

MARSHFIELD CITY COUNCIL HAS BUSY SESSION

TABLE PHONE FRANCHISE

L. R. Robertson Promises Improvements and Possible Change in Ownership.

The Marshfield city council last night laid the application of R. T. Durret for a telephone franchise on the table for thirty days. As Mr. Durret had informed the council just before the vote was taken that he could not wait more than ten days for action, the tabling of the franchise is taken practically as a refusal. The council's action was prompted by the representations of L. R. Robertson, manager of the Pacific States Telephone Company's exchange in Marshfield, who promised that his company would promptly rebuild the plant here, putting in a modern system, and intimating that local capitalists would probably secure the local exchange or a large interest in it.

Whether the action of the Marshfield city council will affect Mr. Durret's plans for North Bend, where he was recently granted a franchise or not, has not been stated. Whether he will endeavor to have the Marshfield city council reconsider his application soon, or commence work on a system at North Bend and, in case the Pacific States Company has not started the work outlined by Mr. Robertson at the end of thirty days, then urge the Marshfield council to act, remains to be seen.

Opponents Present Views.

Both Mr. Robertson and Mr. Durret addressed the council last night. Mr. Robertson said that he had consulted many local business men and they opposed the establishment of a second system here because of the additional expense it would impose upon them. He said that it would not be competition, but merely duplication. Mr. Durret declared otherwise, claiming that competition would insure better service, and educate more people to use the telephone. He also stated that the Pacific States Company was in bad shape financially and would not improve the Marshfield system. He said that their systems at Eugene, Medford and many other points are in worse shape than the one here.

Councilman Sacchi said that he didn't see any use in granting a franchise to Mr. Durret when there was no guarantee that the city or people would get any benefit from having a second system. He said that if he could be assured that the latest, up-to-date telephone system would be put in by Mr. Durret and that he would provide in his franchise to pay the city a certain per cent of the company's income for the use of the public streets and thoroughfares, he might be in favor of granting it.

Take It Up Later.

Councilman Nasburg said that he was in favor of giving Manager Robertson thirty days in which to communicate with his company regarding the proposed improvements and also to determine whether or not the exchange would be taken over by local capitalists. If, at the end of the thirty days, Mr. Robertson could not give some guarantee of his promises, he was in favor of again considering Mr. Durret's proposition.

Mayor Straw said that he did not believe the claim that the installing of a second system here would force a double telephone expense on the business men without they received ample benefit from it to warrant the expenditure. He said that no one would have a telephone put in until they were certain that they would get their money's worth.

Calling for a standing vote, Messrs. Savage, Sacchi, Nelson and Nasburg voted to lay the franchise on the table. Councilman Lockhart did not vote for or against.

WEATHER SIGNAL TOWER.

Dr. E. Mingus last evening appeared before the city council and requested permission for the government to erect a fifty-foot tower on the rear of the city hall for the purpose of displaying weather signals. Flags will be used in the day time and electric lights at night.

Dr. Mingus said that he was acting for E. E. Beals, in charge of the Government weather department in this section. Mr. Beals believes that he can secure a government appropriation to erect the tower and maintain it if the city will grant him the free use of the site for a period of ten years.

The council expressed a willingness to do this.

WILL ENGAGE CITY CLERK

Council Furnishes Recorder an Assistant—No Reduction in Expense.

The troubles incurred by City Recorder J. M. Upton refusing to assume the additional duties imposed by the adoption of the new system of municipal accounting unless he was given an assistant were provided for by the city council last evening so that everything will run smoothly henceforth, it is believed. It was agreed that the city council should hire a city clerk who should devote his entire time to the recorder's office, collecting money, issuing warrants, taking charge of the council proceedings and to furnish information to citizens who call at the office regarding municipal work. While he will be under Mr. Upton, the latter directing and being responsible for the clerk's faithful performance of his duty, Mr. Upton will be relieved the detailed work and will only have to preside as police judge. It is expected to select the new official so that his appointment can be confirmed at the next meeting of the council. He will probably receive \$100 per month.

Upton Favors Plan.

The matter was brought up last night by Councilman Sacchi who had prepared a statement of the duties of the new assistant, dividing the work. He said that it was his confident belief that the right sort of a man would more than save his salary every month. The plan met with general commendation, Mr. Upton saying that while the new system involved much detailed work, he regarded it as essential to the city's welfare. He said he wished to suggest that before the next city election the city council should amend the charter so that the council in the future could elect their own clerk or recorder. He said that as the council was responsible, he believed it would be best for the councilmen to personally choose the man. He also advocated the election of a police judge but thought this might better be made a position to be filled by the vote of the people at the general election.

No Reduction in Expense.

The plan proposed by Councilman Sacchi at the previous meeting for cutting down the city's expenses was practically passed up last night. The plan did not appear in the minutes of the previous session and was being passed over until Mr. Sacchi called attention to it late in last night's session.

He brought it up in connection with the difficulty he had encountered in trying to cash a warrant that had been issued to him to pay for the new set of books which the city had recently purchased through him. He said that he could not get the money on the warrant without having it discounted ten per cent or more. He said that it was a shame for the city of Marshfield not to be able to pay its debts in full and that unless some arrangements could be made whereby the city employees at least could get their warrants cashed at par, he was in favor of the entire council quitting. He said that the city had about \$1,000 in cash in its treasury and he advocated the setting aside of this and the other income for the future to pay bills or warrants that should be met with cash. Some were in favor of doing this but others wanted to wait, hoping that time would bring things around right. Councilman Lockhart said the financial condition of the country was improving and that he did not see why it would be necessary very long to sell the warrants at a discount when they bore six per cent interest.

Councilman Nasburg said that a change was being made whereby the owners of property adjoining streets that are being improved from time to time would be assessed for the cost of the engineering work. This will make the property owners for whose benefit the engineering work is done pay the \$280 expense of maintaining the department, he said. Otherwise, no change was made in the city's expense account.

KNIGHTS OF FINLAND Grand Ball Saturday night.

JUST RECEIVED, a crate of white and gold crockery. Coos Bay Cash Store.

STREET WORK IS DEBATED

Council Decides Not to Make Improvements Against Property's Owners' Wish.

Whether or not streets should be opened or improved at the expense of the abutting property owners without the consent of the said property owners was the cause of considerable debate in the city council last night. It was brought up by the protest of property owners on Nevada avenue, between Sheridan and Graham against the grading and planking of the street. After much debate, the property owners won their contention and the work was indefinitely postponed.

The protest, signed by nearly all of the affected property owners, was presented by Mr. Smithdoe. At first, some of the officials didn't want to consider it, claiming that it was presented too late. Then Mr. Smithdoe arose and criticised the council rather sharply. He said that the remonstrance had been sent to the city council several weeks ago through W. U. Douglas but had not been presented at that meeting as Mr. Douglas was informed that the matter would not be brought up. The next meeting of the council which ordered the work, he said, had been called without anyone knowing about it. He declared that the council's action wasn't fair.

Councilmen Sacchi, Lockhart and Savage were in favor of considering the protest and conceding it, in view of the large number of signers to the remonstrance.

Mayor Straw said that while wishing to treat the property owners fairly, he thought that it was up to the council to get busy and do some street improvements if it was the intention to make Marshfield a city. He said that there was always a protest against street improvements, or for that matter against almost any kind of improvement where the property owners had to bear the expense. He said the improvement could be paid for in ten annual payments so that it would not work any hardship on anyone but that the improvements would greatly enhance the value of the abutting property and also greatly benefit the city at large.

May Become Moss Backs.

He said that it was necessary to improve some of the streets and that if the council conceded to every protest, no work would be done and that grass might soon be growing in front street and all the residents of Marshfield have several inches of moss on their backs. He said the council should either improve the streets or quit trying to.

Councilman Sacchi said that there were a number of streets that could be improved with the consent of the property owners. He said there would be some protest in all probability but that these could be adjusted by conferring with the protestants. He said that he believed it would be a good thing for the city to finish a few of the numerous street jobs it had started before it opened any more new ones and suggested that the rushing of street improvement begin on Front street and continued through the business district.

Practically all of the councilmen voted to lay the proposed improvement of Nevada street on the table for the time being.

Other Street Work.

Remonstrances against the proposed improvement of 'C' street in West Marshfield and of Laurel street are being prepared to be presented to the council.

The following streets were ordered improved last night:

'B' from Fifth to Seventh street. Prospect avenue from Seventh to Davidson. Seventh from 'B' to Prospect avenue.

The Waterworks Company which was recently ordered to put in a fire hydrant at California and Washington, placed it at California and Broadway. The council last night ordered them to rectify the mistake and place the hydrant where it was ordered.

An application of Robert Marsden to lay a water pipe on Second street to his brewery was laid on the table until the city attorney finds out whether Mr. Marsden has the necessary franchise.

The new ordinance, regulating the fire department, was read and passed last night. It was drafted according to the wishes of the firemen.

ACME BAND'S PRACTICE HIT

City Council Stops It After Attempting to Declare It a Nuisance.

"Resolved, That the Acme Band be declared a nuisance and ordered to cease practicing while the city council is in session."

This was the way that Mayor E. E. Straw last night first put the motion suggested by Councilman Nelson to have the band, which was practicing in a room in the city hall adjacent to the council chamber, cease practicing while the city council was in session. It came right after the opening of the session. City Recorder Upton was reading the minutes of previous sessions and while he keyed his voice up to its highest pitch, he couldn't beat the band. They almost drowned him out and the auditors couldn't understand what he was saying. For several sessions, the same trouble had been experienced in a lesser degree and Councilman Nelson asked Mayor Straw to have the band "quit making that noise."

"I can't make them quit," responded Mayor Straw. "I have tried and as long as they don't accede to my request, I don't propose to issue orders and have my official dignity ignored."

"Well, I make a motion that the noise be ordered stopped," said Mr. Nelson.

"Do you wish to declare it a nuisance," said Mayor Straw.

"Anything to stop it," said Mr. Nelson.

"We have got to do something. We can't transact business with that noise interfering with us," said Councilman Sacchi.

"All right, then," said Mayor Straw and he put the motion suggested by Mr. Nelson as previously stated.

However, City Recorder Upton came to the rescue and prevented any seeming indignity being thrust upon the musical organization and read a resolution that he had drafted and which was as follows:

"Resolved, That the Acme Band be requested to discontinue practice while the city council is in session."

The resolution was passed by unanimous vote and Mayor Straw ordered Marshal Carter to gently, but firmly request the band to stop the noise.

The band, as soon as it finished the piece then in progress, ceased practice.

The matter caused much amusement among the large audience at the council meeting, the council chamber and the recorder's office being filled.

Councilman Sacchi thought that it ought to provide for regular drills and reports from the fire department on the condition of water hydrants, buildings and fire fighting apparatus but the others thought this was too much to expect of a volunteer department which receives no pay for its work.

Sacchi Will Collect.

Owing to the difference of opinion as to who should pay for the lumber used in building street crossings, the city council has informed the lumber companies not to furnish any more material for the city unless the applicant for it has an order from an official. The bills of the C. A. Smith Lumber Company, long before the council, and covering material furnished quite a while ago will be adjusted soon. It was proposed to pay them out of the general fund but Councilman Sacchi opposed this and said that if the council would give him time he would take the bills and try and collect from the benefited property owners where the material was used for crossings. The council gladly gave its consent.

ALL KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS are requested to be at their hall at 12 noon sharp tomorrow.
By order of the committee,
D. L. ROOD.

REMEMBER the opening ball Saturday at the New Temple of the Knights of Finland.

IF YOU have some good potatoes bring them to F. S. Dow.

VOTE for N. C. Medley, Republican candidate for County Assessor.

F. S. DOW wants good potatoes, call for prices.

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REMEMBER—This is a genuine closing out stock sale. When you see the millinery you will pronounce them values even better than you expected.

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And a big bill of films and illustrated songs.

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7:30 and 8:45 p. m.

10c

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