

## SPECIAL MEETING.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

WEDNESDAY, April 8, 1914.

The Common Council of the City of Indianapolis met in the Council Chamber, Wednesday evening, April 8, 1914, at 7:30 o'clock in special session, President John F. Connor in the chair, pursuant to the following call:

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,  
CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS.  
INDIANAPOLIS, IND., April 8, 1914.

*To the Members of the Common Council of the City of Indianapolis, Ind.:*

GENTLEMEN—You are hereby notified that there will be a special meeting of the Common Council held in the Council Chamber on Wednesday evening, April 8, 1914, at 7:30 o'clock, for the purpose of receiving reports from standing committees and the consideration and final action on General Ordinance No. 13, 1914.

I have the honor to remain,

Very truly yours,  
J. E. BELL,  
*Mayor.*

I, Thomas A. Riley, 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.

THOMAS A. RILEY,  
*City Clerk.*

Which was read.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: The Hon. John F. Connor, President of the Common Council, and 7 members, viz.: Messrs. Barry, Young, McGuff, Miller, Lee, Graham and Shea.

By Mr. McGuff :

*Mr. President:*

I move you that we now take a recess until Friday, April 10, at 7:30 P. M.

At 7:55 P. M. Mr. Porter entered the Council Chamber and took his seat.

Mr. Miller moved to table the motion to recess. Which motion was lost by the following vote :

Ayes, 3, viz.: Messrs. Barry, Miller and Shea.

Noes, 6, viz.: Young, McGuff, Porter, Lee, Graham and President John F. Connor.

Mr. Barry moved to postpone action on the motion to take a recess until a communication from the City Controller be read. Which was carried by the following vote :

Ayes, 9, viz.: Messrs. Barry, Young, Miller, McGuff, Porter, Lee, Graham, Shea and President John F. Connor.

From the City Controller :

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE,  
CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS.  
INDIANAPOLIS, IND., April 8, 1914.

*To the Honorable the President and Members of the Common Council:*

I regret that any misunderstanding should have prevented the passage of the temporary loan ordinance at your regular meeting, as the money will be needed absolutely on the 15th of this month, and the necessary advertisement and negotiation for a loan of this size make the available time very brief. It was to avoid this contingency that I laid this matter before your Finance Committee more than two weeks ago, explaining it to their expressed satisfaction then, tendering any additional information that might be desired later. Permit me to repeat here that the records of the Controller's office are public records, and that, in addition to the general right of inspection, you, as public officials, are entitled at any time to any information, or assistance in getting information, that can be given by me or by any of the office force.

You can not possibly get any reliable information as to city finances anywhere except in this office. I am informed that an employee of the City Treasurer's office attended your meeting and gave you statements as to

the condition of the general fund of the city. The City Treasurer has no account with the general fund or any of the special funds provided for by the city charter. He carries what he calls "special funds," of his own volition, and deposits them in violation of the state depository law; and everything else he carries as "general city funds," but this has no fixed or definite relation to any fund established by law. He is a law unto himself. The only city accounts kept by him are the Barrett Law accounts, and the taxpayers are now paying a special tax to make up a deficit of some \$120,000 occasioned by the bookkeeping system.

I am informed that your other source of information was an article in the Indianapolis News of April 6. This article was a tissue of falsehood from beginning to end, and was published for the special purpose of preventing action by you. The average newspaper reporter, though he may have fair personal ideas of honesty, has no compunctions of conscience about writing anything to fit "the policy of the paper," and it is the present policy of the Indianapolis News to misrepresent everything connected with the present city administration. When, in one of its articles, the words "it is said" occur at brief intervals, as in this article, you may know that the writer is lying wilfully and maliciously, and is preparing a loophole for escaping responsibility for his false statements.

At the time this article appeared, and at the time of your last meeting, the actual balance in the general fund was \$2,983.15. The city's March bills should be paid on the 15th and the pay roll on the 16th if the credit of the city is to be maintained. The two will aggregate about \$80,000. That question is now in your hands, and there can be no division of the responsibility for its decision. I anticipate that the delay that has occurred in the passage of the ordinance will cause some increase in interest rates, and would recommend that you act promptly now. I again invite your scrutiny of the books at any time when any statement from me concerning the city finances may be questioned.

Respectfully submitted,

J. P. DUNN,  
*City Controller.*

The motion to take a recess until Friday evening, April 10, 1914, was then put and carried by the following vote:

Ayes, 6, viz.: Messrs. Young, McGuff, Porter, Lee, Graham and President John F. Connor.

Noes, 3, viz.: Messrs. Barry, Miller and Shea.

FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 10, 1914.

At 7:30 o'clock P. M., Friday, April 10, 1914, President Connor called the Council to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: The Hon. John F. Connor, President of the Common Council, and eight members, viz.: Messrs. Barry, Young, McGuff, Miller, Porter, Lee, Graham and Shea.

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING.

Mr. Barry called for General Ordinance No. 13, 1914, for second reading. It was read a second time.

Mr. Barry moved that General Ordinance No. 13, 1914, be ordered engrossed, read a third time and placed upon its passage. Carried.

General Ordinance No. 13, 1914, was read a third time and failed to pass by the following vote:

Ayes, 3, viz.: Messrs. Barry, Miller and Shea.

Noes, 6, viz.: Messrs. Young, McGuff, Porter, Lee, Graham and President John F. Connor.

On motion of Mr. Porter, the Common Council, at 8:00 o'clock P. M., adjourned.

*John F. Connor*  
.....  
President.

ATTEST:

*Thomas A. Riley*  
.....  
City Clerk.

