

# WANTS TO GET WATER OFFER LIVELY TIME AT THE COUNCIL

## Mayor Straw Urges Council to Negotiate With Co.—Latter Awaits Case.

(Continued from Page 1.)

Requests from Messrs. Stubblefield and Green, the experts from the Oregon Railroad Commission to investigate the water service on Coos Bay, for data on the matter brought it up for discussion last evening. Mayor Straw insisted on the council opening up negotiations with the Coos Bay Water Company about the purchase of the property but the council took the view that such negotiations might interfere with the appeal to the Railroad Commission, as had been stated by Acting City Attorney Kendall at the previous meeting of the council.

Messrs. Stubblefield and Green requested duplicate copies of all correspondence between the water company and the city, maps showing the hydrants and mains, also showing where the city had ordered extensions of mains and additional fire hydrants, etc. The council ordered that these be furnished promptly.

Councilman Albrecht said that he thought that the city should furnish all possible data to the experts. He expressed regret that the commission as a whole did not come here for a hearing. He said that the commission was on trial in the matter.

Councilman Allen stated that he and City Attorney Goss had conferred with the commission at Salem and that the commission had informed them that they would hold a public hearing later, probably on Coos Bay. He said that the sending of the experts in here to gather data had been suggested by them because the commission could not leave Salem while the legislature was in session. He said the commission had been very courteous and evidenced a desire to do all they could for Coos Bay.

Mr. Goss said that while Marshfield was fortunate in one way in being the first case, they were unfortunate in that the Railroad Commission had to devise plans and a system for the work and it might take a little longer.

Mayor Straw wanted to know if the city could not go ahead and negotiate with the water company about the purchase of the plant, asking Mr. Goss if this would interfere with the hearing by the commission. Mr. Goss did not comprehend him for a little while. Mayor Straw said that he had promised the people to get the matter to a vote and was anxious to get an offer from the Water Company.

Councilman Ferguson said that he thought it was best for the city to keep on the same line, now that they had started the matter before the railroad commission.

Councilman Winkler said that Acting City Attorney Kendall had advised at the last meeting against any such negotiations at this time.

Mayor Straw said that he had been appointing committees for the last three years to try and get an offer out of the Water Company, but that he had failed to get any report. He said he only expected to serve about eleven months more as mayor and that he would like to get something done.

City Attorney Goss said that the city had the Nolan offer of \$150,000. He said that he and City Engineer Gidley in their conferences with J. W. Bennett about the new franchise had been told by Mr. Bennett that the city never again would get as good an offer as Mr. Nolan had made. Consequently they had not tried to get an offer as the people had expressed themselves against the Nolan offer.

Mr. Goss said that it would not do any harm to get such an offer, and in fact it might be a good thing. He said the council could pass a resolution asking for it.

Councilman Albrecht said that the council had not considered negotiations with the company while the case was pending, that Mr. Kendall has advised against it and that they had at the last meeting decided not to.

Councilman Ferguson said that the council met regularly and that they were always willing to receive any offer the company had to make, but he thought it would be well to proceed along the line the council had started.

Finally the matter was dropped. City Recorder Butler and Engineer Gidley are at work providing the data requested by the state experts.

band and voted it down. Councilmen Ferguson, Merchant, Albrecht and Winkler voting against it and Allen voting in favor of the band. The vote came on a motion by Merchant that the petition for the support of the band be denied. He had previously moved that the matter be referred to the finance committee, but Messrs. Ferguson and Allen demurred, saying the council ought to be ready to vote on it now. During the discussion of referring the matter, the clash between Mayor Straw and Mr. Albrecht came up, Mr. Albrecht having started in to urge to refer the petition.

Councilmen Ferguson, Albrecht and Winkler spoke briefly in favor of the band but declared that the city could not afford it. Mr. Ferguson pointed out that the city had to secure a number of things that would more than take the city's income for the year. He said that new fire apparatus had to be bought, a pest house provided, a building erected to house the city's machinery, a garbage plant provided and additional police protection provided to guard against trouble from the likely influx of railroad laborers. He said the band was a good thing, but that the city simply couldn't afford it this year, and that he would contribute \$1 a month to support it.

Councilman Albrecht said that he liked the band and would cheerfully contribute towards its support, but that he doubted the wisdom of the city donating money towards its support, especially when they needed the money for so many other things. He said that the citizens were against high taxes and that signers on the petition asking the council to contribute the \$150 per month had told him that they had literally been forced to sign the petition because they could not appear in the light of opposing the band. He said that the small property owner and wage earner could not stand the high taxes. He said the tax in Marshfield was now 43 mills and that he as a wage earner felt the high taxes.

Councilman Winkler said that he favored the band and thought it a fine thing for the city. Personally, he said, he would contribute \$1 per month toward supporting it. However, he said he had talked with over 100 people about it, many of whom had signed the petitions, and fully one-half of the number were opposed to the city council contributing towards it. He said that the council had to be careful in the expenditure of public money and that they also had to economize to provide actual necessities for the community.

Councilman Allen said that he thought the band ought to be supported by the city. He said that he stood the same as he did last year, and figured it only cost about two bits for each resident of the city. He said they all could afford this much and that one concert would more than repay each individual the cost for the whole year.

Councilman Winkler suggested that he thought the matter of an appropriation of \$1800 a year for the band should be referred to a vote of the people.

Councilman Albrecht also expressed this view, saying that the city charter made it illegal to appropriate more than \$100 without an ordinance or resolution.

Other Views. R. O. Graves presented the petition for the band. He said that over 300 people, including most of the large property holders and taxpayers, had signed it. He said that everyone realized how good a band Marshfield has and the benefit to the community. He said that all of the signers to the petition were genuine and that certainly no one should sign a public document who did not mean to live up to it. He stated this in answer to Councilman Albrecht's statement that some of the petitioners were not actually in favor of it.

Superintendent Tiedgen spoke of considerable length in favor of the band. He said that such an organization needed a fixed and sure income to do its best—that it had to be on a permanent basis. He said that the band was a very efficient one and dwelt on its educational value. He said Marshfield needed such things—that it required more than good streets and clean streets to make a community.

He said that an indefinite something—tone probably expressed it—was needed. He said that the library afforded something along this line and while Marshfield was not as far ahead in this respect as other

towns, it had made a start. He said that the band had an uplifting and ennobling influence on the teachers and pupils and he certainly thought it should be kept up.

I. S. Kaufman said that he had signed the petition but that he favored supporting it by subscription, as he said a few of the people were better able to keep up such things than the bank and file. He said that he was opposed to high taxes as it discouraged investors. Later, he said, that perhaps for this year it might be well for the city to continue its support.

**Mayor Straw Uplifted.** Mayor Straw said he enjoyed many benefits from good music. He jokingly told of his own expenditures for pleasures that did not do him as much good as the band. He said that taxation was the only equitable way to support it. He said that the business and professional men within a few blocks were daily requested to contribute to support this and that and to aid charities. He told about Dr. Hayes and C. D. Shoemaker yesterday raising \$25 to send a man who had been injured in John Herron's saloon before Christmas to the hospital for treatment. By the subscription method, he said, the high non-resident interests escaped unfairly.

C. I. Reigard said that taxation was the most equitable way of supporting the band.

C. R. Peck and J. M. Upton said that it was purely a financial matter for the council to determine whether they could afford it this year. Both said the band was a good thing and that the people generally favored it, but whether the council could afford this year, in view of the fact that the tax levy had already been made, was for the council to determine. Mr. Upton said that in addition to the band, he had urged some time ago that a woman's rest room be provided.

Dr. Toye spoke in favor of the band, saying that the members were contributing their services merely for the love of the music.

**J. Albert Matson's View.**

J. Albert Matson spoke briefly and in favor of supporting the band. He said that the city should support it as a whole. He said that the subscription method meant that ten or twenty business men would have to pay for it, and that it wasn't right to expect so much from the local business men in this line.

J. Wright Wilson spoke in favor of the band, saying it was one of the best he ever heard. Charles Powers, Robert Marsden, Sr., A. Y. Myers and M. C. Maloney also spoke in favor of the band.

### MANY MINDS ON MINERAL.

E. C. Barker, formerly of Coquille, now of Marshfield, was in the city on Tuesday shaking hands with his many friends. He informs us that the sample product of his "mine" at Fairview was sent to three assayers in different cities to determine the nature of his find, and they were as far apart in their judgment of the mineral as the distance between them. One assayer reported a low grade of graphite, another potter's clay, and the third tale. Mr. Barker, although he has parted with some money, is no wiser than before regarding the mineral and its commercial uses.—Coquille Herald.

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## WANT FOURTH STREET OPEN

### Ask That Thoroughfare Be Opened to Coal Bank Inlet—Connect With Road.

C. R. Peck, in behalf of the South Fourth street property owners, presented a petition to the city council last evening asking that Fourth street be improved from Elrod avenue to Coal Bank Slough. The council had declared its intention of improving the street to Kruse avenue but stopped there in order that the Fair Grounds and race track might be saved.

Mr. Peck stated that the total frontage on both sides of Fourth street, between Elrod and Coal Bank Slough, was 6356 feet and that the Southern Pacific owned 2256 feet of this amount. Of the balance, owners of 3150 feet had signed a petition asking that the street be opened through to Coal Bank Slough. He said they favored this because it gave access to navigable water and also because they wished Lockhart street opened between Fourth and Fifth, which would connect up the new through street to town with the county road.

F. P. Norton and others interested in the Fair Grounds race track are opposing it.

The council ordered the city engineer to prepare plans and specifications for opening Fourth and Lockhart as requested, and the merits of maintaining the Fair Grounds race track will be discussed at a later meeting.

### Street Flusher.

City Attorney Goss reported that while the committee was away inspecting fire apparatus they had inspected street cleaning devices. He said they were all in favor of the power street flushers as the most sanitary and cheapest way of keeping streets clean. The cost is less because the machine cleans and sprinkles at the same time. A power flusher costs about \$1250. He said the old broom sweeper was going to pieces. He said that if the experts remained here, the water company might keep up enough pressure to furnish the air pressure needed in the machine. Otherwise, a gasoline engine might be attached. The matter was referred to the street committee.

### Boys Around Saloons.

Councilman Winkler reported that he had received many complaints about little boys being allowed to enter saloons and hang around in there. He asked that Marshal Carter take steps to see that they were kept out. Marshal Carter said that he would.

Mr. Winkler reported that some minor repairs in the entrance to the fire hall had been made by Street Commissioner Lawhorne without any expense to the city.

C. I. Reigard presented a letter from Senator Bourne relative to the city using the government reserve near Coos Head for park purposes. This letter was printed in the Times the other day. Messrs. Reigard, Bennett and Dr. Bartie were requested to continue the negotiations and see what could be done. Mr. Reigard stated that the North Bend city council would cooperate in the movement.

I. S. Kaufman asked that the council take action to straighten out South Fourth street, south of Elrod, the Merchant estate having waived their claims to any portion of the street. The necessary steps were ordered taken.

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