

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS. ⁵⁰

[OFFICIAL]

Council Chamber.

Ann Arbor, Nov. 16th, 1891.

Regular meeting.

Council met and was called to order by Pres. Cooley.

Roll called. A quorum present.

Absent, Ald. Rehberg—1.

Minutes of previous meetings approved.

REPORT OF SEWERAGE COMMITTEE.

To the Common Council:

Your committee on sewers to whom was referred the petition of citizens, dated Nov. 2d, in regard to submitting to a vote of the people of Ann Arbor the question of constructing a main sewer according to the plans of Prof. Charles E. Greene, would respectfully report that they have had the matter under consideration and submit their report as follows:

The names attached to the petition represent all sections of the city and some of the heavier tax-payers in the different wards. The petition requests the privilege of voting for a special tax of \$20,000 to be levied in 1892 for the purpose of constructing a main sewer as set forth and described in the report of Prof. Greene.

Heretofore the city government of Ann Arbor has opposed all motions, or appeals of the citizens, on the subject of raising money by special tax for sewers on the technical grounds that according to the charter the citizens cannot vote in one fiscal year on matters of taxation pertaining to a subsequent year.

The petition of citizens referred to simply expresses the desire of our people to vote by special election on the plan of a main sewer as has been submitted to this council, the tax to be levied during the next fiscal year.

Inasmuch as the members of this council have heretofore given an almost unanimous expression of opinion in favor of a system of sewers for this city, and as the opposition has been with reference to the specific plan as submitted by Prof. Greene, and as the petition of our citizens in question can but refer to a public expression of opinion on this subject, which would transfer the responsibility of definite action from this council to the citizens themselves,

Therefore, your committee would respectfully recommend that the petition of said citizens be granted in so

far as pertains to calling a special election to vote on the plan as submitted by Prof. Chas. E. Greene, and that the date of said special election be fixed for the month of February next.

Respectfully submitted,
CHRISTIAN MARTIN,
L. D. WINES,
M. E. COOLEY.

Committee.

Ann Arbor Mich, Nov. 16th, '91.

Ald. Wines moved that the report be received and placed on file.

Which motion prevailed.

The committee on sewerage made a further report, as follows:

To the Common Council:

Your committee on sewers beg leave to report that they are in possession of additional facts pertaining to the question of pollution of rivers by sewage, which, if it is the pleasure of this Council, they are now prepared to submit.

Mr. Geo. S. Pierson, City Engineer of Kalamazoo, who is an acknowledged expert on the subject of sewers, and who has made the subject of sanitary engineering a specialty for many years, writes the committee as follows:

"In regard to the pollution of rivers by sewage, I find that the authorities treat this subject mainly from the standpoint of the limit of pollution that may be considered to render water unsafe for potable purposes and the deductions are made largely from chemical analysis of the water as it is found. I find little information as to the ratio of population to cubic feet; for instance, of a stream beyond which the stream may be considered to be offensive and injurious to health in other ways. This, I take it, is the ratio at which you wish to arrive roughly. Investigations of this sort seem to have been conducted on a sort of comparative method in which conditions, difficult to state mathematically, largely influence the decision. As, for instance, the stream may already be strongly polluted by towns above. It may be broad, sluggish, have low shores subject to overflow,

be densely populated along its banks, have frequent dams, etc., etc. It may on the other hand be unpolluted from above, and swift, deep, with high and bold shores, etc., etc.

The customs of different cities largely influence the decision also. For instance, the sewage of U. S. towns is already diluted to about three times the degree of that of English towns, hence comparisons made on the basis of the ratio of cubic feet of sewage to cubic feet of river water are often misleading.

I take it the proper method of comparing the degree of pollution is by the ratio of the cubic feet of river water per capita, daily, computed at the low water stage of the river at which time the conditions will be at the worst.

I enclose a few comparisons of this kind. Since, however, the other conditions which cannot be mathematically stated have at least equal weight I presume they will not be of great service to you.

City.	River.	Cu. ft of river water per capita daily.
Brunswick	Ocker	35.
Breslau	Oder	212
Dresden	Elbe	600.
Hanover	Leme	247.
Mainz	Rhine	2,615.
Munich	Isar	494.
Neisse	Bielearm	459.
Nuernberg	Pegnitz	247.
Paris	Seine	10.
Vienna	Danube	106.
Kalamazoo	Kalamazoo	1,500.

The quantity of sewage per capita, per day in the U. S. is approximately ten cubic feet. I have often seen instances stated where the pollution is about one in twenty. This is, however, undesirable."

If the minimum flow of the Huron in the dry season be placed at 55 cu. ft. per second or 3,300 cu. ft. per minute, which is equivalent to a daily flow of about 4,800,000 cu. ft., it gives a ratio for a population of 10,000 inhabitants of 480 cu. ft. per capita, and for 16,000 inhabitants of 300 cu. ft. per capita. By referring to the table it will be found that the smaller value, 300 cu. ft. per capita, is larger than that for six of the eleven cities quoted.

Mr. Clark Cornwell, of Ypsilanti, writes the committee that in his judgment the minimum flow is at least 50

per cent greater than the figures given, which if true makes the showing even more favorable.

In answer to the very plausible objection which has been raised that on Sundays, and at other times when the mills above Ann Arbor are not running, the flow of water at the city will cease, your committee desires to state that they have found such to be not the case. Inquiry and investigation have demonstrated the fact that it is practically impossible to build dams and flumes so that they will not leak. In certain cases the leakage may reach as high as 10 per cent. of the normal flow of the stream. This is probably true of the dam at this city. It has been observed that during the dry season when no water was flowing over the dam, or through the wheels of Swift's mill, the current was sufficiently strong at Bridge No. 2 to offer some difficulty to horses in fording the stream, as was necessary during the repairs to this bridge. Even if the flow should be practically stopped for 24 or 36 hours by shutting down the mills, the sewage would scarcely become objectionable in that time, and the increased flow on starting again would probably flush the river thoroughly so that the condition of the stream at no time would be serious.

Your committee beg leave to refer again to the other means suggested in the several reports submitted to this Council of disposing of the sewage in case the flow in the river at this city should prove to be insufficient during the dry season.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIAN MARTIN,
L. D. WINES,
M. E. COOLEY,

Committee.

Ald. Wines moved that the report be received and spread in journal.

Which motion prevailed.

To the Common Council:

Your committee on bonds would respectfully report that they have examined the following bond, and would recommend its acceptance with the sureties named.

Liquor Dealers Bond: Principals—
Frank Allmand and John Schaible.

Sureties—Thomas F. Leonard and Louis J. Liesemer.

Respectfully submitted,
WILLIAM HERZ,
LOUIS P. HALL,
E. G. MANN.

Committee.

Ald. Martin moved that the report be accepted and bond approved. Which motion prevailed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

Ald. Hall moved that the resolution of his for opening Fourth ave., south from Madison to Hill sts., according to original motion be taken from the table and put upon its passage.

The resolution of Ald. Hall was then read, as follows:

Whereas, Application having been made to this common council to lay out and establish a certain street hereinafter described and due notice of the pendency of such proposed improvement having been duly given to all persons who are interested in the lands and tenements required therefor, and all persons appearing having been heard, and due consideration thereof having been had, and it appearing therefrom that it is necessary to take and acquire certain lands therefor. Therefore, be it resolved and it is hereby ordered and determined that a street be, and the same is hereby laid out and established four (4) rods in width, in the city of Ann Arbor, described as follows to-wit:—From Madison st. to Hill st., on the lines of Fourth ave., projected south-erly.

2d. It is hereby declared and resolved that the cost of the laying out of the establishment of such street, and also the lands required therefore, be and the same is hereby ordered to be assessed and levied against the owners of lands, tenements benefited thereby, and that all and singular all the lands, tenements, and taxable real estate situated in and within the following boundaries are deemed, and hereby declared to be benefited by the improvement so ordered as aforesaid, and the same are and are hereby constituted a special assessment district on against and upon which the cost of said improvement so as aforesaid ordered shall be levied and assessed pursuant to law, that is to say; All of the lots, lands, tenements, and premises fronting of Fourth avenue, south of William st. to Hill st; on the east and west side of Ann Arbor st., on Brown st. east side; on Hill st., from Brown to 5th avenue; on Mosley st., north and south side, from

Main st. to the T., A. A. & N. M. Co. lands.

Which resolution prevailed by a yea and nay vote as follows:

Yeas.—Alds. Mann, Wines, Herz, Martin, Allmendinger, Fillmore, Taylor, O'Hearn, Ferguson, Hall, Kitson and Pres. Cooley—12.

Nays—None.

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS.

By Ald. O'Hearn.

Whereas, It is thought by many that a system of sewers for the city has become a necessary public improvement, that in the opinion of the council the system as suggested by Prof. Greene ought to be projected further down the river.

And, Whereas, there is great diversity of opinion as to the probable cost of a main sewer when so projected down the river, therefore,

Resolved, That Prof. Greene do advise the council without delay and bring in a detailed statement of the probable cost at present prices of such main sewer exclusive of right of way when projected down the river to Bunker's dam, so called, with map and survey and with 30 inch 1st quality sewer pipe from its outlet to the south line of Huron st., and 26 inch pipe from Huron st, to south line of Hill st., and 22 inch pipe from Hill st. to stopping place as indicated on the map. Also the expense of size pipe as shown in his report.

Which resolution prevailed by a yea and nay vote as follows:

Yeas—Alds. Mann, Wines, Herz, Martin, Allmendinger, Fillmore, Taylor, O'Hearn, Ferguson, Hall, Kitson and dPres. Cooley—12.

Nays—None.

Ald Martin moved that the committee on free beds at the University Hospitals be revived and reappointed.

Which motion prevailed.

The president appointed the following committee: Alds. Hall, Taylor and Herz.

By Ald. Mann.

Resolved, That the president appoint a committee of three who, with the city attorney, obtain and report at the next meeting what sums of money will be necessary to obtain the title to the land required for the extension of S. Fourth ave.,

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from Madison to Hill sts.

Which motion prevailed.

The chair appointed the following committee: Aids. Mann, Hall, and Allmendinger.

By Aid. Kitson.

Resolved, That permission be, and is hereby granted to Marcus D. Miller, to remove one shade tree from before his premises on Geddes ave.

Which resolution prevailed.

By Aid. Fillmore.

Resolved, That the common council hereby calls the attention of the state railroad commissioner to the need of a gate and keeper at the crossing of the Toledo, Ann Arbor and Northern Michigan Railroad Co., with Miller ave., and respectfully request that he will order said company to cause the construction of a gate and the placing of a keeper at the crossing named.

Aid. Herz moved as an amendment to include the following other crossings to-wit: S. Main, Jefferson, Washington, William, Liberty, Madison, Traver and Pontiac streets.

Which amendment prevailed.

The resolution as amended prevailed.

Aid. Taylor moved that the city clerk be and is hereby ordered to procure fifteen file covers for printed

council proceedings for the use of the council.

Which motion prevailed by a yeas and nays vote as follows:

Yeas—Aids. Mann, Wines, Herz, Martin, Allmendinger, Fillmore, Taylor, O'Hearn, Ferguson, Hall, Kitson and Pres. Cooley—12.

Nays—None.

On motion the council adjourned.

WM. J. MILLER, Clerk.

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS,
ANN ARBOR, NOV. 19, 1891.

Regular meeting.

Board met and was called to order by the President.

Roll Called. Full Board present.

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

Mr. Keech moved that the bids for new stone culvert on Felch street, across Mill race, be opened and inspected, which motion prevailed.

The bids were found to be as follows:

Charles Tessmer, \$540.00

Clancy & Co., \$570.00.

On motion the bids were laid on the table, as the bids are in excess of the appropriation made.

Board then adjourned.

W. J. MILLER, Clerk.