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

VOL. 3 ST. JOHNS, OREGON, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1907. NO. 13

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COUNCIL

A Lively Session and Considerable Explaining Done.

All members of the city council were present at the regular meeting Tuesday evening. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Goodard Hoffstrand, contractor of the improvements on West Charleston street stated that he was unable to complete his work on account of the inclement weather, and asked for another extension of time for thirty days. Granted.

N. A. Gee, who is grading Leavitt street, was also granted another extension of thirty days' time to finish his work.

A communication was received from W. W. Goodrich, architect on the new city hall, asking for instructions as to the manner of procedure in regard to the work on the building.

This inquiry was the cause of a heated argument and many explanations in regard to the work on the new city building, and brought out many points heretofore not thoroughly understood. It was clearly shown that matters in regard to the new building were not in as good shape as they might be. Youngferdoff & Son, who had the contract, had turned it over to their bondsmen, who, it is understood, desired to assign it to the city. It is alleged that much of the material is not paid for and that the wages of some of the workmen have not been paid. The inclination on the part of some of the city officials to agree to the proposition of the bondsmen and take over the contract caused the minority to carry the necessary ammunition needed.

The reading of the architect's communication brought Ald. Norton to his feet with the inquiry: "What date does this letter bear?" "Today, the 5th," answered Recorder Thorndyke.

"Has this letter anything to do with the conspiracy of a few days ago?"

"There was no conspiracy," answered Attorney Greene. "The plan is to push the work on the city hall. I understand it is to be done by the bondsmen of Youngferdoff & Son, to whom they have assigned the contract."

"That may be, but notices were printed several days ago and arrangements made to take the contract out of the hands of the bondsmen," said Ald. Norton.

Mr. Norton also wanted to know by whose authority this was done and why so much haste had been exercised. It was the secretive manner in which the plans had been laid that bothered him.

Ald. King stated that he knew of no conspiracy, and claimed that if it had not been for the minority in the council the new city hall would have been completed long ago.

Foreman Enwalt, who has charge of the work on the new city hall informed the council that a lack of material and the unfavorable weather had retarded the completion of the work and that the contractors were making as much headway as possible. In fact material that had been ordered some time ago had not yet been delivered.

Recorder Thorndyke asked for permission to speak. He said he did not like the insinuation by Ald. Norton that he was a grafter. He had been doing his duty. He had been requested to draw up and print the notices but declined to do so until he had conferred with others in the city government. He wanted it understood that he was doing his work conscientiously and expeditiously, and it was without the least taint of graft.

Ald. Norton retaliated by asking why such haste was exercised in the preparation and printing of the notices releasing the bondsmen from their liability on the contract? It looked like a conspiracy to him. "The minority," said Ald. Norton, pointing to Ald. Hewitt and Dobie, "have been fighting this city hall proposition all the way through in order to give the city a \$100,000 city hall and pay for it, but by the looks of things it is liable to cost twice that sum before it is completed and the lawsuits settled. I have been sick for the last three weeks," said Mr. Norton, "and I was somewhat nervous when I found out a little underhanded business seemed to be under way. To me it looked like a conspiracy, and I do not think I can be blamed for calling it by that name. I

was simply astounded when I heard the news of this deal. It was when the mayor called at my office and told me the particulars. I asked him if he had signed the papers. He said he had not. I never felt more grateful in my life."

Here Mr. Norton turned to Mayor Hinman and asked: "Mr. Mayor, wasn't you sent for to sign this notice releasing the bondsmen from their contract?"

Mayor Hinman replied that he had been sent for, but refused to sign the paper.

Ald. Hewitt said the whole thing had a queer look, and believed the recorder should be censured for drawing up and printing bills without the instruction and approval of the council.

City Attorney Greene explained that he had been sent for and wrote the notices at the request of the architect of the city hall.

It was finally decided to let the contract alone pending further instructions by the council.

The following bills were allowed: St. Johns Lumber Co., lumber \$2.50

Godsey & Clark, repairing chairs 2.00

G. W. Overstreet, repairing sewer 20.40

The bill for street lighting was referred back for reduction because of no service.

The matter of opening Richmond street was again taken up and a deed from Mrs. Nancy Caples read and accepted, on the condition of the donor paying for recording the same.

In the matter of paying the rent for the storage of the fire apparatus and providing rubber coats for the firemen Ald. Norton thought that, if the charter permitted, the city should bear the expense.

On motion of Ald. Hewitt it was ordered that the bill for the coats and the rent from January 1, amounting to \$43.63 be paid. Also, that the fire department inventory all the apparatus and equipment and file it with the city recorder.

Samuel Cochran asked for and was granted a renewal of his license to sell intoxicating liquors at the New St. Johns Hotel.

Secretary Perkins of the charter commission stated that type-written copies of the new charter would be ready to be placed in the hands of the council at the next meeting.

Ald. Hewitt believed it would be a good plan to acquaint the taxpayers with a financial report of the city's business, and the recorder stated that he was preparing a report that would be ready for the printer next week.

On motion the plumbers of the city were invited to be present at the next meeting of the council to assist in drafting an ordinance governing plumbing in the city.

READING ROOM

Mass Meeting to be Held at the Schoolhouse.

A mass meeting of the citizens of St. Johns will be held at the school house tomorrow (Saturday) night at 7:30 o'clock for the purpose of perfecting the arrangements for establishing a reading room. The committee having the matter in charge has been very successful in interesting every one in the project.

Elegant quarters have been secured in the Holbrook block on Burlington street, and the room has been partitioned off to meet the requirements.

In the matter of subscriptions the committee feel greatly encouraged. M. L. Holbrook has donated \$100 and Laurel Lodge of Odd Fellows at their meeting Monday night voted \$120 to aid in the establishment of a reading room. Several others have expressed a willingness to contribute, and the probability is that the directors will be well equipped financially.

Let all who feel an interest in establishing and maintaining a reading room attend the meeting tomorrow evening. A special program has been prepared for this occasion and a good time is promised.

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