

## REGULAR MEETING.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS,  
February 19, 1900. }

The Common Council of the City of Indianapolis met in the Council Chamber, Monday evening, February 19, 1900, at 8 o'clock, in regular meeting.

Present, Hon. John H. Crall, President of the Common Council, in the chair, and 19 members, viz.: Messrs. Bernauer, Billingsley, Daller, Dickson, Evans, Higgins, Horan, Kaiser, Keller, Kelly, Megrew, Moriarity, Munro, McGrew, Negley, Perrott, Reilly, Spiegel and Wheeler.

Absent—1, viz.: Mr. Knight.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal, whereupon Councilman Bernauer moved that the further reading of the Journal be dispensed with.

Which motion prevailed.

## COMMUNICATIONS, ETC., FROM MAYOR.

His Honor, the Mayor, presented the following communication:

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,  
CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS,  
INDIANAPOLIS, IND., February 19, 1900. }

*To the President and Members of the Common Council:*

Gentlemen—I have the honor to submit herewith, for your consideration, the annual reports of the various departments of the city government for the year 1899, being the ninth annual reports of said departments, and, as directed by the City Charter, I also submit to you such recommendations and suggestions as I believe to be for the best interests of the city.

## FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

The report of the City Comptroller shows:

Available cash on hand January 1, 1900.....	\$21,346	11
Receipts from all sources during the year, including sale of bonds .....	1,239,815	45
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$1,261,161</b>	<b>56</b>
Current expenses.....	\$1,010,804	27
Permanent improvements.....	134,895	34
Payment of bonds.....	14,600	00—
	1,160,299	61
<b>Available cash on hand January 1, 1900.....</b>	<b>\$100,861</b>	<b>95</b>

The current receipts were \$1,070,909.69, being those receipts derived from taxation and other ordinary sources; the current expenses were \$1,010,804.27, showing a balance of current receipts over current expenditures of \$60,105.42.

The total indebtedness of the city on January 1, 1900, was \$2,152,800, being an increase of \$135,400 over last year. The increase was caused by the issue of \$150,000 new bonds for the purpose of building bridges, contracts for which have been let. These bonds become payable \$15,000 annually, commencing January 1, 1905, so that they will not be a burden on any future generation. In this connection, I again desire to concur in the recommendation of the City Comptroller for the establishment of a sinking fund, for which a legislative enactment will be necessary. If a certain proportion of the city's revenues were annually set apart for the payment, as it shall become due, of the bonded indebtedness of the city, a long forward step would be taken:

The Comptroller's report shows that the work of his department has been carefully done, and that the revenues of the city have been closely guarded.

## DEPARTMENT OF LAW.

The Department of Law has had an unusually busy year. The preparation of ordinances for the adjustment of the street railway and artificial gas questions, both of which were settled during 1899, consumed much time and caused the department much study. A number of ordinances on various other subjects were also prepared, some of which are still pending before your honorable body.

While a great many suits against the city were finally disposed of during the year, the number of new suits constantly being filed leaves practically the same amount of unfinished business. I therefore concur in the recommendation of the City Attorney that an ordinance be passed, in compliance with the provisions of an act of the last General Assembly, giving the department an additional assistant.

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

The report of the Board of Public Works, together with the reports of the sub-departments under the control of the Board, is submitted herewith.

This report shows that there was appropriated for the use of the department during the year, including the proceeds of the sale of bridge bonds, the sum of \$623,286.85; there was expended the sum of \$447,678.91, leaving a balance of unexpended appropriations of \$175,607.94.

The following table shows the construction of 44.62 miles of public improvements during the year, at a cost of \$535,845.49:

	Miles.	Cost.
Asphalt .....	.96	\$41,568 31
Asphalt (repaved).....	.18	15,022 86
Brick .....	1.74	23,209 34
Wooden block.....	2.91	154,255 55
Gravel streets.....	5.31	79,276 92
Gravel alleys.....	2.81	7,295 17
Bowldered alleys.....	.21	932 40
Cement walks.....	19.54	97,215 89
Brick walks.....	1.59	5,325 00
Sewers .....	9.37	108,245 79
Levees .....		3,498 26

For your information I also append the table given in the Board's report showing the improvements made during the life of the charter, their mileage and cost:

	Miles.	Cost.
Asphalt .....	40.88	\$2,514,576 74
Asphalt (repaved).....	.77	67,004 02
Brick .....	23.03	902,276 98
Wooden block.....	12.43	710,648 28
Macadam .....	3.70	154,522 91
Gravel streets.....	72.94	624,784 73
Gravel alleys.....	11.55	32,110 55
Bowldered alleys.....	4.72	11,772 39
Cement walks.....	107.14	552,489 32
Brick walks.....	25.99	65,995 41
Sewers .....	91.10	1,575,878 13
Levees .....		17,725 46

On account of the passage of the act known as the "Strong Law," the Board has found it impossible to grant petitions for the permanent improvement of many streets, as the appraised value of the real estate on such streets would exceed the limit fixed by the law, to-wit: 25 per cent.

During the past year the Board entered into a contract whereby the street railway question has been settled, and I believe that Indianapolis has now the best street railway franchise of any city in the United States. I am also satisfied that within a few months the system, long deteriorating, will be surpassed by none.

The Board also entered into a contract with the Indianapolis Gas Company whereby the litigation with said company was terminated, and the price of artificial gas was reduced to \$1 per 1,000 cubic feet, and proportional reduction for increased consumption.

As is well known, I have long been an advocate of the municipal ownership of the water plant, and during the year 1898 extensive investigations as to the value of the present plant, with a view of possible purchase, were made. It was found, however, that the price asked made it impossible for the city to proceed with the purchase. I therefore concur in the recommendation of the Board that a new contract be made with the Indianapolis Water Company for a limited term of years. I believe that the city can secure many concessions by such a course, together with the right of purchase whenever the city may feel able to do so.

During the year 1899 an ordinance was passed by the Common Council requiring the elevation of all railroad tracks within a certain radius. A great deal of opposition to this ordinance has arisen, particularly from the railroads and the manufacturing interests. While I am heartily in favor of such steps being taken as will prevent loss of life at railroad crossings, I do not advocate the enforcement of any ordinance that would be detrimental to the welfare of Indianapolis. The city, situated inland, as it is, depends and must always depend largely upon its railroads and manufacturing industries for its prosperity and advancement. Great care should be taken in arriving at a proper solution of this problem, and the same shall have my best endeavor, in which I hope to have the assistance of the railroads and manufacturing interests, as well as that of your honorable body.

During the year the Board entered into contracts for the construction of the following bridges: Concrete and steel arch bridges across Fall Creek on Meridian and Illinois streets; steel girder bridges across Fall Creek at Indiana avenue, across Pogue's Run at Market and Pine streets, and across Pleasant Run at Minnesota and Linden streets. While these bridges will be of great benefit to the parts of the city in which they are located, and are absolutely necessary at this time, I am satisfied that they do not yet meet the requirements in that direction, and I am in favor of such additional bridges of a substantial character being built as will meet those requirements.

The new South Side Market has been established, and has proven to be a great convenience to the residents of that part of the city, without, in any wise, being detrimental to the Central Market. If its present prosperity continues it will be necessary to enlarge the market and take in the entire building, one-half of which is not now being used.

During the year the space east of the present East Market House was improved under the direction of this Board by the construction

of walks and drives. This, however, leaves this space open to the inclemency of the weather, and a suitable covering for the same should be erected at the earliest possible moment.

On the subject of public improvements for the coming year, I favor only such improvements as are absolutely necessary or are petitioned for by the resident property holders affected. From a sanitary standpoint, however, I favor the improvement of such alleys in the center of the city as have not yet been improved.

#### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

The report of the Board of Public Safety is accompanied by those of the Police and Fire Departments and the East and South Side Markets. The discipline of the Police and Fire Departments has been kept up to the standard, and each department has rendered the city efficient service during the year.

I agree with the Board in their recommendation for the establishment of sub-police stations, deeming the same necessary on account of the rapid growth of the city, and I further believe that the efficiency of the department would be greatly enhanced by their establishment.

While the Fire Department has done splendid work and has responded to more alarms of fire than during any previous year, I am satisfied that the department needs two new engine houses and additional apparatus located in certain parts of the city, and I concur in the recommendation of the Board to that effect. Indianapolis has now reached a stage in her development when a very large number of high buildings are being erected. In case of a large conflagration or more than one fire in these high buildings, at the same time, the department would find itself at a serious disadvantage, as was demonstrated at a recent large fire in South Meridian street, all available apparatus for fighting fires in high buildings being in use on that occasion. I desire also to call attention to the fact that the fire alarm telegraph system has been in use about twenty-five years, and has become almost unsafe for use. I believe that it would be economy for the city to have the most modern appliances for this department that can be obtained.

#### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND CHARITIES.

The affairs of this department have been conducted in a very satisfactory manner during the year. By its care and watchfulness the department prevented an epidemic of smallpox last year, and at the present time, while smallpox has been epidemic in various places throughout the country, through the energies and prompt attention of the department here we are entirely free from it in Indianapolis.

I am especially pleased to call your attention to the splendid work of both the City Hospital and City Dispensary during the year.

There were 1,808 cases treated at the City Hospital during that period. While extensive improvements were made to the institution a few years ago, I feel that the present buildings are wholly inadequate for its purposes, and recommend the erection of such an addition as the growth of the city seems to demand. The building at this time is overcrowded and the matter needs attention at once, as it is the city's duty to make ample provision for taking care of her poor and unfortunate sick.

There were 18,369 cases treated, free of charge, at the City Dispensary during the year. I congratulate the Board upon the good work of both institutions.

#### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS.

There was appropriated for the use of this department the sum of \$167,780.02; from this amount there was expended the sum of \$132,254.85, leaving a balance of \$29,525.17.

During the year extensive improvements were made in Riverside, Brookside and Highland Parks, and the work in the various other parks has been continued. With the extension of the street railway service to Riverside and Brookside Parks during the coming summer these parks will be made accessible to the people.

The work of the Board in the improvement of these parks has progressed very satisfactorily, and I feel that during the season of 1900 the parks will present a very fine appearance. The new dam at Riverside Park will be completed during the early spring, which will give lovers of boating ample opportunity to enjoy this recreation on a beautiful sheet of water several miles long.

The Board has given the work of the department a great deal of care and attention, and I believe that within a few years Indianapolis will have a park system of which it can well be proud.

#### GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS.

The tax levy for the year 1900 was reduced from 70 cents to 59 cents on the \$100. This was deemed advisable on account of the large sums of money paid out in the past years by property holders for public improvements, but I am satisfied that with the rapid growth of the city, and the large expenses necessarily incurred, and constantly increasing, it will be impossible to keep the levy at the present low rate, unless some measures are taken to obtain revenues by taxing private corporations for use of streets and alleys, as prescribed in the City Charter. Indianapolis presents many attractions, both as a place of residence as well as a manufacturing and business center, and it should be the constant aim and endeavor to build up the city in those respects which are for the comfort and welfare of her citizens. Among these things may be mentioned a

low rate of taxation, and I am glad to state such a rate has been maintained in Indianapolis, the lowest of any city of its class in the United States. It should constantly be the aim to keep the tax rate at the lowest possible limit, but not at the expense of clean streets, an adequate fire and police protection, sufficient public lighting, safe and durable bridges, a suitable City Hospital, and other public necessities.

I wish again to call attention to the necessity for the erection of a permanent pest-house, situated in some locality where it will be least objectionable. While the Boards of Public Works and Health have both given the matter time and study, they have found it impossible to find a location anywhere to which objections have not been raised.

I also wish to repeat my recommendation for the erection of a permanent structure at the East Market, the erection of two new engine houses, such additional improvements to some of the present fire houses as will permit the location of additional apparatus, purchase of such new equipment as is necessary for the Fire Department, the installation of a modern fire alarm telegraph system, the erection of sub-police stations, and the enlargement of the City Hospital. Under the present rate of taxation it will be impossible to make these much-needed improvements out of the current revenues of the city. Realizing the importance of these improvements, both to the safety and public health of the city, however, I would recommend, after careful estimates have been made of the cost, the making of a short-time loan by the issue of bonds, payable in installments yearly, for this purpose, as I feel these matters are of such importance that they should not be delayed. I would be pleased to take them up with your honorable body and the heads of the various departments at the earliest possible moment, in an endeavor to reach the best possible results.

I wish also to recommend the passage of an ordinance for the appointment of a competent electrician to be under the direction of the Department of Public Safety to oversee the electrical wiring of the buildings of the city, as it is my opinion that a great many fires are caused by improper work of this kind. I also believe that sufficient revenue in the way of fees could be obtained to pay the salary and expenses of such an officer.

The same is also true of a sanitary plumbing ordinance, including an inspector. I vetoed such a measure about two years ago, feeling that some sections of the ordinance would prove a hardship to many persons, but I believe that such an ordinance, properly drawn, would be of benefit, and the fees derived would pay all expenses connected with the employment of such an inspector. The inspector should be under the direction of the Department of Public Health, and he should be responsible to said department for the proper carrying out of the provisions of the ordinance.

## CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, I feel that the progress of the city from every standpoint is one in which every citizen can take a just pride, and in closing I desire to thank the various departments for the able and efficient service rendered during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

T. TAGGART,  
*Mayor.*

Which was read and ordered spread on the minutes.

## REPORTS FROM OFFICIAL BOARDS.

Ninth annual report of the Department of Public Works, of the City of Indianapolis, for the year ending December 31, 1899.

Which was received and ordered filed.

Ninth annual report of the Board of Public Safety, of the City of Indianapolis, for the year ending December 31, 1899.

Which was received and ordered filed.

Annual report of the Board of Public Health and Charities, of the City of Indianapolis, for the year ending December 31, 1899.

Which was received and ordered filed.

Annual report of the Board of Park Commissioners, of the City of Indianapolis, for the year ending December 31, 1899.

Which was received and ordered filed.

## REPORTS, ETC., FROM STANDING COMMITTEES.

Mr. Megrew, on behalf of the Committee on Finance, to which was referred:

G. O. No. 1, 1900. An ordinance to increase the public revenue of the City of Indianapolis, Indiana, by requiring all retail dealers in intoxicating liquors to obtain and pay for license therefor; fixing the license fee to be paid to the City of Indianapolis by all persons hereafter or heretofore acquiring license from the Board of Commissioners of Marion County, Indiana, and from all other persons, to sell intoxicating liquors in the City of Indianapolis, or outside of the City of Indianapolis but within two miles of the corporate limits thereof; defining the terms "intoxicating liquors" and "retailer"; providing a penalty for the violation thereof; repealing conflicting ordinances; providing for the publication of the same, and fixing the time when the same shall take effect.



Made the following report:

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., February 19, 1900.

*Mr. President:*

Your Committee on Finance, to whom was referred G. O. No. 1, 1900, having considered the same, recommend that it do not pass.

HAROLD C. MEGREW.  
W. H. WHEELER.  
GEO. H. EVANS.  
A. DALLER.  
WM. KAISER.

Which was read and concurred in.

Mr. Megrew, on behalf of a majority of the Committee on Finance, to which was referred:

App. O. No. 1, 1900. An ordinance appropriating the sum of five hundred dollars (\$500) for the employment and compensation of a stenographer for the Committee on Investigation and Impeachment of the Common Council of the City of Indianapolis, and providing for the disbursement of said money, and fixing a time when said ordinance shall take effect.

Made the following report:

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., February 19, 1900.

*Mr. President:*

Your Committee on Finance, to whom was referred App. O. No. 1, 1900, appropriating the sum of five hundred dollars (\$500) for the use of Committee on Investigation and Impeachment, having considered the same, recommend its passage.

HAROLD C. MEGREW.  
W. H. WHEELER.  
GEO. H. EVANS.  
A. DALLER.  
WM. KAISER.

Which was read.

Mr. Dickson, on behalf of a minority of the Committee on Finance, to which was referred App. O. No. 1, 1900, made the following report:

*Mr. President:*

Gentlemen—The undersigned, a minority of your Committee on Finance, beg leave to submit the following report:

We can see no occasion for the appropriation called for in the ordinance under consideration. When the question of investigation first came up, the Mayor offered the services of the City Attorney to conduct any investigation, and also offered the services of a stenographer to take down any testimony offered.

The charter gives to the City Attorney "the management, charge and control of the law business of the city and for each branch of its government." It declares that he shall be the legal adviser of all its de-

partments and officers. The charter does not contemplate the employment of any other attorney.

If a competent stenographer can be furnished without charge, there is no occasion for an appropriation to pay one.

The law does not contemplate that witnesses shall be paid. It provides that they shall be compelled to attend any investigation, just as it provides that they shall attend before a justice in a criminal case, and they are no more entitled to fees in one case than in the other.

Besides, there are no charges pending against any officer of the city or any board. Whenever some responsible person presents specific charges against any officer or board, there will be time enough to appropriate money.

For these reasons and others, we are opposed to App. O. No. 1, 1900, and recommend that it be indefinitely postponed.

C. M. DICKSON.  
J. W. MCGREW.

Which was read.

Mr. Bernauer moved that the minority report be substituted for the majority report.

Mr. Negley moved to lay Mr. Bernauer's motion on the table.

Which motion carried by the following vote:

AYES 11—viz.: Messrs. Billingsley, Daller, Evans, Kaiser, Keller, Megrew, Munro, Negley, Spiegel, Wheeler and President Crall.

NOES 9—viz.: Messrs. Bernauer, Dickson, Higgins, Horan, Kelly, Moriarity, McGrew, Perrott and Reilly.

Mr. Negley moved that the majority report be concurred in.

Which motion prevailed.

Mr. Higgins moved that the Council do now adjourn.

Which motion was lost.

Mr. Megrew, on behalf of the Committee on Sewers, Streets and Alleys, to which was referred:

G. O. No. 2, 1900. An ordinance to prohibit the owners, servants or employes of express wagons, or other vehicles used for carrying freight within said city, from soliciting business at other places than therein provided, and providing a penalty for the violation thereof.

Asked for further time to consider said ordinance.

Which was granted by consent.

## MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

The following communication was read:

HEADQUARTERS GEO. H. THOMAS POST, No. 17. }  
 DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA. }  
 INDIANAPOLIS, February 14, 1900. }

*John H. Crall, President of the City Council:*

Dear Sir—By the direction of the General Memorial Committee of the Grand Army of the Republic, at a regular called meeting held February 13, 1900, at Room 25, State House, a motion was adopted that the City Council be requested to appoint three members of its body on the above committee, to participate in its deliberations in making preparations for the coming Decoration Day, May 30, 1900, and report same to the secretary.

PETER ZINN,  
*Tem. Secretary.*

W. H. ARMSTRONG,  
*Tem. Chairman.*

Mr. Megrew moved that the request of Memorial Day committee be complied with and that the President appoint a committee of three to represent the Council on said committee.

Which motion prevailed, and President Crall appointed the following committee: Messrs. Megrew, Keller and Horan.

## ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING.

On motion of Mr. Megrew, the following entitled ordinance was taken up and read a second time:

G. O. No. 53, 1899. An ordinance authorizing the issue and sale of forty-five (45) refunding bonds of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) each of the City of Indianapolis, in order to raise money to take up and refund certain bonds bearing date of January 1, 1890, and which will become due January 1, 1910, but which, by their terms, are payable on and after January 1, 1900, aggregating forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000); prescribing the time and manner of advertising the sale of said refunding bonds and of the receipt of the bids for the same, together with the mode and terms of sale; appropriating the proceeds of the sale of said refunding bonds for the payment of the said outstanding bonds; providing the time and manner of payment of said outstanding bonds, and providing for the refunding of the indebtedness of the said City of Indianapolis represented by said bonds, and matters connected therewith; and fixing the time when the same shall take effect.

Mr. Megrew moved that G. O. No. 53, 1899, be stricken from the files.

Mr. Bernauer moved to lay Mr. Megrew's motion on the table.

Which motion was lost by the following vote:

AYES 9—viz.: Messrs. Bernauer, Dickson, Higgins, Horan, Kelly, Moriarity, McGrew, Perrott and Reilly.

NOES 11—viz.: Messrs. Billingsley, Daller, Evans, Kaiser, Keller, Megrew, Munro, Negley, Spiegel, Wheeler and President Crall.

Mr. Bernauer moved as a substitute for Mr. Megrew's motion that G. O. No. 53, 1899, be ordered engrossed.

Mr. Megrew moved to lay Mr. Bernauer's motion on the table.

Which motion prevailed by the following vote:

AYES 11—viz.: Messrs. Billingsley, Daller, Evans, Kaiser, Keller, Megrew, Munro, Negley, Spiegel, Wheeler and President Crall.

NOES 9—viz.: Messrs. Bernauer, Dickson, Higgins, Horan, Kelly, Moriarity, McGrew, Perrott and Reilly.

Whereupon Mr. Megrew's motion, that G. O. No. 53, 1899, be stricken from the files, was adopted by the following vote:

AYES 11—viz.: Messrs. Billingsley, Daller, Evans, Kaiser, Keller, Megrew, Munro, Negley, Spiegel, Wheeler and President Crall.

NOES 9—viz.: Messrs. Bernauer, Dickson, Higgins, Horan, Kelly, Moriarity, McGrew, Perrott and Reilly.

On motion of Mr. Bernauer, the following entitled ordinance was taken up and read a second time:

App. O. No. 1, 1900. An ordinance appropriating the sum of five hundred dollars (\$500) for the employment and compensation of a stenographer for the Committee on Investigation and Impeachment of the Common Council of the City of Indianapolis, and providing for the disbursement of said money, and fixing a time when said ordinance shall take effect.

On motion of Mr. Higgins, App. O. No. 1, 1900, was then ordered engrossed, read a third time, and failed to pass for want of a constitutional majority by the following vote:

AYES 11—viz.: Messrs. Billingsley, Daller, Evans, Kaiser, Keller, Megrew, Munro, Negley, Spiegel, Wheeler and President Crall.

NOES 9—viz.: Messrs. Bernauer, Dickson, Higgins, Horan, Kelly, Moriarity, McGrew, Perrott and Reilly.

Mr. Bernauer moved that the Council do now adjourn.

Which motion was lost by the following vote:

AYES 9—viz.: Messrs. Bernauer, Dickson, Higgins, Horan, Kelly, Moriarity, McGrew, Perrott and Reilly.

NOES 11—viz.: Messrs. Billingsley, Daller, Evans, Kaiser, Keller, Megrew, Munro, Negley, Spiegel, Wheeler and President Crall.

On motion of Mr. Negley, the following entitled ordinance was taken up and read a second time:

G. O. No. 56. 1899. An ordinance to repeal certain ordinances designating the license fee to be paid the City of Indianapolis by distilleries and breweries and the depots or agencies in said city of breweries and distilleries.

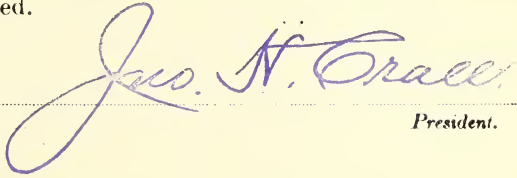
Mr. Negley moved that G. O. No. 56, 1899, be stricken from the files.

Which motion prevailed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

President Crall announced that the Committee on Investigation and Impeachment would meet in the Council Chamber, Monday evening, February 26, 1900, and as Mr. Knight, member of the committee will be absent from the city for some time, Mr. Perrott was appointed to take the place of Mr. Knight upon the committee.

On motion of Mr. Megrew, the Common Council, at 8:55 o'clock P. M., adjourned.

  
President.

ATTEST:



City Clerk.