

Council Chamber,
Ann Arbor, Michigan, Jan. 2, 1905.

Regular Session.

Meeting called to order by Deputy Clerk.

In the absence of Pres. Walz, Ald. Fischer was called to the chair.

Present—Ald. Fischer.

Absent—Ald. Gill, Douglas, Hutzel, Schlenker, Miller, Kearns, Schumacher, Markey, Bangs, Sherk, Goodyear, Coon, Robinson, Pres. Walz. 14.

There being no quorum present, the council adjourned to Monday, Jan. 9, 1905, 7:30 o'clock p. m.

GEO. W. WEEKS,
Deputy Clerk.

Council Chamber,
Ann Arbor, Mich., Jan. 9, 1905.

Adjourned Regular Session

Meeting called to order by Pres. Walz.

Present—Ald. Gill, Douglas, Hutzel, Schlenker, Miller, Kearns, Bangs, Sherk, Goodyear, Coon, Robinson, Fischer, Pres. Walz—13.

Absent — Ald. Schumacher and Markey.

Communications from the Mayor.
To the Common Council of the City of Ann Arbor.

Gentlemen:—At the request of the business men of the State street district, who have signed a written agreement to pay William Walsh the sum of thirty dollars per month to act as night watchman of that district, provided further that the city will pay Mr. Walsh a like sum, and provided further that Mr. Walsh be appointed policeman to serve in that district only, I hereby recommend that the sum of thirty dollars per month be appropriated for that purpose and upon such appropriation being made that he be appointed policeman to serve in that district at a salary of thirty dollars per month to be paid by the city.

At the last meeting of the council our City Clerk, Mr. Granger, was allowed twenty-five dollars per month for extra clerk hire. This al-

lowance was made upon my recommendation and in making the same I did not intend to violate, or induce the council to violate, either the spirit or the letter of our charter. If, however, the action of the council had that effect, which I am unwilling to admit, I wish to assume the entire responsibility, for the recommendation was made by me and was neither solicited by Mr. Granger nor any member of the council.

The charter provides that the city clerk shall receive one thousand dollars per year.

The work in the city clerk's office has doubled since the charter was adopted. At that time the compensation allowed the city clerk was sufficient because he could easily do the work of the office alone. With the growth of the city the work in the clerk's office has increased to the extent that it is impossible for the clerk to do the work alone and it is necessary for him to employ a stenographer and other help. If he is required to pay this help out of his salary he has little left for himself.

To avoid any question of a violation of the charter, I would suggest that it be amended so that the salary of the city clerk shall be increased or the council authorized to pay the necessary clerk hire to properly perform the business of the city.

I recommended a similar amendment two years ago to increase the salary of our city assessor to a sufficient sum to insure the retention in that office of a competent official.

I would also recommend that such action be taken as is necessary to change our charter so as to enable the city to do such work as the building of sewers, the laying of pavements, the grading of streets and the building of culverts, etc., without being obliged to wholly rely upon the tender mercies of such contractors as may desire to bid on such work.

I would also recommend that the matter of charter amendments above referred to, and such other amend-