

City Council Chamber
February 14th 1853

Called Meeting

Council met. Present Messrs. Louden, Delzell, Fidler, Greer, Pitts and Culley.

The object of the meeting was stated to be to consider the Common School System.

The following ordinance was presented:

An Ordinance defining the duties of Trustees of Common Schools.

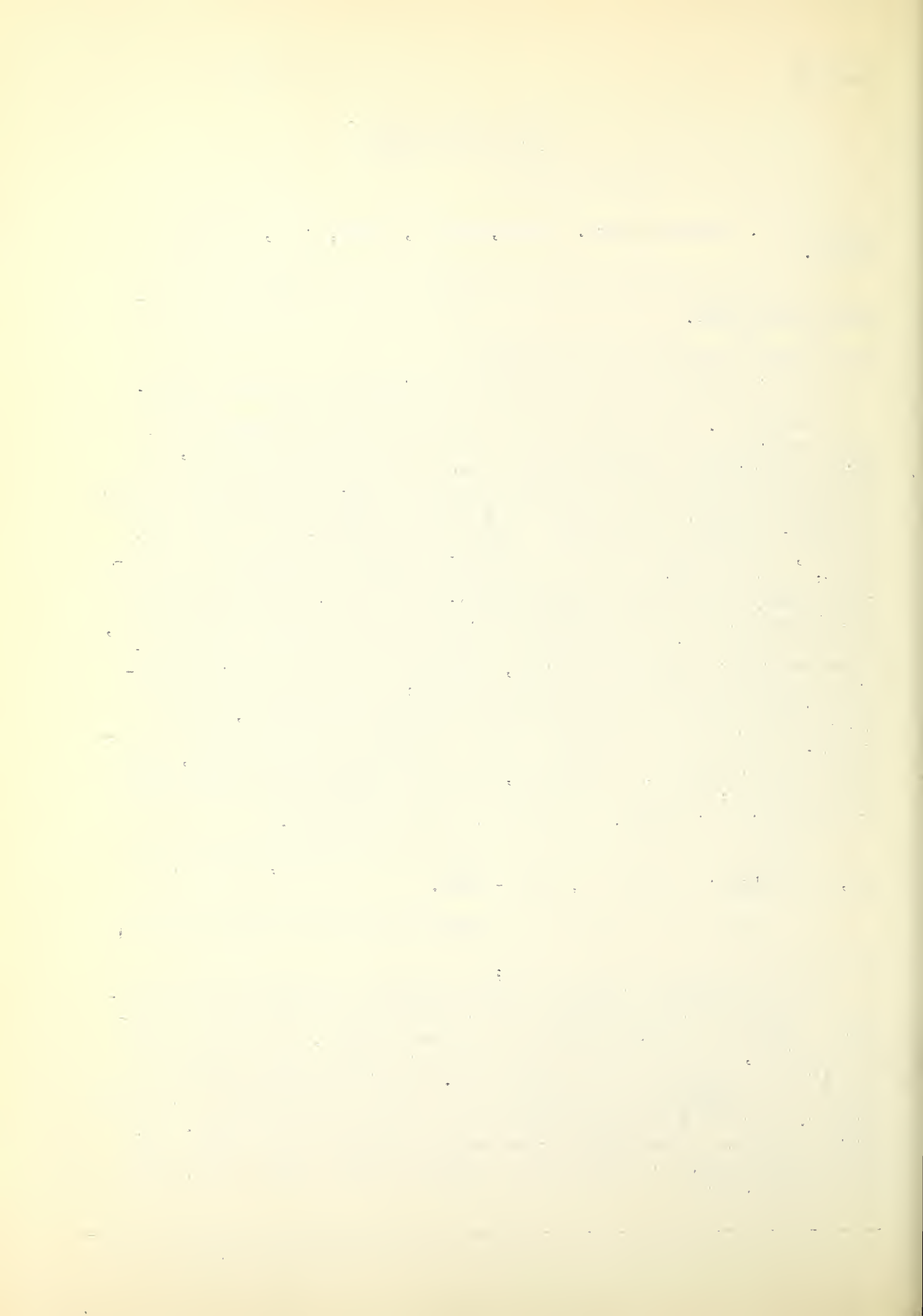
Section 1. Be it ordained by the City Council of Indianapolis, That the Trustees of Common Schools of the City of Indianapolis, are hereby authorized and empowered to cause an enumeration of all the children in said City to be made according to law; to employ all teachers of Common Schools, and to dismiss the same as the statute in such case provides; to visit such schools either as a Board or by one of their members, at least twice in each quarter; to appoint the day of examinations; to make report to the City Council of the condition of the schools respectively at the end of each quarter; which report shall contain an exhibition not only of the studies pursued and the mental progress made, but also of the moral deportment of each pupil, to examine the School House and report the state thereof, together with what repairs and improvements are necessary to be made thereto; to suspend or dismiss any scholar from school in such manner as the Statutes provides, and to certify to the City Council the terms on which each teacher has been employed; and the cause or causes of the dismissal of any teacher, and to give their opinion, if required, as to the propriety of establishing graded schools; and to do and perform all such duties as by law are now or hereafter be required, of Trustees of Common Schools.

Adopted by the following vote: Ayes, Messrs Louden, Buchanan, Fidler, Pitts Greer & Culley 6, Noes - None.

The report of the Trustees of Common Schools was read as follows:

To the City Council of Indianapolis:

The undersigned Trustees of Common Schools appointed at your meeting in January 1853 in pursuance of the 32d Section of the Act to provide a general and uniform System of Common Schools, approved the 14th of June 1853, did on the 17th day of the first named month proceed to discharge the duties of said appointment. They visited the 5th Ward School kept by Miss Davenport who was within four weeks of completing her Second quarter. There were attending thirty five scholars of both sexes. They learn that this is the Sixth term a school has been taught in the 5th Ward School House, the school lot is enclosed with a board fence, there are no gates, the



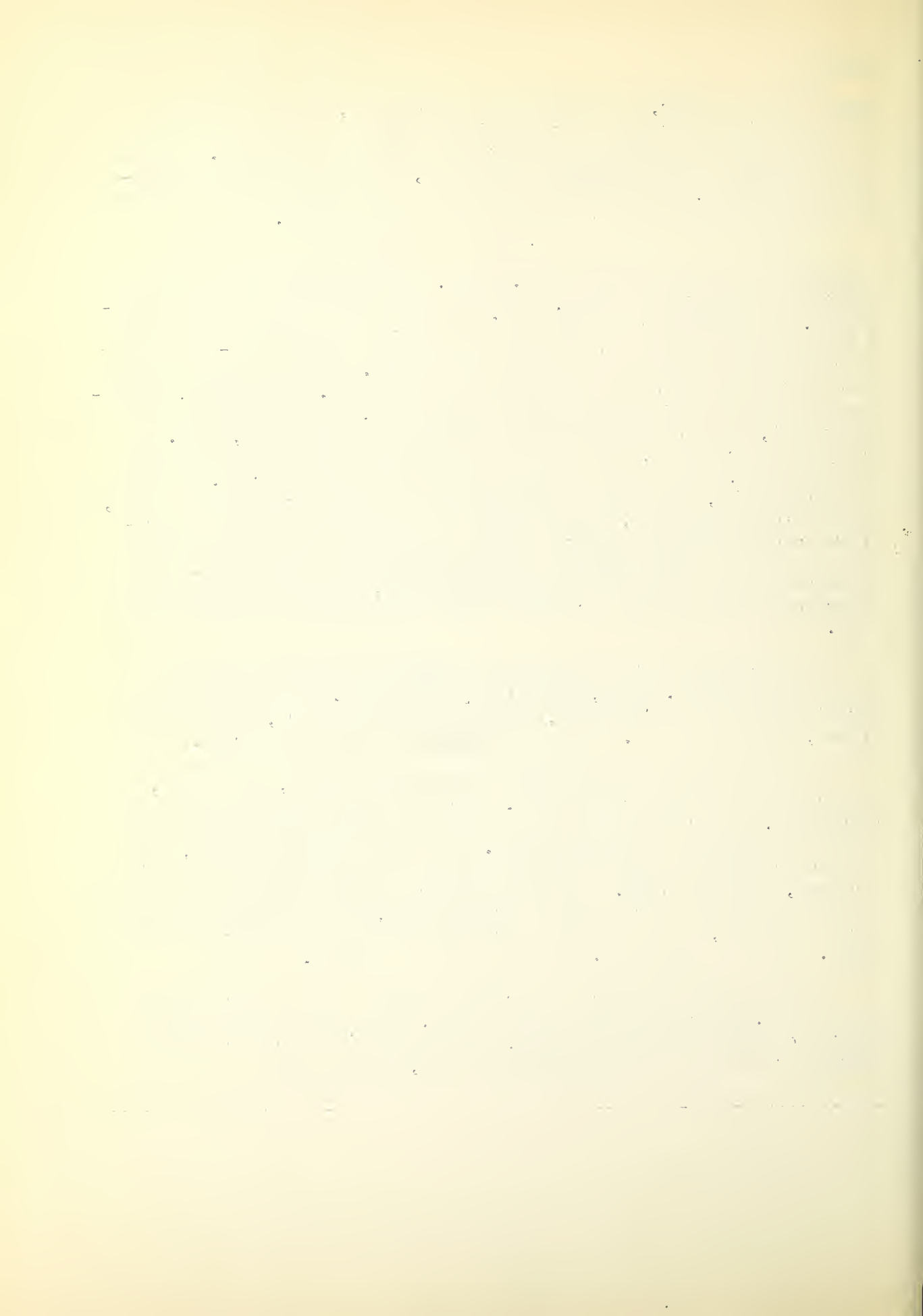
pump is out of order, the roof of the house leaks, and many defects now appear in the original workmanship of the house; The school is not in as prosperous condition as the Trustees think it should be. Either the pupils have been mismanaged heretofore, or a want of present efficient government. These defects should be remedied at the commencement of another quarter, and the house and lot put in repair.

The Trustee on the same day (17th of Jany) visited the School House in the 4th Ward, kept by Mr. Harold. It commenced about four weeks previous to visiting the same, and the first time the house has been occupied. The building consisting of two rooms, is an improvement on the 4 houses built in the 1st, 2d, 5th & 7th Wards in year 1851 - the last four mention contains only one school room each. There are about fifty-five pupils in attendance mostly males of good size. The teacher, who appeared to have sufficient scholastic attainment, seemed deficient in government, and steps were taken to dissolve the connection, & Mr. Webb was put in her place, by this step it now appears that good order has been attained, and the school appears now to be well governed. But the Trustees regret, though the house has been occupied for so short a time, it has been much abused. But it is due to the School to State that repairs have been made by several of the young men who attend, although they were in no wise culpable for the damage that has been done. The house and lot are not enclosed, the roof leaks, but the trustees were informed the same would be repaired under the contract for building the same.

The Trustees on the same day (17th Jany) visited the 2d Ward School taught by Mr. Loomis, assisted by Miss Gibbs. This is the first term in this Ward School House, has about fifty scholars, yard not yet fenced, the house leaks. The school appears to be well governed.

On the same day visited the 1st Ward School House, kept by Mr. Bullard with Miss Tayler assistant. There were about eighty scholars in attendance. The order good and so far as the Trustees could judge, the method of teaching very satisfactory. The house a little defaced, said to have originated in part by permitting public meetings to be held in the same, the roof leaks. This house was originally intended for but one room for teaching & three small entrance rooms, these last have been converted into two, and one used as a recitation room though very inconvenient. There are no gates. The well is out of repair.

On the 18th of January the Trustees visited the 7th Ward School kept by Mrs. Lister assisted by Miss Hobert. There were in attendance about one hundred and eight pupils, like the 1st Ward the three small entrance rooms have been connected into two, and one made



a recitation apartment, and like the other in the 1st Ward illy calculated for the use it is put to. The school seems to be in a prosperous condition. Mrs. Lister is now in her 6th term, having commenced in May 1851 & with the exception of a part of a term has been the principal. Her success fairly demonstrates the necessity of having permanent teachers of high attainments if they can be procured. The yard was fenced and the gates hund and col house built by the former trustees. But the building like the others leaks and needs tin gutters on the south east side.

On the same day the Trustees visited the sixth Ward School kept by Miss Kinder. The building is new, with two good rooms, but only one occupied. There were thirty four scholars, mostly beginners. They seem to be governed with great kindness and for new recruits seem to being well. The house leaks, the pump out of order, lot not fenced or graded. And from its exposed position should be immediately looked to lest accidents occur to the pupils.

Two of the Trustees were present at the late examination of Miss Higgins' school in the 3d Ward, and two have visited the same since the commencement of the present quarter. They find the school in point of order equal to any and so far as the Trustees were able to judge they think her skill in imparting knowledge very good. She has sixty pupils and is now assisted by Miss Randel. The three small entrance rooms have been arranged like the 1st & 7th Wards. The roof leaks, there are no gates, and similar repairs to those above enumerated should be made for the safety of the building and convenience of the scholars.

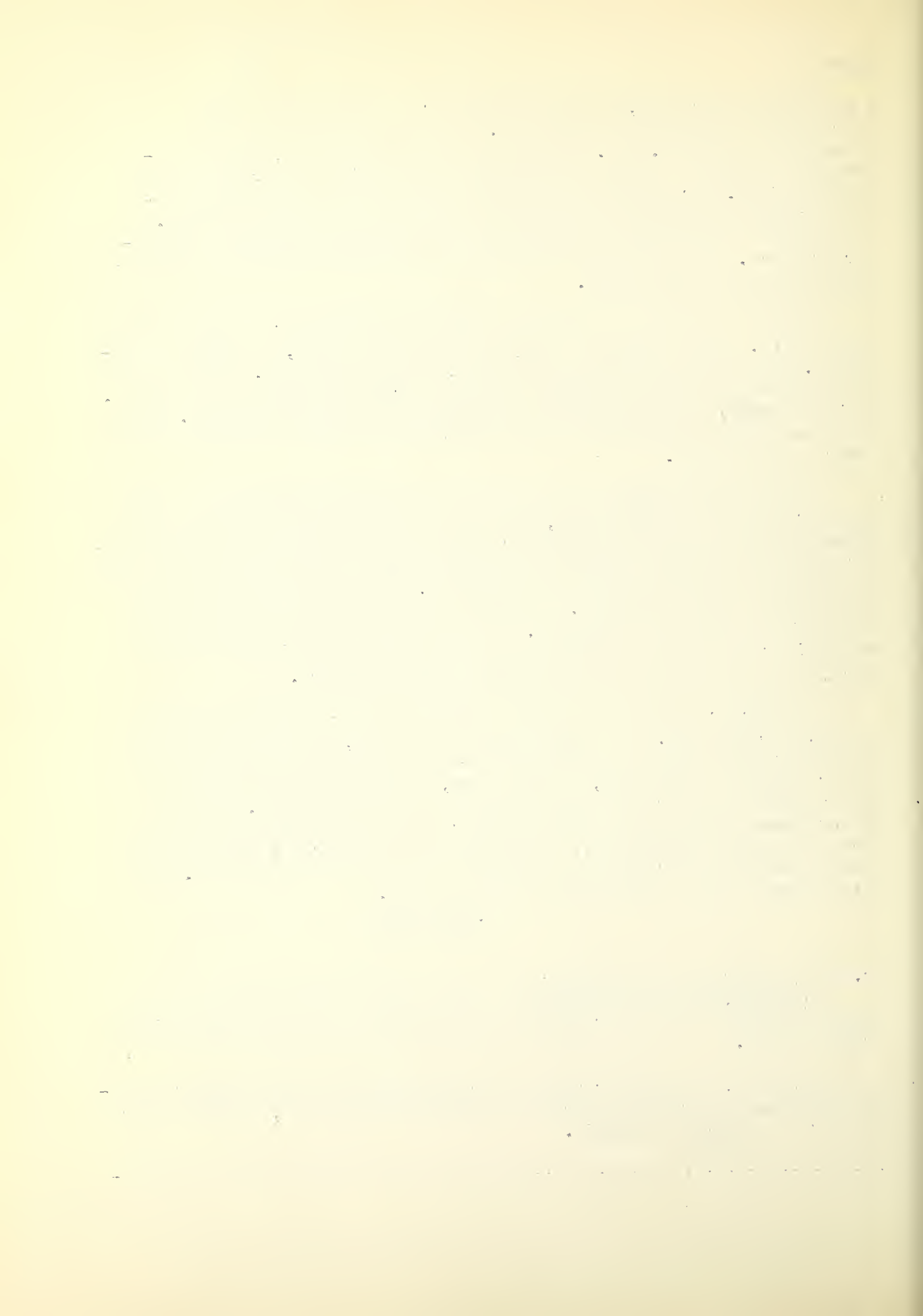
The former Board of Trustees divided the year into four quarters of eleven weeks each. The tuition fees in the 4th, 6th & 7th Wards are two dollars and twenty five cents for each scholar without regard to age or sex; this is as low, if not lower, than competent teachers can well afford to render the service with suitable assistants. The 1st & 2d Ward have charged only \$2 per quarter having on hand a portion of the public money unexpended, which fell to them under the old district system much to the credit of those who had the care of that fund. And the 5th Ward have charged \$2½ & found the fuel.

H.P. Coburn
Calvin Fletcher

Mr. Culley offered the following:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this City Council steps should be taken to secure a lot of ground of suitable size on which to establish a graded school.

Resolved, That the Trustees of Common Schools be and they are hereby authorized to procure a portion of the Seminary block, or some other lot for the purpose aforesaid.



Mr. Greer moved to lay them on the table, But before the question was acted upon, the Council dissolved upon hearing the cry "Fire" .

Attest: David V. Culley, Prest.
Daniel B. Culley, Secy. C. C.

Regular Meeting

City Council Chamber
March 7th 1853

Present - Messrs Louden, Delzell, Greer, Buchanan, Pitts, Fitler & Culley.

The minutes of the preceding meeting read and approved.

The Street Commissioners report, read and approved and the following allowances made:

To M. Ward Labor on Streets	6 days	6.00
" Patrick Quinn Labor on Streets	2 "	2.00
" Peter Volen " " "	6 "	6.00
" Thomas Keenan " " "	1-5/8 "	1.62
" H. Stevens Horses & Carts	3 1/2 days \$2 1/2 per day	8.75
" W. Sonfield Hauling		2.00
" Mr. Huntington do		1.50
" Mr. Facres		2.00
Street Commissioners Report		<u>29.87</u>
Allowed David Fletcher Well digging, repairing etc.		3.00
" Williamson & Haugh, repairing pump, Youngerman		
	Comm.	3.35
" Joseph Shaw Labor on Streets		1.50
" William Wilkinson, Incidental Expense Grave Yard		.50
" J. S. Norris Candles, C. C. Expense		1.70
" William Sonfield Labor on Streets		1.00
" John Ferriter		1.00
General Fund orders		<u>41.92</u>
Allowed E. Catlin Repairing well in 4th Ward		4.00
" Pearsons & Cottrell Tin gutter 7 Ward S. H.		2.20
" R. L. McQuat canal coal stoves, for 5 Ward		20.75

The Council on Motion gave further time for the Committee on Streets and alleys.

On Motion by Mr. Greer.

The subject of building a lodge on Georgia Street, over the canal was referred to the Committee on streets and alleys.

The President from a committee appointed to make a contract for fencing the public Grave yard, reported that Messrs Duke & Bingman had completed the fence enclosing the public Grave yard, including the burial ground of the colored people that the same has been measured and calculated agreeably to the contract made with the said Duke & Bingman