

Highland Park News.

VOL I

HIGHLAND PARK, ILL., MAY 7, 1897.

NO 23

CITY COUNCIL.

Only four aldermen assembled, Messrs. Cushman and Bock being absent, but room was filled with citizens. There was some discussion of the progress made by Contractor Barstow on Central avenue. Pumping Engineer Laing reported the "pumpage" for the month, and also his annual report. For April he had pumped:

Total gallons.....	3,396,944
Daily average.....	113,831
Sold to railroad.....	600,000
Total oil used.....	3,312
Daily average.....	110

FOR THE YEAR.

Total gallons.....	65,356,316
Railroad had.....	8,361,944
Highwood had.....	2,006,510
used.....	54,987,862

Bids were opened for paving, putting in water mains and sidewalk on Vine ave., west of tracks, as follows:

Laing & Happ.....	\$7,156.05
C. M. Porter.....	6,839.80
Henry Rath.....	7,024.95

T. B. Vaughn bid on the sidewalk only. After considerable discussion the contract was awarded to Laing & Happ, being Park men, and that Mr. Porter's bid for excavating was so low he could not do the work. Mr. Rice voted to give it to the lowest bidder.

Alderman Phillips had a resolution to show future generations that this council was ready for wholesale improvements, but the people opposed it, and wanted all the names of the objectors recorded in full and it passed.

The ordinance on salaries fixed them for the year as follows:

City Clerk.....	\$1,000
City attorney.....	500
Supt. of streets.....	600
Marshal.....	600
Night police.....	600
Supt. of water works.....	900
Asst. Supt. of water works.....	780
City engineer, \$5 per diem for work done.....	
City collector and treasurer, the commissions fixed by law.....	

The votes were canvassed practically as reported at the time of the election, only that C. W. Kirk, J. Happ and one other person each had one vote for mayor. Mr. Zook, one for attorney and one man had a vote for alderman out of his ward. Mayor Evans then read his farewell mes-

sage to the council, told them what had been done, etc., and then the council adjourned sine die at 10:45 p. m.

The new council signed something, Clerk Finney swore them in to support the Constitution, tell the truth, etc., and the mayor called them to order, and ex-Alderman Rice sat down and saw the thing start off. The mayor made the following appointments: Police, John P. Kline; water works engineers, Laing and Scott; city engineer, H. L. Bowen; superintendent of streets, E. J. Nolan; fire marshal, Andrew Bock, and they were all speedily confirmed, and as it was 11:15 p. m. they adjourned till next Monday night, May 10th.

The new aldermen, Col. Davidson and Mr. Cobb took their places quietly and looked on to get the hang of the school house. The following are the messages of the mayor to the old and new councils:

GENTLEMEN OF THE CITY COUNCIL:
It may be well for us to take a brief review of the last two years, covering what may be styled the first term of my administration as mayor:

GENERAL ACCOUNT.

Balance May 1, 1895.....	\$1,053.66
Balance May 1, 1896.....	2,029.34
Balance May 1, 1897.....	4,174.98

BONDED INDEBTEDNESS.

Outstanding bonds, May 1, 1895.....	\$20,000.00
Outstanding bonds, May 1, 1897.....	18,000.00

For general improvement.
No new bonds were issued during the last two years.

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT BONDS.

Outstanding May 1, 1895.....	\$85,614.08
Outstanding May 1, 1896.....	61,469.95
Outstanding May 1, 1897.....	52,777.58

Of this last amount \$22,468.66 were issued during the past year, and but for these the amount of special assessment bonds would be only \$30,308.92 instead of \$85,614.08, as two years ago, which shows how rapidly the city pays off its special assessment bonds at the rate of \$17,652.58 per annum.

WATER PLANT.

Five years ago this city had, practically, no water plant, and many good citizens were reluctant to have the city establish one of its own—but wiser counsels prevailed and our \$50,000 plant was put in. Today it is an honor and credit to the city, besides being a valuable and paying institution. Two years ago May 1st, 1895 the water account was in debt as follows:

Account overdrawn.....	\$1,208.33
Outstanding unpaid bills.....	476.95
Unpaid meter account.....	2,940.00

Total indebtedness water acct..... \$4,625.28

Today the water account stands thus: May 1st, 1897, balance on hand \$258.59, having received only \$1000 from the general fund. This is a condition of things in which not

only every member of the city council, but every citizen may take a legitimate pride.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Two years ago the city had practically nothing by way of a fire department. Now we have a well-organized department of three companies, embracing in all twenty-four men, and the fire marshal, Andrew Bock.

The members of these several companies are, through the generosity of our public-spirited citizens clothed with hats, coats and belts.

For this organization and putting on an efficient footing of the department, the city is largely indebted to Marshal Bock.

I wish to thank this council for their kindness and help to me in the last year.

GENTLEMEN OF THE CITY COUNCIL:

As we start out on the work before us, we must exercise the utmost care and earnestness, not only on account of the business depression, but also in view of the flattering record, so successfully established by the retiring council which it is our duty to maintain.

We are sometimes asked: "What becomes of the money paid in taxes?" but it must not be forgotten there are salaries of the city officials, the maturing bonds, interest, and similar regular fixed obligations to be met, amounting to \$7,000 per annum. The city creates nothing. The city cannot support the people—but the people support the city. The city, in fact, is a pauper; it raises no corn—digs no gold—therefore it may levy and collect taxes, which we must expend with the utmost care, wisdom and economy.

THE CITY BUILDING.

It is not a credit to our city. The fire department, with over \$1000 worth of valuable apparatus and equipments, now merely housed in an open shed, subject to theft, mutilation or destruction, should be properly housed.

The library is thrust into a small, inconvenient, and wholly inadequate room, while it should have ample, well-lighted and easily accessible quarters.

The clerk's office is not convenient, and the provisions for protecting from destruction by fire many valuable records, maps, plats, etc., of the city, whose loss would be almost irreparable, are wholly inadequate. Hence, this council should at once take measures to enlarge the city building to meet these needs; not wait till heavy fire losses are inflicted and then hasten to make these improvements—illustrating again the folly of waiting till after the horse is stolen before the barn is locked.

The special assessment fund will have, after the paper due this year is paid, a surplus of some \$8000 or \$10,000 lying idle. What shall we do with it? We cannot call in bonds before they are due. Then why not use this money to purchase our own new bonds, as those for the projected Vine avenue improvement, at 95 cents on the dollar, about their present market value, thereby making \$400 or \$500, the same to be used in purchasing material which our street superintendent can use to keep our streets which have been improved in thorough repair, such as Laurel, Prospect and others.

The water plant, as has been shown, is a paying investment, and will, a year hence, have about \$2000 to its credit; about that time our street lighting contract with the Electric Light company will expire. I suggest that we plan to combine our water and street lighting systems—put in a complete arc lighting equipment in our pumping station, and at every little extra expense over what we are now paying, operate both the water and street lighting plants, thereby saving a large portion of the nearly \$3000 we are now paying for street lighting, to be expended in improvements and repairs on our streets.

Let us plan in all our improvements to have the work done by our own citizens, and the material used furnished by them as far as possible.