

## SPECIAL MEETING.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS,  
July 30, 1900. }

The Common Council of the City of Indianapolis met in the Council Chamber, Monday evening, July 30, 1900, at 8 o'clock, in special session.

The President and Vice-President being absent, Mr. John F. Geckler, City Clerk, called the meeting to order.

The roll was called, with the following result:

Present 18 members, viz.: Messrs. Bernauer, Billingsley, Daller, Dickson, Evans, Higgins, Horan, Kaiser, Keller, Kelly, Knight, Moriarity, Munro, McGrew, Negley, Perrott, Reilly and Spiegel.

Absent 3, viz.: Messrs. Megrew, Wheeler and President Crall.

The City Clerk stated the first business in order to be the election of a presiding officer pro tem.

Whereupon Mr. Moriarity placed in nomination Mr. Samuel V. Perrott.

Mr. Bernauer moved that the nominations be closed.

Which motion carried.

City Clerk Geckler cast the unanimous vote of the body for Mr. Perrott, and declared him duly elected President pro tem. of the Common Council.

Mr. Perrott took the chair and ordered that the following call be read:

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., July 27, 1900.

*To the Members of the Common Council of the City of Indianapolis, Indiana, and John F. Geckler, City Clerk:*

Sir—You are hereby notified that, under and by virtue of authority vested in us, as members of the Common Council of the City of Indian-

apolis, Indiana, in Section fourteen (14) of the Charter of said city, and by authority of the Rules and Regulations of said Common Council, adopted October 16, 1899, and amended November 6, 1899, we hereby call a special meeting of said Common Council, to be held in the Council Chamber in said city, on Monday, July 30, 1900, to be convened at 8 o'clock P. M., to consider and take action on General Ordinance No. 32, or any and all other ordinances which may be introduced, for the purpose of authorizing a temporary loan in the interest of said city.

And the said City Clerk is hereby directed to cause notice of such special meeting to be served in writing upon each and every member of said Common Council of the City of Indianapolis forthwith.

H. E. NEGLEY.  
GEO. H. EVANS.  
HENRY L. SPIEGEL.  
J. H. BILLINGSLEY.  
JAMES R. MUNRO.

I, John F. Geckler, Clerk of the Common Council, do hereby certify that I have served above notice upon the President and each member of the Common Council prior to the time of meeting, pursuant to the rules.

JOHN F. GECKLER,  
*City Clerk.*

#### COMMUNICATIONS, ETC., FROM MAYOR.

His Honor, the Mayor, presented the following communication :

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,  
CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS,  
INDIANAPOLIS, IND., July 30, 1900. }

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

Gentlemen—Some time ago a bond ordinance for the betterment of the City Hospital, the Fire Department and East Market was presented to your body, in which were set forth the amounts necessary for the improvements of the same.

In my judgment the improvements asked for are still necessary, but I desire to call your attention especially to one item in the Fire Department, namely, that of the Fire Alarm Telegraph. The present system, I understand, has been in use for over twenty-five years, and if the apparatus, or machinery, was in good condition at present, which it is not, it has not the necessary capacity to meet the requirements of the Fire Department of this city at the present time. Prior to our request for money to improve the department, Chief Barrett repeatedly called the attention of the Board of Safety and myself to the condition of the fire alarm telegraph system. Lately it has been gradually growing worse, until recently it has become absolutely unreliable and dangerous, for the reason that when an alarm is turned in from one box it is liable to register some other than the one which sent in the alarm. This is misleading to the Fire Department by sending them in a wrong direction. In case of a fire in the heart of the city and the alarm system should fail to give the proper signal or number, a few minutes loss of time in reaching the fire might entail much loss of property as well as that of life. I feel that this branch of the department is one of the most essential and should always be in good working order. I hope that your

body can see your way clearly to assist in making such arrangements as will at least put this part of the Fire Department in a safe and reliable condition.

I enclose you herewith a copy of a letter which Superintendent Holderman wrote me last week, which is my reason for calling your attention to this particular subject. Yours respectfully,

T. TAGGART,  
*Mayor.*

Which was read and ordered spread on the minutes.

The Clerk proceeded to read the communication of Mr. Geo. H. Holderman, whereupon Mr. Daller moved that the communication be spread upon the minutes without being read.

Which motion prevailed by the following vote:

AYES 11—viz.: Messrs. Bernauer, Billingsley, Daller, Evans, Horan, Kaiser, Keller, Knight, Munro, Negley and Spiegel.

NAYS 7—viz.: Messrs. Dickson, Higgins, Kelly, Moriarity, McGrew, Perrott and Reilly.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., July 28, 1900.

*To the Hon. Thomas Taggart, Mayor:*

Dear Sir—I have in my various reports recommended the remodeling of the Fire Telegraph System. I beg to inform you that there has been no improvements added to the receiving and transmitting department of the system since it was installed, over twenty-five years ago, with perhaps the exception of \$125. for a switch-board, when the apparatus was transferred from the battery-room to its present quarters, which was nine years ago. At the time the apparatus was put in service it was sufficient for the needs of the city, when there was about thirty-five miles of conductor and fifty-five or sixty signal boxes. We have now 230 miles of conductor and 224 signal boxes, and with the present instruments we have no way of reducing the size of the circuits. Now, I wish to say that we are operating with dilapidated operating instruments, with a lot of old boxes that have been in service upwards of twenty-five years. We are using the old gravity battery and are at the mercy frequently of poor battery material, while if we were using the improved storage system, with its devices, we would have complete control of our battery power at all times, and with the modern office apparatus we would have recourse to so many ways of operation that we could scarcely be handicapped, unless the wires were destroyed by storm; of course we do not anticipate those things, as they cannot be guarded against. Now I wish to be frank in this matter, and I think it is due you and the citizens in general, and say that the system at the present is positively unreliable and it is simply a case of trust to luck. Everyone knows that this is a very important branch of the service and a mistake means a great deal at times. I wish to say further that I do not see any way to patch up the present system, from the fact while in doing that the real trouble would still remain—that of an overburdened system. The recent failures in the system has prompted this communication and I hope that there may be some means by which the system may be modernized. I desire to serve the city well and I assure you that it is trying under the existing conditions.

I am most respectfully your humble servant,

GEO. H. HOLDERMAN,  
*Superintendent Fire Alarm Telegraph.*

## REPORTS, ETC., FROM STANDING COMMITTEES.

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

G. O. No. 32, 1900. An ordinance authorizing the City Comptroller to make a temporary loan or loans in anticipation of the revenue for the current year.

Asked for further time on account of Mr. Megrew's absence from city, said ordinance being in his possession.

Which was granted by consent.

## INTRODUCTION OF GENERAL AND SPECIAL ORDINANCES.

Under this order of business, the following ordinance was introduced:

By Mr. Kaiser:

G. O. No. 34, 1900. An ordinance authorizing the City Comptroller to make a temporary loan in anticipation of the revenue for the current year.

Section 1. Be it ordained by the Common Council of the City of Indianapolis, Indiana, That the City Comptroller be and hereby is authorized and empowered to negotiate a temporary loan in anticipation of the revenue of said city for the current year, for any sum not exceeding thirty-seven thousand dollars (\$37,000), maturing not later than the first (1st) day of December, 1900, and at a rate of interest not exceeding six per cent. (6%) per annum.

And the Mayor and the City Comptroller are hereby authorized and directed to execute the proper bonds or obligations of said city for the amount so borrowed, and for the payment of said bonds or obligations the faith of said city is hereby irrevocably pledged.

Sec. 2. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

Which was read a first time (by title only).

Mr. Evans moved that G. O. No. 34, 1900, be referred to Committee on Finance.

Which motion was lost.

Mr. Reilly moved that G. O. No. 34, 1900, be read through on its first reading.

Which motion carried,

G. O. No. 34, 1900, was then read and referred to Committee on Finance.

On motion of Mr. Moriarity the Council took a recess of ten minutes.

The Council re-convened at 8:45 o'clock.

On motion of Mr. Evans, the Council returned to the order of

REPORTS, ETC., FROM STANDING COMMITTEES.

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

G. O. No. 34, 1900. An ordinance authorizing the City Comptroller to make a temporary loan in anticipation of the revenue for the current year.

Made the following report:

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., July 30, 1900.

*Mr. President:*

We, your Committee on Finance, have had G. O. No. 34, 1900, under consideration, and after examination and consideration we recommend that the same do pass.

A. DALLER.  
GEO. H. EVANS.  
WM. KAISER.  
J. W. MCGREW.  
C. M. DICKSON.

Which was read and concurred in.

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING.

Mr. Bernauer moved that the constitutional rules be suspended, for the purpose of placing the following entitled ordinance on its final passage:

G. O. No. 34, 1900. An ordinance authorizing the City Comptroller to make a temporary loan in anticipation of the revenue for the current year.

Which motion prevailed by the following vote:

AYES 17—viz.: Messrs. Bernauer, Billingsley, Daller, Dickson, Evans, Higgins, Horan, Kaiser, Keller, Kelly, Knight, Munro, McGrew, Negley, Perrott, Reilly and Spiegel.

NOES 1—viz.: Mr. Moriarity.

Before the vote was announced Mr. Moriarity changed his vote from the negative to the affirmative.

On motion of Mr. Bernauer, G. O. No. 34, 1900, was read a second time.

And, on motion of Mr. Daller, G. O. No. 34, 1900, was ordered engrossed, read a third time, and passed by the following vote:

AYES 18—viz.: Messrs. Bernauer, Billingsley, Daller, Dickson, Evans, Higgins, Horan, Kaiser, Keller, Kelly, Knight, Moriarity, Munro, McGrew, Negley, Perrott, Reilly and Spiegel.

NOES—None.

On motion of Mr. Kelly, the Common Council, at 8:50 o'clock P. M., adjourned.



*President pro tem.*

ATTEST:



*City Clerk.*