

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
COMMON COUNCIL.

ADJOURNED SESSION.

CHAMBER OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS,
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15TH, 1866, 7½ O'CLOCK, P. M. }

The Common Council met pursuant to adjournment.

Present—His Honor, the Mayor, John Caven, in the chair, and the following members :

Councilmen Brown, Coburn, Emerson, Glazier, Grosvenor, Jameson, Kemker, Loomis, MacArthur, Schmidt, Seidensticker, Staub and Thompson—14.

Absent—Councilmen Allen, Colley, Fletcher and Kappes—4.

His Honor, the Mayor, announced that the first business in order was to receive the report of the Select Committee on the equalization of the assessment for the year 1866.

By Dr. P. H. Jameson, Chairman of Select Committee :

INDIANAPOLIS, August 15, 1866.

To the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Indianapolis :

GENTLEMEN:—We, the undersigned, to whom was referred sundry complaints in regard to the assessment of 1866, have examined the same, and now report to your honorable body our action in the premises :

1st. Gideon Lloyd, improvement on lot 11, in square 14, we have reduced \$200.00. The ground is assessed the same as the adjoining ground.

2d. Mary N. Hubbard owns lots 46 and 47 in out-lot 100, assessed at \$400, which we have reduced \$100 each, making it conform to the balance of the real estate in the vicinity.

3d. Andrew Curtis complains of the assessment of improvements on lot 2, in out-lot 4, the same having been erroneously assessed at \$3,000, which we have changed to \$2,000. The ground is assessed no higher than that adjoining it, and in that we have made no reduction.

Andrew Curtis also complains of the assessment on the south half of lot 11, in square 64, and improvement. We have examined the same and find that the improvement is low enough, that the ground is no higher than the ground adjoining his, and therefore report that the same stand as assessed.

4th. We have also examined the complaint made by S. Kahn, on lot 4, in out-lot 62, and have reduced the improvement \$1,000, leaving the improvement at \$3,000, which we believe to be fair and just. We have made no reduction on the ground, as that is assessed no higher than the ground adjoining it.

5th. We have also examined the case of Rev. John A. Brouse; he was over assessed last year, evidently by mistake, too much, which has since been refunded to him by your honorable body. He is not assessed any higher this year than the property holders adjoining him.

6th. E. H. Mayo & Co. complains of an over assessment on personal property and asks an abatement on the same, which your committee cannot recommend under the law as it now stands. We believe the said firm has since been informed by some person, that they were not required to give in the amount of their effects held by them on the first day of January, 1866, as the law requires that they should do, and which they have done, as their statement on file with the City Auditor will show.

7th. James H. McKernan complains that the assessment on "45 feet east of 45 feet west end of lot 1, in square 33," and house, is too high on lot and improvement. We have reduced the improvement on same from \$4,500 to \$3,500, which we believe to be right, but the ground is no higher assessed than adjoining lots.

Mr. McKernan also asks a reduction on lot 9 and improvement, in square 46, and on 95 feet south end of lot 6, in square 72, but we have examined the same and cannot recommend any reduction.

He also asks a reduction on lots 1, 2, 3 and 4 (in McKernan's sub-division), in out-lot 100, which we have reduced \$100 to correspond with other lots adjoining.

8th. Jesse Jones complains that the valuation is too high on 41 feet of parts of lots 2 and 3, in square 54, and the improvement thereon. We have examined the complaint and reduced the value of the ground from \$4,150 to \$3,950, and the improvement from \$4,000 to \$3,300, which we believe to be right and corresponding with the real estate surrounding it

STATEMENT OF REDUCTIONS MADE BY COMMITTEE.

Gideon Lolyd, on improvement of lot 11, square 14, -----	\$200 00
Mary S. Hubbard, on lot 46, in out-lot 100, -----	100 00
Mary S. Hubbard, on lot 47, in out-lot 100, -----	100 00
Andrew Curtis, on improvement of lot 2, in out-lot 4, -----	1,000 00
S. Kahn, on improvement of lot 4, in out-lot 62, -----	1,000 00
J. H. McKernan, part of lot 1, square 33, -----	1,000 00
" " " 1, in out-lot 100, -----	100 00
" " " 2, in out-lot 100, -----	100 00
" " " 3, in out-lot 100, -----	100 00
" " " 4, in out-lot 100, -----	100 00
Jesse Jones, part of lots 2 and 3, square 54, -----	1,250 00
Total deduction -----	\$5,050 00

Yours respectfully,

P. H. JAMESON,
JOHN G. WATERS, City Auditor,
WILLIAM HADLEY, City Assessor, } Committee.
C. F. SCHMIDT,

Which, on motion, was accepted and approved.

By Mr. Brown—Resolution :

Resolved, That the Assessment List as returned by the Assessor for 1866 be, and the same is hereby, accepted and approved by the Common Council of the City of Indianapolis, and that the same shall stand as the assessment for taxation for the year 1866, and that the same be delivered to the City Auditor.

The question being on the passage of the resolution, those who voted in the affirmative were Councilmen Brown, Coburn, Emerson, Glazier, Grosvenor, Jameson, Kemker, Loomis, MacArthur, McNabb, Schmidt, Seidensticker and Staub—13. Noes, none.

So the resolution passed.

By Dr. Jameson, from Finance Committee—Report :

INDIANAPOLIS, Aug. 15, 1866.

To the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Indianapolis:

GENTLEMEN:—The Finance Committee would respectfully report to your honorable body a statement of the indebtedness of the city up to the 20th day of March, 1866, and also a statement of the estimated expenses for the year ending March 20th, 1867.

Orders outstanding March 20, 1866	\$23,244 80
Bonds	27,000 00
Bank Loan	100,000 00
Indebtedness March 20, 1866	\$210,244 80

We have carefully estimated what it will require to carry on the City Government for one year, from the 20th of March, 1866, to the 20th day of March, 1867, which is as follows:

Amount of indebtedness March 20th, 1866,	\$210,244 80
For Police	30,000 00
Street Repairs	25,000 00
Fire Department	25,000 00
Interest on Loan, Bonds and Orders	25,000 00
Gas	15,000 00
Salaries	12,000 00
Jail Expenses	10,000 00
Treasurer's Percentage	8,200 00
Contingent Expenses	8,000 00
Hospital and Pest House	10,000 00
Printing and Stationery	5,000 00
Bridges	5,000 00
Jail and Building	5,000 00
House of Refuge	5,000 00
Detective Police	2,000 00
Street Improvements	3,000 00
Lighting and Extinguishing Street Lamps	3,500 00
Markets	3,000 00
Cisterns	2,000 00
Rent	1,250 00
Gas Fixtures	1,000 00
Fuel	800 00
Removal of Nuisances	600 00
Government Tax on Gas	1,200 00
Amount carried forward	\$416,894 80

Amount brought forward	\$416,894 80
Costs	300 00
Cemetery	100 00
Town Clock	100 00

Making total amount of indebtedness and estimated expenses to 20th of March, 1867.....\$417,394 80
Deducting from this amount the Bonded Debt of the city, which is... 27,000 00

Leaves a floating debt including the expenses of the current year of... \$390,394 80

In our opinion the necessary moneys to meet this indebtedness can be raised as follows:

With a levy of 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. on the current assessment there can be realized.....	\$365,000 00
From Delinquent Taxes.....	20,000 00
From Fines, Licenses, &c.....	10,000 00

Making a total of

Deducting the floating debt and the expenses of the current year as above estimated, will leave a balance in the Treasury March 20th, 1867, of

\$395,000 00
\$4,605 20

It will be seen from the accompanying correspondence with the holders of our Bank Loan that it must be paid within the coming year. This payment will have to be made either from the proceeds of this year's taxes, or from the sale of Bonds at such a discount as will be discreditable to the city and almost ruinous to her finances.

In view of all the circumstances, your Committee earnestly recommend to your honorable body that a sufficient levy be made on the duplicate of this year to absorb the entire floating debt of the city, and that there be adopted after the first of March, 1867, a system of prompt, cash payment to meet all current expenses of the city from that date.

The advantages of carrying out this plan can scarcely be over-estimated. Take, as an example, the current year's expenses at a low estimate, the city pays interest on Bank Debt, Bonds and Warrants amounting, in the aggregate, to \$25,000.00. Besides this, the loss on \$200,000.00 of demand warrants is not less than \$30,000.00. Making an aggregate loss of \$55,000.00, as between the further continuance of the present plan of finances and that recommended by your Committee.

The amount which can thus be saved would reduce our current expenses from two hundred thousand dollars to one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and would pay the expenses of the Police Force, Fire Department and City Lamps, or would enable the city to adopt a general system of sewerage, which would soon drain the entire city.

Your Committee are of the opinion that the foregoing estimate of expenses can be considerably reduced, as follows:

By postponing the purchasing of a new Steam Fire Engine until next year.....	\$5,500 00
By turning off the gas of City Lamps at midnight.....	6,000 00
By postponing the building of the City Jail one year.....	5,000 00
By postponing work on House of Refuge.....	5,000 00
By dispensing with Detective Police Force.....	2,000 00
By doing less in the way of Street Scraping.....	5,000 00
Total reduction.....	\$28,500 00

The saving of the whole or part of this amount will not more than leave a surplus sufficient to enable the city to pay cash after the close of the present fiscal year.

We herewith report an ordinance for the raising of a revenue for the present year.

Your Committee might present additional and weighty considerations in favor of the line of policy recommended, but prefer to leave the further discussion of the same to your honorable body.

Very respectfully,

P. H. JAMESON, }
C. F. SCHMIDT, } *Committee.*

Which, on motion, was received.

Dr. Jameson also presented the following correspondence :

INDIANAPOLIS, July 30, 1866.

Messrs. Fletcher & Churchman :

GENTLEMEN:—By reference to the terms of agreement entered into in regard to the loan of one hundred thousand dollars, made by your bank to the city, it will be seen that the same will expire and the payment of said loan fall due on the seventh (7) day of November next. In relation to which I would ask the following question and request as early a response as may be possible: Provided the city may not be prepared to meet the said obligation at the time specified in the agreement (Nov. 7, 1866,) please state whether the same can be renewed, and if so, the very best terms, and the greatest length of time, for which it can be extended or renewed.

Respectfully,

P. H. JAMESON, *Chair. Com. on Finance.*

INDIANAPOLIS, July 30, 1866.

P. H. Jameson, Esq., Chairman Finance Committee :

DEAR SIR:—Yours of to-day, in relation to the loan we made the city on Nov. 7th last, is received.

At the time we made the loan we fully expected it would be promptly paid at maturity. We are willing to extend the note six months so as to give the city time to make a levy and collect it with which to pay said note. We cannot grant any further extension as we will then need our money. You understand of course our proposition to extend the loan six months, is on condition that the council make a sufficient levy to meet the loan without any doubt, at the expiration of said six months. We could not agree to extend it under any other circumstances.

Respectfully,

S. A. FLETCHER & CO.,

P. S.—We are willing to renew upon the same terms as the original loan was made.

Which, on motion, was received.

Dr. Jameson introduced the following ordinance, to-wit :

AN ORDINANCE to raise a revenue for general and special purposes for the City of Indianapolis for the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six.

SECTION 1. *Be it ordained by the Common Council of the City of Indianapolis,* That there shall be, and is hereby levied, and there shall be assessed and collected for general purposes of the city, one dollar and fifty cents on each one hundred dollars in value of all property for taxation in the general list of taxables for said city for the year eighteen hundred and sixty-six

SEC. 2. *Be it further ordained,* That the further, and additional tax of twenty-five cents on each one hundred dollars in value of all property for taxation in said city, in the general list of taxables of said city for the year 1866, be levied and assessed for the following specific purposes, to-wit: to pay

"all Bonds or Orders" heretofore issued, and appropriations made by, and under the authority of the Common Council aforesaid, for the purpose of procuring and furnishing volunteers and drafted men for the Army and Navy of the United States, for maintaining the families of volunteers, soldiers, substitutes or drafted men, or otherwise to aid the Government in suppressing the rebellion.

Sec. 3. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Ordained and established this 15th day of August, 1866.

JOHN CAVEN, Mayor.

Attest:

C. S. BUTTERFIELD, City Clerk.

Which was read the first and second times.

Dr. Thompson moved—

To amend the ordinance by striking out every thing referring to the extra levy of 25 cents.

Mr. Brown called for the ayes and noes on the adoption of the motion to amend.

Those who voted in the affirmative were Councilmen Brown, Kemker, McNabb, Seidensticker and Thompson—5.

Those who voted in the negative were Councilmen Coburn, Emerson, Glazier, Grosvenor, Jameson, Loomis, MacArthur, Schmidt and Staub—9.

So the motion to amend did not pass.

Dr. Jameson then moved that the rules be suspended and the ordinance read the third time and placed upon its passage.

The question being on the suspension of the rules, those who voted in the affirmative were Councilmen Coburn, Emerson, Glazier, Grosvenor, Jameson, Loomis, Schmidt and Staub—8.

Those who voted in the negative were Councilmen Brown, Kemker, MacArthur, McNabb, Seidensticker and Thompson—6.

So the rules were not suspended, there not being a two-thirds vote.

After considerable discussion on the subject, Mr. Grosvenor moved a re-count of the ayes and noes, on the motion to suspend the rules.

Which was agreed to by unanimous consent.

The question then being on the suspension of the rules, those who voted in the affirmative were Councilmen Brown, Coburn, Emerson, Glazier, Grosvenor, Jameson, Kemker, Loomis, MacArthur, McNabb, Schmidt, Seidensticker, Stanb and Thompson—14. Noes, none.

So the rules were suspended and the ordinance read the third time and placed upon its passage.

The question being on the passage of the ordinance, those who voted in the affirmative were Councilmen Coburn, Emerson, Glazier, Grosvenor, Jameson, Loomis, MacArthur, Schmidt and Staub—9.

Those who voted in the negative were Councilmen Brown, Kemker, McNabb, Seidensticker and Thompson—5.

So the ordinance passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

By Mr. Grosvenor—Petition :

INDIANAPOLIS, Aug. 15, 1866.

To the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Indianapolis :

This petition of citizens residing and doing business on South Illinois street, respectfully sets forth that our health and business are so materially affected by the filthy and dirty water from the Hotels, Palmer and Bates House, that we have to appeal to you in our distress. While we are obliged, and very properly, to keep our premises clean, and would be severely fined if we throwed into the street one bucket of such filth, said Hotels daily run both side gutters full. Citizens from other parts of the city daily complain to us that they cannot call on us to trade on account of the stench from those gutters. At this time we are more alarmed in regard to our health. We have become accustomed to see our business injured, but when the cholera is about to visit us, we ask you to protect us by stopping said Hotels from committing this nuisance.

E. Howard,
Roll & Smith,
D. C. Duvall,

Edwin May,
C. Montgomery,
And 54 others.

Which, on motion, was received.

By Dr. Thompson—Petition :

INDIANAPOLIS, Aug. 15, 1866.

To the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Indianapolis :

The undersigned most respectfully represent to your honorable body that the gutters of South Illinois street are daily filled with the garbage, slops and other matters from the large Hotels situate at the corner of Washington and Illinois streets to such an extent as in the views of the Physicians and citizens of said street, to be highly detrimental to the health and comfort of the occupants of said street.

They further represent that the stench arising therefrom is each afternoon and evening so intolerable that many persons retire therefrom to avoid its sickening and disgusting vapors; and if such causes are at all productive of cholera, may well fear its speedy visitation. And as an earnest of the faith and earnestness of the petitioners, they further propose and pray your honorable body that if you regard it as unjust that those who are the causes of

this nuisance should not be compelled to abate it, that you shall levy a tax upon us for the purpose of hauling their slops, &c., away for them.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Whitesell & Van Buskirk,
J. F. Ramsay,
Carr & Mick,

H. Semmons,
Wilknes & Hall,
And 30 others.

Which, on motion, was received.

In relation to which, Mr. Grosvenor, offered the following motion :

That the Police be instructed to stop the deposit and flow of filth in the gutters on Illinois street, between market street and Pogue's Run.

Which motion was adopted.

By Mr. MacArthur—Petition :

INDIANAPOLIS, Aug. 15, 1866.

To the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Indianapolis :

GENTLEMEN:—We, the undersigned, respectfully petition your honorable body to have gas posts and fixtures erected on north Tennessee street, between Michigan street and the Corporation line, and your petitioners will ever pray.

J. H. Mull,
E. Blake,
James Frank,

John Roberts,
Julia A. Woolen,
And 16 others.

Which, on motion, was referred to the Committee on Gas.

On motion of Mr. Brown the City Clerk was directed to furnish the city papers with a copy of the report of the Finance Committee, and request them to publish the same.

On motion the Council adjourned.

JOHN CAVEN, *Mayor.*

ATTEST :

C. S. BUTTERFIELD, *City Clerk.*