

Common Council Chamber
December, 19th 1853.

Council met. Present. Messrs. Bradshaw, Dunlap, Delzell, Durham, Edwards, Karns, Maguire, McCarty, Nelson, Newcomb, Pitts, Strickland and Wingate, Councilmen, and Scudder, Mayor.

Minutes read and approved.

Bill for \$ in favor of Relief Fire Company; referred to committee on accounts.

Mr. Maguire moved to take from the table the account of Gilbert M. Horton for \$255 for building foot Bridges across the Canal on Washington Street.

Mr. Newcomb offered the following resolution:

Whereas, The Civil Engineer has reported to this Council that ~~he is~~ not willing to accept for the City the two foot Bridges over the Canal on Washington Street on account of the bad execution of the work; And whereas the Council is willing to pay what would be a fair allowance for the work done, Therefore,

Resolved, That this Council hereby offer to pay to Gilbert M. Horton, the contractor for the building of said Bridges, Two Hundred and thirty-five dollars, in full compensation for said work, and whenever said Horton shall signify to the Mayor his willingness to accept this offer, orders shall be issued upon the Treasurer for said sum, deducting the amount already paid

(1403)

(1406)

Adopted by the following vote:

Ayes. - Messrs. Bradshaw, Dunlap, Delzell, Durham, Edwards, Karns, Maguire, McCarty, Nelson, Newcomb, Pitts, Strickland and Wingate. - 13.

Mr. Karns moved that the communication of H. Slaven be taken from the tabel.

1418. On Motion, allowed for 186 yards @ 10c per yd - \$18.60

On Motion of Mr. Newcomb,

Ordered, That the Civil Engineer make a survey and ascertain the location of Water Street in the City of Indianapolis

Mr. Newcomb from the Judiciary Committee reported the following ordinance:

"An Ordinance providing for compensation to the Messengers of the Hook and Ladder and Fire Companies of the City of Indianapolis:

Sec 1. Be it ordained by the Common Council of the City of Indianapolis, That from and after the first day of January

1854, the Messenger of the Hook and Ladder Company, shall be entitled to a salary of twenty dollars per year, and the Messenger of each Fire Company shall be entitled to a salary of sixty dollars per year from the City Treasury.

Sec 2. Said salaries shall be paid at the time and in the manner provided by ordinance for the payment of City Officers.

Sec. 3. This ordinance shall be in force from and after its passage.

Read 1st, 2nd, and 3d time, and passed by the following vote:

Ayes. - Messrs. Bradshaw, Dunlap, Delzell, Durham, Edwards, Karns, Maguire, McCarty, Nelson, Newcomb, Pitts, Strickland and Wingate - 13.

Mr. Maguire from Judiciary committee made the following report:

Mr. President:

The Judiciary committee to which was referred the petition of J. L. Mothershead, praying a reduction in the valuation of Lot No 4, in Square No 74, belonging to Darby's estate, and also a reduction in the amount of his personal property, have had the same under consideration, and now report that in relation to the said lot they are satisfied that its valuation is considerably above the valuation of other property in the same neighborhood, and that they are informed by the gentlemen who made the assessment that it was his intention to value it at \$1500. and that by some mistake it has been assessed at \$2,500. The committee are satisfied that \$1500 for that lot would be as high in proportion as lots contiguous are appraised, and therefore, without entering into the investigation of the power of the Council to correct mistakes of judgment in valuations of property, recommend that the prayer of the petitioner be granted, on the ground of a clerical mistake, and that the value of the lot be accordingly reduced to \$1500. They are also satisfied by an examination of the same gentleman that he made a mistake of \$2,000. in the personal property of Dr. Mothershead, and therefore recommended that the amount be reduced to \$2,600 instead of \$4,600.

Respectfully submitted

D. Maguire
H. C. Newcomb
L. Dunlap

Concurred in

Mr. Bradshaw from the Committee on Accounts reported the following accounts:

	Abner Smith for Labor.....	\$ 6.25
	Do. Do " Marion Engine.....	7.50
	Do Do " Do Do.....	48.80
	Referred back to Committee on Accounts.	
1405	Wright and Smock, for Pumps.....	\$23.00
1416	Wm. McDougall, for Labor.....	2.50
1415	Mason Lucas, for Labor.....	4.50
1410 &		
1411	Hiram Lewis, for Hauling.....	10.00
1417	Waugh " Do.....	5.00
1408	Morgan & Son " Lumber.....	17.88
1409	J.P. Childers. for Pumps.....	20.00
1413	John Pogue, for Bridges.....	10.00
1404	Levi Comegys for Lumber.....	53.65
1414	J.R. Wainscott, Extra allowance on Hook and Ladder House	5.00
1407	Abner Smith, for Labor.....	24.62

Allowed.

Mr. Newcomb, from the Judiciary Committee made the following report:

The Judiciary Committee having examined a resolution adopted at the last meeting requiring Charles Woodward to fill a bond for the faithful performance of his duties as temporary Clerk, respectfully report.

That it may be questionable whether Mr. Culley, the Clerk would be liable on his bond for any act committed in his absence, though they are of the opinion that he would be so liable, but to save any question, the committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That Charles Woodward be requested to present for the approval of the Council at its next meeting, a bond in the sum of five hundred dollars, with free hold security, conditioned for the faithful performance of his duties as temporary clerk in the absence of D. B. Culley, the City Clerk.

H. C. Newcomb, Chairman.

Adopted by the following vote:

Ayes. - Messrs. Bradshaw, Dunlap, Delzell, Durham, Edwards, Karns, Maguire, McCarty, Nelson, Newcomb, Pitts, & Strickland. - 12.

Noes. - Mr. Wingate. - 1

Mr. Pitts from Committee on Cisterns made the following report:

The committee on Cisterns to whom was referred the petition of Mr. Wm Wood, asking for an extra allowance of 12½ cents on the barrel for the cisterns built by said Wood the contract price being 37 cents per barrel, would report that in our opinion no such extra allowance should be allowed when competition bids were received.

Yours, &c..

George W. Pitts
W. A. Bradshaw
George Durham

Concurred in

Mr. Newcomb offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Chief Fire Engineer be requested to present at the next meeting of the Council, an estimate of the probable amount necessary for the incidental expenses of each Fire Company for the year 1854, specifying the number of active members belonging to each company, and the items of such expenditure.

Adopted by the following vote:

Ayes. - Messrs. Bradshaw, Dunlap, Delzell, Durham, Edwards, Karns, Maguire, McCarty, Nelson, Newcomb, Pitts, Strickland and Wingate. - 13.

Mr. Karns from select committee made the following report:

The committee, together with Mr. Moffitt appointed to examine the cupolas of the different Churches, in which to place the Town Clock, have attended to that duty and would submit the following report:

The committee are satisfied that the Baptist Church is not suitable, the Bell being too small, and is not stationary. The First Presbyterian Cupola will not answer the purpose in its present condition. The top section in which the clock would have to be placed is octagon, the section would have to be taken off and a new one built, which would cost from three to five Hundred dollars. The Robert's Chapel cupola was next examined; the committee are satisfied that the cupola is sufficiently stronger in all its parts and that the clock can be placed in the same at an expense of One Hundred Dollars. The committee are satisfied that is the best can be done at the present time without incurring an additional expense

William H Karns, Ch'm.

Mr. Pitts moved to lay it on the table, which was not adopted by the following vote:

Ayes. - Messrs. Dunlap, McCarty, Newcomb, Pitts and Strickland - 6

Noes. - Messrs. Delzell, Durham, Edwards, Karns, Maguire, Nelson, and Wingate. - 7.

Mr. Pitts moved to adjourn. Not carried by the following vote:

Ayes. - Messrs. Dunlap, Delzell, Nelson, and Strickland - 4.

Noes. - Messrs. Bradshaw, Durham, Edwards, Karns, Maguire, McCarty, Newcomb, Pitts and Wingate. - 9

The report was then concurred in.

Mr. Delzell presented the following communication:

To the Honorable City Council of Indianapolis:

Gentlemen:- The subject of finding a house for our apparatus, which was referred to the officers of the Company has been attended to, and we report that some five or six of us searched all over the Ward nearly, and can find no place at all, and we therefore ask that the House we are in at present be fixed up as comfortable as it can be without spending too much money on it. We are satisfied that it is the best that can be done under all the circumstances, and we would suggest that in view of the cold weather, it be attended to as promptly as possible

Respectfully, yours,

W. C. Lupton, Jr.

On behalf of Invincible Fire Co. No. 2, Ind.

Ordered, that the house be planked and filled with saw dust, and a stove purchased

Mr. Newcomb presented the following petition:

To the City Council

The undersigned respectfully represents to your Honorable Body, That Wm. E. Wood, a minor, heir of John Wood, deceased, is the owner of 13 acres of ground, being the west part of Out lots No 99 & 100, viz: 11 acres in 99, and 2 acres in south-west corner of 100. That said ground has been assessed by mistake, as the undersigned supposes, at \$400 per acre for City tax purposes, being as this memorialist verily believes, largely over its value. That the undersigned as Guardian of the property of said Wm. E. Wood felt it his duty to decline paying the taxes thereon, until the Council should examine into the matter and make such order in the premises as may be deemed just and reasonable.

Said two out-lots contain in all about 75 acres and front on Virginia Avenue, that part of said out-lots which is on the line of said street, being front, is deemed of greater value than the part back, and not having the benefit of said street; that portion of No 100 which fronts on the said street, is clearly the most valuable and belongs to the estate of John Greer, deceased, it is valued at \$250 per acre on Tax list, all the remainder of the front which is further out, and in No 99, belongs to Michael A. Dougherty, and is valued at, or taxed at \$300 per acre, the said 13 acres is the extreme south-west corner of said 75 acres adjoining the farm of Mr. Borgemyer, the most remote from the said street, and of less value than the others, and is appraised as stated at \$400 per acre.

The undersigned therefore requests respectfully that such deduction be made from said valuation, as may in the opinion of the Council, be just and equitable.

H. Bates.

Referred to committee on Finance

Mr. Karns, from a select committee on Town Clock, presented the following communication: from the Trustees of M.E. Church; Robert's Chapel:

The Trustees of the Robert's Chapel, Methodist Episcopal Church, in Indianapolis, proffer to the Common Council of said City, the use of the steeple of said church, in which to locate the City Clerk. The Council to be at the expense of putting the clock in its place, and for running and keeping the same in repair. The Council can remove the same at their pleasure but we will in that case expect the steeple left in as good order as before the removal of the clock. We also proffer the use of the church bell, for the clock

Oliver Tousey)
 Samuel Beck)
 John F Hill) Trustees.
 John Willins)

Mr. Pitts offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Street Commissioner be directed immediately to open the alley in the south-east square of Harris's addition running east and west, which has been kept closed by Ephraim Cross.

Adopted by the following vote:

Ayes. - Messrs. Bradshaw, Dunlap, Delzell, Durham, Edwards, Karns, Maguire, McCarty, Nelson, Newcomb, Pitts, Strickland and Wingate. - 13.

Mr. Edwards offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Street Commissioner be directed to fill in earth at the end of the Bridge recently built on Maryland Street across the Canal.

Adopted by the following vote:

Ayes. - Messrs. Bradshaw, Dunlap, Delzell, Durham, Edwards, Karns, Maguire, McCarty, Nelson, Newcomb, Pitts, Strickland and Wingate - 13.

Mr. Dunlap offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the City Engineer proceed immediately to advertize and receive proposals for the building a good cistern in the vicinity of the Madison Depot; which will hold not less than 500 barrels, the particular locality to be designated by the Councilmen of that Ward

Adopted by the following vote:

Ayes. - Messrs. Bradshaw, Dunlap, Edwards, Karns, Maguire, McCarty, Nelson, Newcomb, Pitts, Strickland and Wingate. - 11

Noes. - Messrs. Delzell and Durham - 2.

Mr. Bradshaw offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Street Commissioner be intrusted to build two Bridges over gutters on New Jersey Street at the crossing of South East Diagonal

Adopted by the following vote:

Ayes. - Messrs. Bradshaw, Dunlap, Delzell, Durham, Edwards, Karns, Maguire, McCarty, Nelson, Newcomb, Pitts, Strickland, and Wingate. - 13.

Mr. Edwards presented the following communication:

To the Honorable Common Council of Indianapolis:

Gentlemen:

I have this day appointed Mr. Samuel Hetzelgesser of this City a Special Police Officer for the Union Passenger Station, subject to your confirmation:

Yours, &c.

W. J. Stevans, Supt.

On motion of Mr. Newcomb,

Ordered, That Samuel Hetzelgesser, on the request of the Union Railroad Company, be, and he is hereby appointed a Police Officer of the City of Indianapolis, with the authority of a Constable, in Criminal cases; said Hetzelgesser to act in and about the Union Depot, under the direction and pay of said Company.

Adopted by the following vote

Ayes. - Messrs. Bradshaw, Edwards, Karns, Maguire, McCarty, Newcomb, Strickland and Wingate. - 8.

Noes. - Messrs. Dunlap, Delzell, Durham, Nelson, and Pitts. - 5.

On motion of Mr. Delzell.

Ordered, That the Civil Engineer contract with J. Huntington for the grading and gravelling of sidewalk on east side of New Jersey Street, between Ohio and New York Streets.

Messrs. Karns, Edwards, and Nelson, were appointed to dispose of the old Hook and Ladder Waggon.

The Civil Engineer reported Estimates of the filling of sidewalk on North side of Washington Street and National Road between the Canal and White River Bridge, performed by Michael Shea and owners of property on said Street.

(See Estimates on file)

The Chief Fire Warden made the following report:

To the Presidents and members of Common Council of Indianapolis:

In company with the Street Commissioner, I have examined all the public cisterns and with the exception of the one on Hall's corner (which is now being repaired) are all in good order and full of water. The fire apparatus is as far as I can learn in good order.

The Invincible Company will be compelled to go out of service unless something is done with their Engine House. I would suggest the propriety of having their House lined and filled in with saw dust or tan bark, if no other House



can be had for the Winter and that they rent a room or Hall for their meetings, as I am informed they can have W.W. Wright's Hall for one dollar per night or for each meeting. The O. K. Bucket Company are in want of more Buckets, and a room to hold their meetings in. I have no doubt but they might get the use of the Relief Hall. I would respectfully suggest the propriety of repealing the ordinance passed at the last meeting of your Body in regard to the salary of Messengers for the Companies as I am informed they cannot get good Messenger for the sums fixed by the Council. I believe the Companies should have the right to select their own Messengers and fix the salary, as by that means they will be bound for good order and care for their respective apparatus's while as it now is the Council will have to take the blame in case of anything being out of order.

All of which is respectfully submitted

Joseph Little C. F W.
Wm. Hughey, St. Com.

The Street Commissioner reported the Bridge across Pogue's Run, on New Jersey Street, repaired, and now in good order.

Mr. Delzell moved that the Civil Engineer make an estimate for work done on Market Street

Adopted

Adjourned

C Woodward
City Clerk pro tem