

Council Chambers, April 20, 1903.

Regular session.

Called to order by Pres. Walz.

Roll call present: Ald. Douglass, Gill, Schlenker, Hutzel, Kearnes, Johnson, Clancy, Grose, Bangs, Goodyear, Fischer, Robinson, Pres. Walz. 12.

Absent: Schumacher. 1.

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

Ann Arbor, Mich., April 20, 1903.

To the Honorable, the Common Council of the City of Ann Arbor:

Gentlemen—I am pleased to confer with your honorable body in reference to the administration of the affairs of the city. In doing so I do not wish to be understood as attempting in any way to usurp the prerogatives of this council, but simply to give you the benefit of my experience in municipal affairs and my judgment upon such matters as are liable to come before you for consideration.

The most important question in the administration of city affairs is the one of taxation. For many years Ann Arbor has enjoyed the proud distinction of having as low, if not the lowest, tax rate of any city in the state, and I doubt if there is another city in Michigan where real property is as valuable or where the price is maintained at as even a value year after year, as it is in this city, and it is my opinion that our low tax rate has materially aided in bringing about this condition.

I believe that it is the duty of this and all future administrations to make special efforts to see that no material advance is made in our tax rate and that a decrease in the value of all city property will immediately follow any material advance in the rate of taxation and that people will not be as eager to build their homes in our city as they have been in the past.

During the last two years the overdraft of the city, which was brought about in the first instance by the construction of the macadam pavements on Detroit street and the Hill street storm sewer system, has been reduced

from about \$28,000 to less than \$13,000, notwithstanding the fact that the city has sustained large damage by reason of the flood of July 7th last, which cost the city some \$10,000 for the repair of culverts along Allen's creek, and although I am opposed to paying this overdraft in a single year, yet I do think that the affairs of the city can be so administered during the next two years that this overdraft can be wiped out.

To do this I would recommend that before the tax levy for next year is made up that you make a careful estimate of the fixed charges that the city will have to pay during the year, which will include the expenses of the different departments, such as the police, fire, lights, water, poor and the salaries of city officers, together with the principal and interest on city bonds maturing during the year, and with the aid of the Board of Public Works, the City Engineer and Street Commissioner, and your committee on streets, that you also estimate the amount necessary for street work which should include crosswalks and the amount required for sidewalk grading and sufficient street work to put our streets in a condition safe for public travel, and that when your tax levy is made up and apportioned to the different funds that you use every effort in your power to keep the expenses of the different departments within the appropriation, for you have no legal right under our charter to allow warrants on funds that are overdrawn.

The expenses during the past year of some of the different departments of our public service are as follows:

Fire department.....	\$ 8,361 39
Police department.....	3,643 90
Poor department.....	1,907 28
Water .....	7,234 69
Lighting .....	8,936 75
Salaries .....	4,751 01

\$34,835 01

The tax levy for 1901 was \$64,900 and for 1902, \$73,450, and the city

received each year about \$10,000 for liquor tax.

The city will be obliged to pay during the year certain installments upon paving and sewer bonds, together with the interest maturing thereon, and I give you the above figures for the purpose of assisting you in making up the tax levy.

Proceedings were taken by the last council looking toward the separation of the grades of several of the streets along the line of the Ann Arbor road, which if carried forward to completion, will be a splendid improvement. The progress of this work has been temporarily restrained by several courts of the state, and it will be some time before this matter is free from litigation and before the work can proceed. If the ordinance granted to the Ann Arbor road shall not be sustained by the courts, and it becomes necessary to pass another franchise or ordinance for carrying forward this much needed improvement, I hope you will proceed with said matter with the utmost care and caution and give the city the benefit of your best and united efforts in securing a franchise that will not only protect the city treasury but the citizens along the line of the road. The ordinance passed for this work provides for the construction of a viaduct at the foot of Ann street, the cost thereof to be paid for by the city of Ann Arbor; this provision of the ordinance was made necessary by the franchise heretofore granted to William A. Boland for the construction of an electric railroad, and in order to obviate the necessity of the construction of this viaduct by the city, I recommend that the so-called Boland franchise be repealed as soon as the time limit therein contained has elapsed, and that a new franchise be granted to Mr. Boland or to those who now own and control the Boland interest whenever they are ready to complete said railroad, as there is no reason why the taxpayers of this city should lay out the sum of \$10,000 or any other sum for the benefit of this road or any other

road. And in this connection it may serve a useful purpose for the council to always bear in mind that those who are employed to represent corporate interests such as railroad companies, telephone companies, water companies and electric light companies and other large corporations, are usually far better equipped to guard the interest of those they represent than are those who are entrusted with the administration of city affairs, and that in making contracts with such companies or passing ordinances that in their nature are contracts you should take ample time to properly consider the same so that the provisions thereof can be discussed, pro and con, in our city papers and the people made acquainted with the terms of said contracts or ordinances before the same are given final passage, and no ordinance which changes a by-law of our city or passes a new one should be passed at a single meeting of this council.

The streets in our city are a disgrace, and the less said about them the better, but I do hope that this council and the Board of Public Works will take hold of this matter in a business-like way and during the coming year give to the taxpayers of this city a material improvement in our streets in consideration of the vast amount of money expended thereon. The city is now expending a very large sum of money each year for cleaning paved streets and our pavements are never clean. I would recommend that the committee on streets look into the question of the advisability of the city acquiring a complete outfit for cleaning the streets, consisting of one or two good teams and wagons and one sprinkling wagon, so that the streets can be sprinkled and cleaned at night, which, in my judgment, can be done with the street sweeper at a cost of not more than one-half of what it now costs the city to clean said streets with hand labor.

Proceedings have been taken looking toward the pavement of Liberty street and a part of South Fourth ave-

due. If this work is to be done this year, I would recommend that contracts therefor be made as soon as possible so that the work can be completed within a reasonable time; the work of paving both of these streets ought to be done in not more than eight weeks and only a portion of the street should be torn up at one time, but to do this, contracts should be made without delay, for the way the work of paving State street last year, and other streets in years gone by, was allowed to drag along month after month was no credit to this city and to those having the work in charge.

West Huron street from the west line of Ashley street along the line of the Detroit, Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor & Jackson railroad to the city limits has been made almost impassible by the construction of that railroad. Under the terms of this company's franchise they agreed to leave this road in as good condition as before the track was laid. Some few days ago I called on Mr. S. F. Angus in reference to this matter and after some talk he asked me to have the matter taken up with him by mail and he promised that he would lay the matter before the officers of his company, and I recommend that the City Attorney be directed to do this at an early date, and that at the same time the question of said company's indebtedness to this city for graveling along the company's tracks in the year 1901 and for the company's share of the cost of paving Huron street, which has been allowed to drag along for months, be taken up and adjusted, which I think can be done without further delay, if undertaken in a business-like way and without so much bluff and bluster.

For a number of months the service rendered by the Electric Light company has been far below the requirements of the company's contract.

Upon an investigation of this matter I have satisfied myself that the company has been rendering as good service as it could under all the existing circumstances; they are now and have

been for several months engaged in connecting their lighting plant with what is known as the Geddes power, and the officers and directors of this company agree to have this change completed within sixty days and when completed they promise to furnish service that is fully up to the requirements of their contract with the city.

The city is without funds at the present time with which to pay its lighting bills, and as the service which has been rendered by this company has not conformed to the contract, the payment of these bills could not be enforced by the company, and I would therefore recommend that the consideration of lighting bills under our contract be deferred until said company is in a condition to render the service called for in its contract and until the taxes are collected in July next.

There has been a strong feeling among many of our citizens for a number of years that the city should establish and own a set of city scales, and I believe that a long felt want will be filled if the city should acquire and maintain a set of city scales. This could be done at a cost of about \$400, and the scales could be located on North Fifth avenue adjacent to the Fireman's Hall and operated by the members of the fire department, and if a small charge for services be made the same could be maintained without extra expense to the city.

In the year 1895 the city purchased at a cost of \$5,000, a piece of land situated at the southwest corner of Huron street and Fifth avenue for the purpose of building in the near future a city hall to be used for city offices. This is as good a location for such a building as could be found in the city, and I have never been able to understand why it has not been utilized for the purpose for which it was bought. Year after year the city has been losing the interest on this amount of money and at the same time our city offices have been located in the second story of a rented building; people having business with the city



are made to climb a long flight of stairs and our city records are left to the tender mercy of the first good fire that is liable to destroy all that is valuable of city records that have cost the taxpayers thousands of dollars.

The legislature of two years ago passed an enabling act permitting the council upon a vote of the people to issue bonds to the amount of \$30,000 to build and furnish a city hall upon the land above mentioned. I believe city bonds for this purpose bearing 3 per cent interest can be readily sold at par to our citizens. If this could be done we might have a city building with all our city offices located upon the ground floor and containing ample vaults for our public records and the cost to the city would be little more than we are now paying for rent in the dilapidated old fire trap where our city offices are now located.

Ann Arbor is essentially a resident city. It is not and never will become a manufacturing center, and there is no reason under the sun why this city should have its city offices located in the second story of a rented building, and no reason why we should not have a city building that is an ornament and credit to the city and to every citizen therein. Every year the state of Michigan expends thousands and thousands of dollars in the erection of public buildings in our city and now we are to have a beautiful public building for a postoffice, and it seems to me it is high time this city got in touch with the spirit of public improvement and erected upon its lot a substantial building for our city offices.

I do not think that the present generation should pay the entire cost of such a building, for if the same is properly constructed it will last for centuries, and if this question is to be submitted to the people at a special election, I would recommend that the \$30,000 that we are authorized to raise by the sale of bonds for that purpose be made payable one thousand dollars annually, so that those who come after us and have as much use

of the building as we, shall help to pay for the cost thereof, and that the first payment upon said bonds be deferred until said building is completed.

I hope that no backward step will be taken upon the question of parks and that in the near future we may be able to see the land lying north of the Michigan Central railroad and the property known as the "Cat Hole" converted into objects of beauty, and I dare say that when this is done that no citizen of Ann Arbor can be found who will object to the expenditure of the money necessary to bring about this much needed improvement. Ann Arbor has been for many years widely known as a beautiful residence city; certainly no city in our state of the size of Ann Arbor can boast of so many fine houses, well kept lawns and beautiful shade trees, and I most heartily indorse the movement inaugurated by Dr. Copeland to convert these unsightly places into beautiful parks and hope this council will take the necessary steps to push this work to completion.

Provision ought to be made for a pest house and detention hospital for this city. An epidemic of smallpox such as occurred this last year in many of the Michigan cities would sweep the University of students and work great injury and large financial loss to many of our people.

The Physicians' Club of this city have appointed a committee to try and interest the authorities of the University in the building of a hospital that can be used for a pest house and for detention purposes, and I believe it would be wise, if such a measure can be brought about, for the city to unite with the Board of Regents in establishing something of this kind and would recommend that a committee, with Health Officer Hinsdale as chairman, be appointed to take this matter up with the Regents.

Mr. E. L. Seyler has been City Assessor for the past four years at \$1,000 per year. This is far below what Mr. Seyler is worth to this city, and I am a firm believer in the doctrine

"that every man is worthy of his hire," and believe the labor performed by Mr. Seyler is worth to this city far more than \$1,000. No man with the ability of Mr. Seyler ought to spend his time at his age in performing this important work for such meagre compensation; no city in Michigan can be found where its assessing officer does not receive for greater compensation than that paid to Mr. Seyler, and I hope that this council will take the necessary measures to see to it that his salary is raised so that the city will not lose the services of so valuable a public servant, for I am reliably informed that efforts have already been made to get Mr. Seyler to go elsewhere. If this meets the approbation of this council, I would suggest that a committee be sent to Lansing to secure the necessary amendment to our charter for this purpose, and I am told that there is a skeleton bill now introduced in the house of representatives that can be used for this purpose or other purposes if desired.

You will always find me ready and willing to co-operate with you in any public improvement that tends to the permanent benefit of the city. By carefully guarding the expenditure of all public money and keeping close watch upon the appropriations for all public work, I believe that we will best serve those that we represent.

Very truly yours,  
**ARTHUR BROWN,**  
 Mayor.

By Ald. Kearnes.

Resolved, That the message of the Mayor be received, filed and published with the proceedings of the council. Carried.

City Clerk's Office.

Ann Arbor, April 20, 1903.

To the Honorable, the Common Council.

Gentlemen:—By the request of Thos. J. Keech, manager of the Michigan Telephone Co., I submit the following changes to be made in telephones at the residences of below named aldermen:

From the residence of Dr. Copeland to the residence of Mayor Brown.

From the residence of F. M. Hamilton to the residence of C. L. Gill.

From the residence of John Koch to the residence of Titus Hutzel.

From the residence of William Clancy to the residence of successor.

From the residence of L. F. Roberts to the residence of Sidney M. Bangs.

From the residence of Emmitt Coon to the residence of William Goodyear.

From the residence of R. A. Jenney to the residence of successor.

From the residence of John Burg to the residence of O. L. Robinson.

From the residence of John W. Haarer to the residence of John Walz.

From the residence of Jas. E. Harkins to the residence of Ross Granger.

From the residence of A. J. Sawyer to the residence of T. D. Kearney.

From the residence of Dr. George, Jr., to the residence of Dr. E. K. Herdman.

**ROSS GRANGER,** City Clerk.  
 By Ald. Douglass.

That the above phones be ordered changed including the one in council chambers. Carried.

The petition of Wm. Aprill, et al, relative to tracks, etc., Mrs. Gilbert Kellogg, et al, relative to opening Martin street, John R. Miner, et al, for paving Liberty St., were received and after hearing several counter petitions the matter was referred to the street committee. The petition of Gottfried Schoettle, et al, Lewis Kurtz, et al, for sewers were received and referred to the sewer committee.

The petition of Fred Staebler, et al, for water main was received and referred to the water committee.

The petition of L. D. Carr praying for the opening and grading of Church Street and caring for the water on same was received and referred to the street and sewer committee.

The petition of L. J. Hoffstetter, et al, relative to the removal of Dean & Co. oil tanks were received.

By Ald. Schlenker.

Resolved that the petition be referred to the ordinance committee and

city attorney and that said committee be instructed to draw up the necessary ordinance to prohibit the storage of oil and gasoline in car tanks anywhere within 2 blocks from any residence.

Carried.

The petition of Jennie Shay for damages on defective sidewalk was received and referred to the finance committee and city attorney. Carried.

To the Honorable Mayor and Common Council of the City of Ann Arbor.

Gentlemen:—You are cordially invited to attend a public meeting of the Ann Arbor Civic Improvement Society to be held in the Circuit Court room, Friday evening, April 24, at 8 p. m., to listen to an address by W. T. Routzahn, secretary of the American League for Civic Improvement on "What Does Civic Improvement Mean to a City."

D. F. ALLMENDINGER,

Pres Civic Improvement Society.

GEO. P. BURNS,

Sec. Civic Improvement Society.

On motion the invitation was accepted and ordered filed.

By Ald. Clancy:

Resolved, That the Council take some immediate action relative to paying labor claims of laborers working on the city streets and further be it resolved that the clerk be directed to insert an advertisement in the two daily papers calling in all labor claims issued since Jan. 1st, so that same may be acted upon and paid by this Council. Carried.

By Ald. Schlenker:

Whereas, in the opinion of the council the grade of the sidewalk on the northeasterly side of Washtenaw avenue ought to be changed and fixed and established to the end that such street may be suitable for public travel; therefore be it

Resolved, and it is hereby ordered that the grade of the sidewalk on and along the northeasterly side of Washtenaw avenue from south line of Vinewood boulevard to the west line of Wayne street be, and the same

is hereby changed, fixed and established, so that the grade of said sidewalk on and along the street aforesaid shall be as follows, that is to say:

At the southeasterly corner of Vinewood boulevard, 888.00; at 65 feet east of the southeasterly corner of Vinewood boulevard, 894.00; at 100 feet east of the southeasterly corner of Vinewood boulevard, 896.00; at 150 feet east of the southeasterly corner of Vinewood boulevard, 899.50; at 175 feet east of the southeasterly corner of Vinewood boulevard, 900.50; at 200 feet east of the southeasterly corner of Vinewood boulevard, 900.80; at 300 feet east of the southeasterly corner of Vinewood boulevard, 899.50; at 400 feet east of the southeasterly corner of Vinewood boulevard, 896.00; at 450 feet east of the southeasterly corner of Vinewood boulevard, 894.50; at 543 feet or west line of Wayne street, 894.30; B. M. 903.07 top of east stone post to Scott's drive; the elevation given being above the official city datum and along the center line of such walk, and the grade lines to consist of straight lines between the several points or stations above stated.

Referred to sidewalk committee.

Ann Arbor, April 20, 1903.

To the Common Council:

Gentlemen—Your committee on walks have had a few walks under consideration and would recommend the following:

That a tar or asphaltum walk be constructed on and along the east side of Fifth street between Liberty and William streets in front of the property of John Weibrecht estate; also on the north side of William street between Third and Fourth streets.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIAN SCHLENKER,

RICHARD KEARNS,

L. D. GROSE,

Committee.

By Ald. Schlenker:

Resolved, that the construction and grading of the sidewalk hereinafter mentioned is deemed and declared to be a necessary public improvement;

therefore, it is hereby ordered that a tar or asphaltum sidewalk be graded and constructed on and along the east side of Fifth street between Liberty and William streets in front of the property of John Weibrecht estate; also along the north side of William street between Third and Fourth streets.

Adopted as follows:

Yeas—Ald. Douglas, Gill,, Schlenker, Hutzel, Kearns, Johnson, Grose, Bangs, Goodyear, Fischer, Robison, Pres. Walz—12. Nays—0.

Ann Arbor, Mich., April 20, 1903.

To the Common Council:

Gentlemen—I herewith submit estimate of cost of building storm water sewer on Glen avenue from Fuller street to Catherine street as called for by the common council:

8 inlets, at \$15.....	\$ 120 00
3 manholes, at \$28.....	84 00
850 ft. 20 inch pipe, at 50c..	425 00
130 ft. 12 inch pipe, at 20c..	26 00
980 ft. excavation, at 40c...	392 00

Total .....\$1,047 00

Yours,

E. W. GROVES.

By Ald. Johnson:

Resolved, that the above estimate for storm sewer on Glen avenue be accepted and the board of works directed to secure bids for the construction of same.

Adopted as follows:

Yeas—Ald. Douglas, Gill,, Schlenker, Hutzel, Kearns, Johnson, Grose, Bangs, Goodyear, Fischer, Robison, Pres. Walz—12. Nays—0.

By Ald. Schlenker:

Resolved, that the liquor bonds be placed at \$3,000.00 for the ensuing year. Carried.

By Ald. Johnson:

Resolved, that the rules of the last council be adopted as the rules that

shall govern this council for the ensuing year, except the time of meeting be changed from Sept. 30 to April 1 to 7 o'clock and from April 1 to Sept. 30 to 7:30, standard time. Carried.

By Ald. Goodyear:

Resolved, that when we adjourn that we do adjourn to next Monday evening, April 27, 1903, at 7:30 o'clock. Carried.

By Ald. Fischer:

Resolved, that the telephone company be instructed and are hereby ordered to remove the braces from the corner of State and Packard streets around the property of Mr. Mullison, and that the D., Y., A. A. & J. R. R. Co. be instructed to place their poles on the curb line in front of the property of Mr. Mullison. Carried.

By Ald. Fischer:

Resolved, that a committee of three be appointed to confer with the board of regents in regard to building a pest house for the city. Carried.

The chair then appointed Ald. Fischer, Goodyear, Douglas and Dr. Hinsdale. Adopted.

Ald. Douglas presented the name of Dr. Elliott K. Herdman and Ald. Schlenker presented the name of Dr. Ronneburger as candidates for city physician. A vote was taken which resulted in the election of Dr. Elliott K. Herdman, who received 9 votes and Dr. Ronneburger 3 votes, Dr. Hinsdale 1.

By Ald. Johnson:

Resolved, that the city clerk be instructed to secure bids on the city printing and present same to this council. Carried.

No further business, the council adjourned until Monday evening, April 27, 1903, at 7:30 o'clock.

ROSS GRANGER,

City Clerk.