bones for commerce, were restricted by suitable enactments of your body, to the legitimate business of their several avocations, there would be no cause for complaint in their neighborhoods.

All these arts are, it is well known, pursued in the midst of large cities unmolested, where the most rigid police regulations are enforced against nuisance of every possible description.

The loathsome habit with most, if not all, soap and candle makers near the city, is to steam the carcasses of hogs, dogs, and other animals dying from whatever cause, (the former often from cholera). In many instances, as we are assured, they are kept in and near the factories before subjecting to the process of steaming until partial decomposition has ensued. It is easy to imagine that the vapor arising from the seething of such a cauldron of putrefaction would taint the atmosphere of the entire neighborhood. The Board do not hesitate to recommend the interdiction of this practice as an unmitigated nuisance.

Corrective legislation is also respectfully suggested in regard to the practice of turning the refuse of the tanks used in steaming even other and less objectionable animal matter, commonly collected at the hotels and boarding houses, into open drains, or, as is sometimes done, on the ground in the rear of building used as factories, without even the poor provision of an open drain. This waste material, being always very offensive to the smell when issuing from the tanks, becomes exceedingly noisome when exposed to the sun, and is made alive, as we have seen it, with worms. It thus becomes, during the warm season, a fruitful and persistent source of the stench complained of by your petitioners.

In regard to the bone crushing, which has been the occasion of so much controversy already, it is our opinion that the only feature requiring the interference of the Council is that of appropriating the refuse from the tanks employed by slaughtering men, to their use in preparing bone dust for commerce. This material, which in its production and subsequent handling, occasions the stench which regales the olfactories of the west-enders during the season of pork packing, is transferred in open wagons to the bone mill. It here undergoes the process of freezing and thawing until spring, when, exposed in heaps of many tons, it becomes alive with vermin, which in their turn, having disposed of all the animal matter found in the mass, die and are dried with the bones left, preparatory to grinding for market. From the period of its reception at the factory until its final mixing and packing with the dust prepared from other dry bones collected for the purpose, (about the first of June generally,) the stench arising from it is continuous, and in certain conditions of the atmosphere extremely pungent and disgusting, while the extent of its influence is dependent upon the force and course of the

winds, which sometimes waft it with little abatement of its intensity to the distance of a full half a mile.

An inspection of the corporation bone yard developed but little the Board is disposed to complain of. A fence around the premises to keep the hogs of the vicinity from rooting up and exposing the buried entrails, (the only part of the animals disposed of at that savory institution not subjected to the process of steaming,) is an improvement in the judgment of the Board greatly needed. This accomplished, with the adoption of the trenching system in burying the offal, which we think should be strictly enforced, seems to be all the reform at present demanded there.

The plan adopted of conveying under ground to the river immediately from the tank all filthy refuse matter, cannot be too highly commended as a means of preventing the offensive exhalations proceeding from the debris of dindred establishments elsewhere, and suggests the idea of offering all soap and candle makers who feel the interdiction of carcass steaming an invasion of their rights, a location upon the corporation property, which, from its complete isolation and position upon the bank of the river, would afford them greatly increased facilities for disposing of their offensive offal, and relieve the Council from the necessity of enacting laws for the future protection of the city against that species of nuisance.

In reference to which Mr. Davis offered the following motion :

That the communication from the Board of Health be referred to the Committee on Revision of Ordinances, with instructions to prepare an ordinance prohibiting the continuance of such business within the prescribed limits, as provided by the Charter.

Which was adopted.

His Honor, the Mayor, announced that the special order for the evening was the election of a City Gas Inspector and City Measurer, and announced that nominations were in order.

Dr. Woodburn and Mr. Geisel were appointed tellers.

George H. Fleming was nominated and elected Gas Inspector for the year ending the fourth regular meeting of Council in May, 1869.

B. V. Enos and Henry Hildebrand were nominated for City Measurer.

B. V. Enos received 8 votes.

Henry Hildebrand received 7 votes.

B. V. Enos having received a majority of all the votes cast was declared duly elected City Measurer for the year ending at the first regular meeting of the Council in May, 1869.

His Honor, the Mayor, announced that the reception of the report of the Board of Equalization was in order.

Dr. Jameson presented the following report :

INDIANAPOLIS, June 1, 1868.

To the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Indianapolis :

We have heard and adjusted all complaints brought before us, and return to you the total amount of taxables for the year 1868, - - \$23,593,619 00 and 5,780 polls.

This amount includes the capital stock of private Banking Co.'s 591,848 00

Leaving, - - - - - \$23,001,771 00

P. H. JAMESON,
C. F. SCHMIDT,
THOS. COTTRELL, } Committee.

D. M. RANSELL, *City Clerk.*

WM. HADLEY, *City Assessor.*

Which was concurred in.

By consent, Dr. Jameson, from the Finance Committee, made the following report :

INDIANAPOLIS, June 1, 1868.

To the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Indianapolis :

GENTLEMEN:—The Committee on Finance report the following as the resources of the City for the year ending March 16, 1868:

Balance in Treasury March 20th, 1867.....	\$122,929 73
Receipts and collections during the year ending March 16th, 1868.	
Current tax.....	202,336 04
Delinquent tax.....	69,741 37
Bank Loan.....	100,000 00
Orders credited on \$30,000 note of Indianapolis Gas Light and Coke Company.....	22,553 53
Ten per cent. bearing City Bonds.....	21,100 00
Licenses.....	2,432 83
Fines and Fees.....	3,583 15
Market Rents.....	973 55
Gas Company's payment of Loan.....	7,201 72
Printing on Precepts.....	190 69
Overcharge on 18 public lamps by Gas Company.....	261 47
Cost collected for printing Delinquent List.....	258 37
Charles Richmann, money allowed for use of Fire Department and not expended.....	433 79
Hand Engine sold.....	350 00
Articles sold by Street Commissioner.....	98 80
Hospital Fund, Dr. G. V. Woollen.....	75 00
August Richter, filling lot on East street.....	42 90
Error in report of W. H. Craft.....	20 04
Geo. W. Buchanan, money kept out of Silsby's bill.....	10 88
Bell sold by Fire Engineer.....	5 00
Total.....	\$554,598 86
Total Disbursements for the year.....	343,941 11
Balance in Treasury March 16th, 1868.....	\$210,657 75

At the close of the year the indebtedness was as follows:

Bank Loan.....	\$100,000 00
Three year Six per cent. Bonds.....	27,000 00
Eighteen months Ten per cent. Warrants.....	82,610 00
Total Liabilities.....	\$252,163 53
Deducting amount in Treasury March 16th, 1868.....	210,657 75
Leaves an excess of.....	\$41,505 78

Which was the debt of the city above the cash on hand at the close of the year. By referring to the report of last year it will be seen that the City Debt has been diminished \$45,183 39 during the year, which is a larger sum than was anticipated by your committee. Both the collections and expenditures have exceeded the estimates, while the reduction of the debt exceeded the same calculations more than \$15,000.00, or instead of reducing the debt of the City \$30,000.00, as was expected, it has been reduced more than \$45,000.00 during the year. The books of the Auditor and Clerk show the following items, making up the total disbursements for current expenses during the same period:

For Gas.....	\$30,348 22
Fire Department.....	29,948 13
Police Department.....	26,229 69
Street Repairs.....	17,481 06
Salaries.....	12,568 29
Interest on Bonds.....	12,200 00
Interest on Orders.....	12,001 62
Percentage.....	9,437 34
Street Improvements.....	8,646 02
Bridges.....	7,926 42
Printing.....	7,339 24
Hospital.....	6,835 14
Jail Expenses.....	6,336 70
Interest on Loan.....	6,150 00
Fees.....	4,045 87
Lighting and Extinguishing Street Lamps.....	3,235 08
Cisterns.....	3,101 04
Specific purposes.....	3,421 65
Revenue on Gas.....	2,021 55
Circle street.....	1,965 73
Gas Fixtures.....	1,496 32
Sangerfest.....	1,500 00
Real Estate.....	1,413 33
Benevolence.....	1,500 00
Assisting Civil Engineer.....	1,478 00
Taxes refunded.....	1,393 05
Detective Police.....	1,280 00
Rent.....	1,000 00
Orphan Asylum.....	625 00
Cemetery.....	748 37
Pest House.....	972 35
Removing Nuisances.....	600 00
Markets.....	624 52
Fuel.....	245 32
Furniture.....	203 35
Board of Health.....	150 00
Books and Stationery.....	462 12
University Square.....	143 25
Town Clock.....	125 00
Straightening Pogue Run.....	207 40
Elections and Registry of Voters.....	436 00
Costs.....	59 43
Wells.....	39 37
Total.....	\$224,941 07

The following is the estimate of your Committee for the expenses of the current year ending March 20th, 1869:

Fire Department, including Alarm Telegraph	\$29,000 00
Police Department, including Detective	26,481 25
Gas, Gas Fixtures, Lighting and Extinguishing Street Lamps, and Repairs, &c.	25,000 00
Salaries	13,500 00
Street Repairs and Culverts	12,000 00
Interest	22,000 00
Incidental	10,000 00
Street Crossings	5,000 00
Hospital and Pest House	8,000 00
Jail Expenses	6,000 00
Printing	4,000 00
Books, Stationery, Furniture and Fuel	3,000 00
Fees and Percentage	1,200 00
Cisterns	3,000 00
Bridges	4,000 00
Rent	1,500 00
Parks	3,000 00
Benevolence	3,000 00
Total	\$190,681 25

In addition to this, enough ought to be raised the present year to extinguish at least the excess of the debt above the amount of cash on hand, which, as shown above, is \$41,505.78. Adding this sum to the total of the estimate makes the amount necessary to be collected this year \$231,187.03. The amount of delinquent tax due the City may be approximately stated at \$60,000.00, of which not more than \$30,000.00 can be realized this year. About \$6,000.00 more will be received from proceeds of fines and licenses. Taking these two amounts from the preceding, there remains \$195,187.03 to be raised by collections under the current levy of the year, to do which will require a tax of one dollar and ten cents on each one hundred dollars on the duplicate, the total of the assessment on which is \$23,592,619.00.

Also, your Committee would recommend that the tax levy for this year include at least fifteen cents additional on each one hundred dollars, to be applied, when collected, to the building of sewers, which will make the whole levy one dollar and twenty-five cents on the one hundred dollars. The estimate of current expenses for the year is less than the actual expenses of either of the last two preceding years, and it will require a rigid effort at retrenchment on the part of your honorable body to conform with the same. This, we trust, will be done. The public weal demands it, as well as good faith on the part of your honorable body, when the estimate has been accepted by you.

We herewith report an ordinance providing for the annual levy, and recommend its passage.

Respectfully submitted,

P. H. JAMESON;
C. F. SCHMIDT,
THOMAS COTTRELL, } *Committee.*

Which was received.

Dr. Jameson introduced general ordinance No. 144, entitled:

AN ORDINANCE making a general tax levy for the year eighteen hundred and sixty-eight upon taxable property within the City of Indianapolis.

Which was read the first and second times.

Dr. Woodburn moved to amend by levying \$1.00 for general purposes, and 10 cents for sewerage.

Mr. Seidensticker called for the ayes and noes.

The question being on Dr. Woodburn's amendment, those who in the affirmative were Councilmen MacArthur and Woodburn—2.

Those who voted in the negative were Councilmen Brown, Coburn, Cottrell, Davis, Foster, Geisel, Goddard, Henschen, Jameson, Loomis, Schmidt, Seidensticker and Stanton—13.

So the amendment was lost.

Mr. Davis moved to amend by making the levy one dollar for general, and fifteen cents for sewerage purposes.

Which was not adopted.

The levy was then fixed at one dollar and twenty-five cents, and the ordinance was considered as engrossed.

Dr. Jameson moved that the rules be suspended and the ordinance placed upon its passage.

The question being on a suspension of the rules, those who voted in the affirmative were Councilmen Brown, Coburn, Cottrell, Davis, Foster, Geisel, Goddard, Henschen, Jameson, Loomis, MacArthur, Schmidt, Seidensticker, Stanton and Woodburn—15.

No Councilman voting in the negative.

So the rules were suspended and the ordinance read the third time and placed upon its passage.

The question being, shall the ordinance pass? those who voted in the affirmative were Councilmen Brown, Coburn, Cottrell, Davis, Foster, Geisel, Goddard, Henschen, Jameson, Loomis, Schmidt, Seidensticker and Stanton—13.

Those who voted in the negative were Councilmen MacArthur and Woodburn—2.

So the ordinance passed

On motion, the Council adjourned until Wednesday evening, June 3d, 1868, 7½ o'clock.

DANIEL MACAULEY, *Mayor*.

ATTEST:

D. M. RANSELL, *City Clerk*.