

Common Council Chamber  
October 2nd 1854

The Council met at 2 O'clock P M. Present all the members of the Council except Mr Graydon and the Mayor

On motion Mr Karns was called to the chair and took his seat as President pro tem

The Treasurers monthly account was presented and on motion was referred to the Mayor and City Clerk, for examination

The following report was presented and on motion of Mr Seibert it was ordered to be Spread on the minutes"

"In compliance with the instructions of your Honorable body to examine the Central Rail Road on Maryland Street east of Pogues Run, and report to the Council if they have complied with the ordinance, the undersigned respectfully submits the following report. The ordinance, granting the Company the privilege of laying a single track of railway through Maryland Street in the centre thereof, from the Eastern boundary of the City to East Street, has been violated by the Company having laid a double track between Liberty Street and a point about four rods East of Noble Street, and constructed a switch about half way between Liberty Street and Noble Streets to their work shops. The Company have done some filling on Noble Street, between Maryland Street and Pogues Run, laid a few plank between the rails at the crossing of Noble Street, and bridged the ditches & planked between the rails at the crossings of the alleys west of out Lots 76 and 78

The undersigned is of opinion, that the Central Rail Road Company have not complied with any one provision of the Ordinance, unless in the purchase of ground on South Side of Maryland Street to make it eighty feet wide, in regard to which he is not certainly informed

Indianapolis Oct 2 1854

James Wood  
Civil Engineer

The following report was received

The undersigned reports to the Council, that George D Pfeifer has refused to sign a contract and bond for constructing the eight cisterns. He objected to the article in the contract forbidding the use of lime, and before said contract and bond were drawn, he had commenced the excavation of the Cistern opposite the Carlisle House. The Council will please direct what should be done in regard to these matters

Indianapolis Oct 2 1854

James Wood  
Civil Engineer

On motion of Mr Seibert said report was referred to the Committee on Cisterns



The following report was presented

The undersigned respectfully reports to the Council, that he measured the excavation on Ohio Street between East and Noble Streets previous to the grading of Said Street, and found it to contain 2488 cubic yards, and that he lately measured said excavation and made it 2498½ cubic yards. The difference between the two measurements is trifling, and from the fact that the dimensions of excavation can be taken more correct before than after the work is done, when the inequalities on the Surface of the ground can be seen, the undersigned is of opinion that the original measurement should be adhered to

Indianapolis  
Oct 2 1854

James Wood  
Civil Engineer

On motion of Mr Avery said report was concurred in

The Civil Engineer reported the following bid for filling the School Lot in the 7th Ward

October 2 1854

I agree to take this job and do it in good order for the Sum of 24 cents a yard for the dirt and 65 cents for the gravel

George Borouk

Mr Seibert moved That said contract be awarded to George Borouk

Which motion prevailed

The Civil Engineer reported the following bids for the construction of a Market House on South Street

Messrs Lockwood & Gentle proposed to build said house for	\$895.00
Levi Comegys proposed to build said house for	\$950.00
Cornelius King and James Kenady proposed to build said house for	\$760.00
according to Specification, they furnishing all the materials	

Mr Seibert moved that the contract for building said Market house be awarded to Cornelius King and James Kenady

Which motion prevailed

The following accounts were presented and allowed

Hiram Lewis	For Labor	\$31.25	
Wm H Carle	do do	5 00	
William Luney	do do	8.75	
Patrick Sullivan	do do	15.63	
481. Michael O'Conner	For Labor	6.56	
482. John Shay	do do	16.25	
480. Richard Weeks	do do	30.00	
John P Childers	For repairing pumps	32 00	\$145.44



549. J S Dunlop	for rent of Council Chamber	\$ 45.00
Henry Habennae	for digging & walling well at Cistern opposite the Carlisle house	25.30
W H Jones	for 250 Market hooks	7 50
James J Butler	for writing fluid	5 00
A L Tilford	for desk & Book case	18 00
Harding & Simpson	for fixing pullies at Marion & Relief Engine houses	4 00
	Total	<u>\$250.24</u>

The following report was presented

Names of Watchmen Indianapolis Oct 2 1854  
Police Report commencing  
Mon Sept 4th  
Ending Monday Oct 2nd 1854

1st Ward.	John Bishop Served twenty eight days	28
	Jefferson Springsteane Served twenty eight days	28
2nd Ward.	John Bisbing Served twenty eight days	28
	Amos Scott Served twenty one days	21
	Henry Jepsun-Served (from the 6th to 14th) Seven days.	7
3d Ward.	Daniel Deninger Served nineteen days (Resigned)	19
	James Armstrong Served from 22nd to 2nd Oct Nine days (appointed until the meeting of the Council	9
	David Anderson Served twenty eight days	28
4th Ward.	J W Buckheart Served twenty eight days	28
	R Johnson Served twenty eight days	28
5th Ward.	J M Vanblaricum Served twenty eight days	28
	B F Lobaugh Served twenty eight days	28
6th Ward.	G L Thompson Served twenty eight days	28
	Wm McClain Served twenty eight days	28
7th Ward.	Ruben Adams Served twenty eight days	28
	Hubbard Adams Served twenty eight days Jefferson Springsteane Capt of the Watch	28

On motion of Mr Dunlap said report was received and the City Clerk authorized to draw warrants on the Treasury for said watchmen

The following report was received

1854	General Fund	
June 30	Amount of warrants over cash in Treasury	\$1677.99
Sep 30	" " " issued from June 30	<u>3989.26</u>
		\$5667.25
Rec'd from Duplicate collections, Licenses &C from June 30 to Sep 30,		\$582.70
Bal of warrants over cash in Treasury		<u>\$5084.55</u>



1854	School Fund	
June 30	Balance in Treasury subject to warrant	\$2630.38
Sep 30	Recpts from collections & State School fund from June 30 to Sep 30	<u>331 60</u>
		\$2961.98
	Amount of Warrants issued from June 30 to Sep 30	<u>1278.57</u>
	Bal in Treasury subject to warrant	\$1683.41

Attest

James N Sweetser  
City Clerk

Mr Maguire from the Judiciary Committee reported the following Ordinance

An Ordinance relative to the levying of taxes for the year 1854

Sec 1. Be it ordained by the Common Council of Indianapolis: That a tax for general purposes shall be and is hereby levied upon each one hundred dollars of the value of all property entered for taxation in the general list of City taxables for the year 1854, the sum of        cents, and on each poll subject to taxation        cents

Sec 2. That there is hereby levied upon each one hundred dollars of said list of taxables for school purposes for the current year the Sum of        cents

Sec 3 This Ordinance to be in force from and after its passage

On motion Said Ordinance was passed to the second reading and laid on the table

The following report was presented

To the Common Council of the City of Indianapolis  
The Finance Committee to whom was referred the adjustment and equalization of the taxes assessed against property holders for the City, have had the same under consideration and find insuperable difficulties in changing the present valuation as fixed by the Assessor. The Committee are of the opinion that the rate of valuation is too high for the present period, but not at the time the listing first commenced - property has undoubtedly fallen in value within the last six months; but however high the valuation may seem, we have not found in a single instance where complaints have been made that the property holder was willing to take the price as assessed even for cash in hand - therefore we are unanimously of the opinion that the tax is as low as could be reasonably expected - at the same time the Committee was anxious to satisfy those that felt aggrieved, and to act in the most favorable manner toward the tax payer; but it would at the same time be impracticable to meddle with even a solitary





case without upsetting the whole work of the assessor, rendering all his official acts useless and void

Admitting for a moment that the assessment is all too high, it will not in our opinion increase the taxes of the property holder. By the increase of wealth in the City, there will not in all probability be an increase of per centum on the revenue for the City expenditure - Last year sixty cents per hundred dollars was levied for all purposes; and if the property were not of more value this year, the per cent would undoubtedly be raised perhaps to seventy five cents, the full extent allowed by the charter to meet the increased expenses. But as the matter now stands sixty cents will we trust be sufficient to satisfy all the varied wants of the City. Therefore the Committee would respectfully recommend to the Council the reception of the assessors books without any alteration whatever and ask to be discharged.

L Dunlop  
W H Karns  
Daniel Keely

On motion said report was concurred in.

The following report was presented

The Committee to whom was referred the account of Levi Comegys have examined the Bridge which was repaired by Comegys and find there has been 186 feet running measure of 4 inch square Railing & posts principally of old lumber making board measure 248 feet at \$1.25 per hundred which is a good price for old stuff \$3.10, and as to the spikes we set at the amount charged \$1.75 and labor of putting up the work allowing it to take a hand 2 days \$5.00 \$9.85

Indianapolis  
Oct 2nd 1854

Geo W Pitts )  
C W Gowan ) Com  
W H Jones )

On motion said report was concurred in

The following account was presented

City of Indianapolis

To Jno G Waters Assessor Dr  
To making assessment, for 1854 \$500.00  
and accompanying said account was a request that said amount be equally divided between John G Waters and L Vanlaningham (543 to 547)

Mr Keeley moved That said account of \$500 be allowed and that it be equally divided between John G Waters and L Vanlaningham

(561 to 570)

Which motion prevailed.



The following report was received

The Committee to whom was referred the Subject of the Town Clock have examined the contract and find that in accordance with the same they are not competent Judges and would therefore submit to the Council the contract and specifications

W H Karns )  
Hiram Seibert ) C  
Daniel Keeley )

and accompanying said report was an extra bill from Mr Moffit of \$150 for putting up said Clock and also an offer to superintend said clock one year for fifty dollars

Mr Maguire moved That said account and proposition be referred back to the same Committee with instructions to confer with the Odd fellows in reference to placing the Clock on the Odd fellows Hall, and also as to the propriety of allowing the extra bill for placing it in Roberts Chapel.

Which motion prevailed

On motion of Mr Colley, Mr Maguire was added to said Committee

A petition was presented from John Billington & Benjamin Cook asking permission of the Council to make a Bridge across Pogues Run on the West Side of Meridian Street below the Union Depot

Mr Colley moved That said petition be referred to the Councilmen of the 6th Ward

Which motion prevailed

Mr Maguire offered the following resolution

Resolved That the Clerk of the Common Council be and he is hereby authorized and directed to issue to the contractor of the Engine House for the Invincible Fire Company orders to the amount of four hundred dollars on his contract

(503)  
(10)  
(515)

Adopted by the following vote

Those who voted in the Affirmative are Messrs Avery, Boaz, Colley, Dunlap, Gowan, Jones, Karns, Keeley, Maguire, Nelson, Pitts, Seibert & Trucksess 13

In the Negative - None

Mr Colley offered the following resolution

Resolved That the Street Commissioner be authorized to fill up the mud hole on the Corner of Delaware and Merrill Streets and make them in good wholesome order as far as he can do so with a reasonable expenditure of money, also that



said Commissioner notify John McCollum to fill up or cause to be filled up his Lot on the corner of said Streets so as to prevent the water from standing on said Lot and thereby causing sickness, also to fix and fill a mud hole on Merrill Street between Delaware and Alabama Street

Adopted by the following vote

Those who voted in the Affirmative are Messrs Avery,  
Boaz, Colley, Dunlap, Gowan, Jones, Karns, Keeley, Maguire,  
Nelson, Seibert and Trucksess 12  
In the Negative - Mr Pitts 1

Mr Nelson moved That the vote on said resolution be reconsidered, and the Ayes & Noes being demanded said motion prevailed by the following vote

Those who voted in the Affirmative are Messrs Dunlap,  
Gowan, Karns, Keeley, Nelson, & Pitts 6  
In the Negative Messrs Boaz, Colley, & Seibert 3

On motion of Mr Pitts said resolution was referred to a select committee together with the Civil Engineer with instructions to report the cost thereof

Messrs Pitts, Nelson & Colley were appointed said Committee

Mr Keeley offered the following resolution

Resolved That the Street Commissioner be requested to fill a mud hole on Noble Street between Market and Ohio Streets under the direction of the Civil Engineer

Mr Avery moved to amend by adding "and also drain a pond on New Jersey Street

Which motion prevailed

On motion of Mr Seibert said resolution was referred to the Committee on Streets and Alleys together with the Civil Engineer with instructions to report the cost of filling said holes.

Mr Karns offered the following resolution

Resolved That the Street Commissioner be directed to notify the property holders to remove the rubbish immediately, placed by them in the alley in Square 44 between Market and Ohio Street, and on failure to remove the same, the Commissioner be ordered to remove the same at the expense of the property holders

Adopted by the following vote

Those who voted in the Affirmative are Messrs Avery,  
Boaz, Dunlap, Gowan, Jones, Karns, Keeley, Maguire, Nelson,  
Pitts, Seibert & Trucksess 12  
In the Negative - None



Mr Pitts offered the following resolution

Resolved That the Committee on School Houses be authorized to contract for the fencing of all the unfenced City School Lots and divide all the Lots by suitable partition fences

Adopted by the following vote

Those who voted in the Affirmative are Messrs Gowan, Jones, Maguire, Nelson, Pitts, Seibert & Trucksess 7

In the Negative are Messrs Avery, Boaz, Colley, Dunlap, Karns, & Keeley 6

Mr Maguire offered the following resolution

Resolved That the members of the Night Watch be permitted to meet at the Council Chamber every evening before proceeding to the discharge of their duties, and in the morning after the expiration of the hour of service

Adopted by the following vote

Those who voted in the Affirmative are Messrs Avery, Boaz, Colley, Dunlap, Gowan, Jones, Karns, Keeley, Maguire, Nelson, Pitts, Seibert & Trucksess 13

In the Negative - None

Mr Keeley offered the following resolution

Resolved That Durham & Co be authorized to complete the Cupola on the engine house in the 1st ward, the cost not to exceed the estimate of the Civil Engineer

Adopted by the following vote

Those who voted in the Affirmative are Messrs Avery, Boaz, Colley, Dunlap, Gowan, Jones, Karns, Keeley, Maguire, Nelson, Pitts, Seibert & Trucksess 13

In the Negative - None

Mr Seibert at the request of the Street Commissioner notified the Council of the appointment of Richard Weeks as Deputy Street Commissioner. Which appointment by consent of the Council was confirmed

Mr Nelson moved That the City Clerk be authorized to draw a warrant in favor of R Harbison for the amount due from the City for grading and gravelling the Side walk on Maryland Street between Mississippi and Tennessee Streets

Which motion prevailed

On motion of Mr Dunlap the Council adjourned until Tuesday evening next at early candle lighting

Attest

James N Sweetser  
City Clerk

James McCreedy Mayor