

The Old Council.

It being the last meeting of the old and the inauguration of the new council the room was full of men, many prominent citizens being there, but there are only half seats enough; half a dozen good settees would be very nice up in that hall for such assemblies. The old was called to order at 8:40 o'clock, and then some fifteen to twenty minutes were spent by the clerk reading the minutes of past meetings.

It seems there had been several meetings at one of which there was no quorum, and at others little done. The "exercises" began with a somewhat drastic letter from N. O. Moore of the north end about that disgraceful sidewalk business up on Bloom street. His letter, and one from Zinn, of Milwaukee, on another matter went to an early grave in the street and alley committee. Mr. Watson, of the Railroad Men's Home wants a cart and hose for fire protection to the home and that end of town. The new council will take it up probably.

City Collector Dooly reported collected from special assessments during the year \$11,201.75 and a delinquent list of \$11,551.87. Forest avenue is to be macadamized, a roadway 16 feet wide and costing, estimated, \$7,003.00, from Lincoln to Prospekt avenues. That lets the Sheridan road folks out without going around by and over that monstrosity the St. Johns avenue improvement, so-called. An ordinance for a cement side-walk on some portion of Sheridan Road south was vetoed by Mayor Cobb and immediately passed over his veto.

Grant read a report on the financial condition of the city, said the old council had lived within its income, and then in closing, discharged a volley at the late campaign speakers and writers, saying they had "maliciously circulated, for campaign purposes I guess," false reports, when Mr. Greenslade promptly and properly called him down for using such language in a council report and it was stricken out.

The contract between the city and the Northwestern railroad folks for a viaduct under the railroad on Vine avenue has been signed, the city paying \$1,200 cash, and hauling away so many cubic yards of earth, and work will soon begin. This will let the west side high school pupils get to school without crossing the tracks on grade.

Mr. McCaffrey said the Northwestern company had been laying its tracks on Elm place and he wanted them ordered off, and they were ordered.

The bills were passed and ordered paid. Greenslade asked why there were more special police the day before election than election day itself. Mayor Cobb said it was to prevent the town and telegraph and other poles being plastered over with campaign literature, posters, etc. But for all that the town was soon profusely covered with the disgraceful attack on Mr. Kirk, placards by the bushel everywhere. But then perhaps the special police were not instructed "agin" that disreputable stuff.

It being about 10:30 o'clock p. m. they voted to canvass the returns of the recent city election, Clerk Finny, McCaffrey and Clampitt acting as tellers. During the fifteen to twenty minutes that was going on Rice and Kirk told stories and some one else furnished the laughing. After the tellers reported the Evans ticket elected, Grant moved a vote of thanks to Mayor Cobb and his honor said he appreciated their sentiments etc., and then the council adjourned sine die, or committed hari-kari, and so passed into history.

New Council.

While the members of the new council were getting into place, Clerk Finney laid a fine bouquet of bright beautiful carnations on the desk of Alderman J. Burdette Woodruff, who with characteristic thoughtfulness and courtesy distributed them among his associates in the council, and other officials, members of the press, etc., and some one said this might be known as the "Carnation Council."

Mayor Evans called to order, and the bonds of the several officials were read and approved, John C. Duffy's, city treasurer, \$40,000, being the largest. The mayor read his brief address, and named his committees, when attorney Smoot presented an ordinance amending the old council's big salary ordinance, passed evidently when the old administration expected to be re-elected. The ordinance was passed at once unanimously, attested by the clerk and approved and signed by the mayor. It fixes salaries as follows:

Clerk	\$1,000
Attorney	500
Treasurer	500
Auditor	150
Foreman on streets.....	600
City marshal.....	600
Policemen, each.....	600
Supt. water works.....	1,000
Asst. Supt. water works...	780
Fire marshal and firemen	50

Fire marshal and firemen cents an hour while on duty. No other compensation to be paid by the city.

After naming marshal, policemen, etc., the council adjourned until Tuesday evening, May 4, 1901.

City's Expenses.

City Clerk Finney presented to the retiring council last Tuesday night the most full, elaborate and complete financial exhibit of the city ever presented. It ought to be published in full for the use of every voter in Highland Park. You can see what each department has cost in detail, and judge for yourselves whether the expenses are too high or not. From it we learn that the city attorney's office cost us about \$440 beside the attorney's salary of \$500, or a total of \$940. Among some of the items of this extra expense bill are the following:

Attorney's expense bill..	\$ 10.60
Typewriting.....	17.34
Traveling expenses.....	37.29
Typewriting.....	128.84
Assistants.....	210.61
Expert witnesses.....	35.30
Total.....	\$437.98

In the water works department the accounts were as follows:

Superintendent's salary....	\$1,000
Asst. Superintendent.....	780
Helper.....	592
Outside labor.....	60
Total.....	\$2,432

That is a pretty big bill for our water service. It certainly should be kept below \$2,000. The fact is, our water rates are too high and should be reduced so as not to tax the people and then look about for some way to expend the money. It has been extravagant.

The Mayor's Message.

We think the general verdict will be that Mayor Evans' Message Tuesday night was a business man's message. He said to us once that he was rather proud of the fact that he could not make a long speech. His message was brief, terse and for business only. After a few words of

general introduction, he emphasized these points.

First his desire for a strictly business administration, and such as a prudent practical business man conducts for himself. Then he called attention to his old idea of the city enlarging the water plant so as to do its own street lighting, as Winnetka and some other cities are doing so successfully.

He then called attention to the need of immediate repairs on the cedar block pavement on Central west and the macadam on Central east, and the old dead trees in the parkways of that street replaced with live ones. When these things are seen to, other matters will come along, but that is enough for now.

He has not laid out the work for all summer, but just enough for now; he will be here every week in the year and take up the needs in their natural order.

GENTLEMEN:—My thanks are due to you and through you to the people of this city for their confidence in me as shown at the recent city election. I also feel that being called a third time to this high office has greatly increased my responsibilities and duties.

I am specially anxious to make this a business administration; that we deal with the affairs of the city as we would with our individual business matters, treat the city as an individual.

The prudent individual does not live up to his income every month; he lays by a certain amount for emergencies which his experience has taught him are sure to come, and come many times when least expected. So the city should not expend every month the full allowance of any particular fund for that month. Certain seasons of the year will naturally call for a larger expenditure than other seasons; and some unforeseen demand may be made for a larger expenditure than was anticipated, which can be met if that fund or department has a reserve on hand for such special use.

Thus, if the income of any fund is, say \$100 a month, it might be wise to expend only \$80 of that amount and leave the balance as an emergency reserve fund. By so doing any special necessary repairs will not be delayed for lack of funds, and the city made to suffer loss or inconvenience.

I have on previous occasions urged the enlargement of the water-works plant so as to do our own street lighting, and I again repeat the suggestion. Highland Park led Winnetka at one time in having its own complete water-works plant before Winnetka had anything of the kind. Now Winnetka has its own water-works plant and its own electric light

plant combined and in successful and satisfactory operation.

I have estimates and figures for a similar combined plant in this city, made by a competent engineer, to submit to the council at any time the aldermen may desire them.

I also call your attention to the following improvements which seem to demand immediate attention. The cedar block pavement on west Central avenue has been down about five years, with few or no repairs during all that time. It now needs a new coat of tar and gravel to preserve it.

Also Central avenue east macadam has been down about the same length of time and, aside from the ordinary care given the streets, its only attention was one redressing of stone and rolling paid for out of the unexpended balance left over from the original assessment. As you well know these streets have been subjected to an unusual amount of heavy traffic. Hence they need early attention. Also the dead trees in the Central avenue parkways should be replaced by live ones.

These seem to be the most pressing claims upon our attention now, others will present themselves as the season passes.

Standing Committees.

The following are the members of the several committees for the present fiscal year, May 1 to April 3, inclusive.

FINANCE.—M. Moses, F. D. Everett, G. S. Brand.

ADULTING.—A. C. Clampitt, F. Greenslade, G. W. Roberts.

FIRE AND WATER.—F. Greenslade, J. B. Woodruff, A. C. Clampitt.

POLICE.—G. L. Brand, M. Moses, G. W. Roberts.

JUDICIARY.—J. B. Woodruff, G. C. Brand, E. A. Warren.

PRINTING.—G. S. Brand, F. D. Everett, F. Greenslade.

STREETS AND ALLEYS.—F. D. Everett, G. S. Brand, E. A. Warren, J. B. Woodruff.

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT.—E. A. Warren, M. Moses, J. B. Woodruff.

SEWERAGE.—G. W. Roberts, A. C. Clampitt, M. Moses.

That is a very excellent list. Evidently the mayor sought to put each alderman where his special talent best fitted him to render the most valuable service to the city. There is no votation, no favoritism, no rewarding friends and punishing enemies and no red tape. All these have been pushed aside and a list of committees made up for service. Thus Mr. Moses, one of the cities tried, true and most successful financiers is at the head of the finance; N. W. Everett, who knows as much or more about streets than any other man in the city heads streets and alleys, while Mr. Greenslade, an expert on water matters heads the fire

and water, and so on through the list. It will impress the people as a rarely excellent arrangement and one that promises much for the city of Highland Park.

An exchange says that an editor once applied at the door of Hades for admission. "Well," replied his sable majesty, "we let one of your profession in here many years ago, and he kept up a continual row with his former delinquent subscribers, and as we have more of that class than any other we have passed a law prohibiting the admission of editors."

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