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# ST. JOHNS REVIEW

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Devoted to the Interests of the Peninsula, the Manufacturing Center of the Northwest

VOL. 2

ST. JOHNS, OREGON, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1906.

NO. 52

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## COUNCIL

Meets in Regular Session and Transacts Routine Business.

Last Tuesday evening found all the members of the city council in their seats when the mayor rapped for order.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved with a slight correction in the amount of the bill of N. A. Gee.

J. M. Rogers, manager of the chemical department of a Portland fire apparatus and supply house, was present, and spoke in regard to insuring the payment of the chemical engine that has been stored at the hose house. Although no arrangement had been made for the purchase of the chemical, and the council at a recent meeting had notified the agent that the engine was at his risk because no funds were available for its purchase, Mr. Rogers began at once to arrange for the details of payment. By the trend of his talk the spectators received a warning that the chemical was to be purchased. All that he wanted to know was that the firm he represented would be sure of their pay for the machine. At the conclusion of Mr. Rogers' remarks he was informed by the chair that the matter would be taken up before adjournment.

Permission was given W. B. Evans to build a woodshed in the rear of his residence lot on Ivanhoe street, provided the same is inclosed with corrugated iron.

City Attorney Greene presented a communication reporting favorably on granting the veto power to the mayor. Ald. King was in favor of extending the veto privilege to the mayor, and argued to this end. On motion of Ald. Bredeen it was laid on the table by a vote of 5 to 1.

A communication was received from A. H. Maegley of Portland, accompanied by a certified check for \$75, offering to buy \$1,500 of the city improvement bonds at face value and accrued interest from May 1, 1906, and to pay for same in warrants issued on the Philadelphia street sewer. Mr. M. stated he had enough warrants on hand to cover \$1,500 worth of the bonds, and any difference in excess of this amount would be paid in cash. The proposition was unanimously accepted and the matter turned over to the city recorder to be closed.

By a unanimous vote the council refused all overtures to compromise in the suit threatened against the city by one Hyland for injuries alleged to have been received by reason of a fall over an embankment.

The fire limit ordinance was read by title a second time and placed on its final passage. It appears elsewhere in this issue.

The ordinance taxing the telephone, electric light and electric railway poles and wires in the city limits, which had been prepared by the city attorney, came up for its first reading, and met with able-bodied opposition from Ald. Raser. He did not believe the measure a just one. It would work a hardship uncalculated upon these struggling corporations. He did not wish nor would he be in favor of oppressing anybody. Ald. Norton combatted the views of Ald. Raser. The tax was a just and fair one. It was in force in other cities, and it was paid by the companies operating the lines. He did not know of anything that would furnish an excuse for the non-payment of the tax. He had made extensive investigations, and no mistake would be made by the council in passing it. Ald. Hewitt was in favor of securing a little income for the city by taxing the poles and wires occupying the streets. He thought the rates fixed a trifle stiff. However, he was in favor of a tax.

After considerable discussion a motion made by Ald. Raser and seconded by Ald. Bredeen that the ordinance be tabled indefinitely was passed by a vote of 4 to 3.

Ald. Norton's effort to force a second reading failed, and on motion of Ald. King the matter was carried over for a week.

Messrs. Peterson, Oiluse and Poff, viewers on the opening of Columbia Boulevard, presented a report finding damages to the extent of \$450. Owing to the overlooking of a small tract of land along the highway the report was referred back to the viewers for revision.

Ordinance No. 126, printed elsewhere in this issue, in regard to the registration of births, was taken up and passed.

On motion of Ald. Norton it was

ordered that the sum of \$45 be transferred from the the general fund to the improvement bond interest sinking fund for the purpose of paying three interest coupons due Nov. 1.

The report of City Treasurer Hall was read, and by a unanimous vote referred to the finance committee.

On motion of Ald. Bredeen and seconded by Ald. Raser a warrant was ordered drawn on the city hall fund in favor of W. W. Goodrich for two and a half per cent of the amount called for for furnishing the plans and specifications for the new city hall, the same to be O. K'd by the finance committee, was carried by a vote of 6 to 1.

The matter of the disposition of the chemical engine was then taken up. At the request of Ald. Hewitt the following resolution was drawn by City Attorney Greene, which was passed by a vote of 5 to 2.

Resolved, That it is the sense of the council that the city purchase the chemical engine installed here by A. G. Long & Co. of Portland, as soon as funds are available to pay for the same, and that the city of St. Johns shall be responsible for the care and safety of said engine until such time.

## FUEL HIGH

Will Cost Plenty to Keep Fire Burning This Winter.

The fuel question is becoming quite a serious proposition with the people of St. Johns and vicinity. The price has gotten so high that it has become a luxury and only the wealthier class can afford to keep fire up all day. There seems to be something sadly out of whack somewhere. In the east where wood is a scarce article and where the same has to be hauled for miles by wagon the price is much lower than it is here. In spite of the long cold winters the average eastern man's fuel bill is greatly below what a St. Johns man has to pay to keep warm. If the weather was as severe in western Oregon as it is east of the Rocky Mountains a St. Johns resident could congratulate himself if he got off for less than a hundred dollars for his year's supply. Why is it? During the past summer several large saw mills of Portland implored the people through the columns of the dailies to come and take the wood away free of charge, and today the river banks are strewn with drift wood and plenty more of it is constantly floating down the stream. The city is practically surrounded by small forests, the wood from which could likely be obtained for cutting it down. Therefore it can be readily seen that it is not the scarcity of the supply that keeps the price up. Is it a lack of horseflesh? This summer numberless teams were at work on the streets and the draymen were not busier more than half the time, and today many of these same teams are eating their heads off in the stable. Therefore, the solution must lie in the price asked for the use of horses and wagons, or because their owners do not know a good thing when they see it. A man and team worked ten hours on street work for five dollars. The same energy employed at wood hauling at present prices would bring in twelve dollars or more.

Coal now sells for \$9.25 a ton. At Coos Bay coal is loaded for transportation at less than \$2 per ton. The best bituminous coal in the world can be purchased at the tippie in Pennsylvania for 85 cents a ton. Who gets the difference?

## Mud Galore.

If there is a way that passengers on the electric line can evade the mud and slush at the usual stopping place on Jersey street will somebody please stand up and proclaim the fact? At present the cars stop in the middle of a lot of slush a couple of inches deep, and the sidewalk is reached in a couple of jumps if the passenger can perform the feat. It has been suggested that the cars could be stopped either a block up or down the street and give the present mud hole a chance to drain off and pack hard.

## For Sale.

One of the best corner lots in Holbrook's addition to St. Johns. Inquire of J. E. Williams, 819 Kellogg street.

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## St. Johns Land Co.

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## St. Johns The Coming City.

With 75 blocks of street improvement under way—with 4 new brick business blocks under construction—with new business and manufacturing enterprises coming every week—and finally and greatest of all, with the adjunct of the SWIFT PACKING COMPANY the great future of St. Johns is assured.

We have for sale choice business lots on Jersey street—lots that will within a year from now be worth twice what we can sell them for now.

## Holbrook's Addition.

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