

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

There was a called meeting Monday night, as there had been one the Friday night before. Provision is being made for a hose cart, ladders etc. in the Port Clinton district, with a good volunteer company, as a part of the fire department of the city. An ordinance is on the tapis to tax foreign insurance companies two per cent on their gross receipts, for a fire department fund. The street sprinkling districts have been redivided, the east side Central avenue going to Mr. Tillman. The water tower is to be painted. The contract for 900 feet of big sewer pipe went to Mr. Williams.

A long discussion was held, blue prints etc. shown of the big fill on the Sheridan Road near the Ravinia line and the contract finally let to Mr. Noerenberg for \$323 for the rebuilding of the south east side of the culvert. A sidewalk, plank of course, was ordered on the east side of St. Johns place, opposite Mr. Vaughn's, to let neighbor Wycoff out down on to Vine avenue.

The famous cement sidewalk ordinance was read and after elaborate amendments was passed. While it takes in the east side pretty generally, it exempts Lake, Forest, Dale, Hazel avenues and Linden south of Mr. Boulton's corner. Mr. Cushman made a strong effort to have the clause permitting new stringers in repairing plank walks in the cement district, stricken out, but by the casting vote of the mayor it was stricken out, and there can be no new stringers put in, at least till there is a new council.

COUNCIL NOTES

The aldermen have a very laudable purpose to make our fire department as efficient as possible, and to that end they propose to tax gross receipts of foreign fire insurance companies two per cent payable in July of each year. They have wisely ordered a fire company properly equipped at the north end of town.

The city's white elephant is that big fill down near Ravinia on the Sheridan road. Alderman Cushman made a cogent plea for a thorough job; costing from \$1,000 to \$1,500 at once, and Mr. Phillips raised the pertinent question "whence, or how the cash." It was a long and exhaustive discussion; that is it exhausted our patience. Col. Davidson hit the nail on the head when he said, if the culvert was extended some 15 feet on either end, it would do away with the wings. That is the policy exactly: extend those culverts and keep filling in year after year and extend the culverts again if necessary

and by and by the fill will be so broad and solid it will stand for all time. We have been ten years filling in our little driveway, at a total expense, cash out, of about \$50 and now it is good for a century. One bridge would have cost more than that. That is the way also railroad companies do, and they know which is cheapest and best to adopt. Bank walls and retaining walls are very rare, because very expensive and very uncertain. We never approved or favored these two bridges up on St. Johns avenue, only as temporary affairs: in the end we shall put in good culverts and finish the fills, now that they are so near done.

There was a protracted debate on the new cement sidewalk ordinance, the general plan adopted being to put cement walks on the main avenues east, and on Linden avenue north from Mr. Boulton's corner to the school house street, all the other north and south streets to use plank, but the plank should be kept good, and some of them are in sad condition. Mr. Smoot made a capital speech against permitting Hazel avenue to have plank, especially after Prof Gray's long stretches of cement, with Messrs. Kirk and Cushing's have been built, but Mr. Cushman's pathos was too much for him and Hazel avenue has plank. Alderman Cobb made a good point when he suggested that the sidewalk on some of these east and west avenues go from the railroad down to "tide water" on the lake. Would not such a walk make a royal place for an aquatic toboggan chute; or a coasting field for the boy's in winter?

At 11.30 after a harmonious meeting, the conscript fathers, as Cicero used to call them, adjourned.

Earl H. Purdy, the bicycle expert, caught some good ideas while in Philadelphia; hence, you will find two fine tandems at his warehouse, No. 17 St. Johns avenue, also one superior lady's wheel, all of which will be rented at reasonable rates to responsible parties. No dead-beats or wheel "busters" need apply.

There is some very reckless driving by delivery boys and reckless riding by coachmen and others, in our streets. The driving can be seen almost any day to and from the alley between Raffin & Bakers' and Schumacher's drug store. Some day women and children will be killed through this recklessness.

Don't fail of attending the County fair at Libertyville, Sept. 14th to 18th. We shall be there, if we have to go as the girl down East went to get married—afoot and alone.

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