

DOINGS OF CITY COUNCIL

PINE STREET IS TAKEN UP

Council Revives Old Question by Proposed Establishment of Grade—Big Cut

The old controversy over the opening of Pine street was revived last night when the City Council declared its intention to establish a grade on the street preliminary to improving it. Councilman Winkler and Councilman Copple vigorously opposed trying to improve the street now, saying that it would simply make a big ditch 18 or 20 feet below all the houses along the street. They declared it was foolish to try and improve it before the property owners were ready to remove their buildings and grade down their lots, the expense of cutting the street being prohibitive and making the property worse off.

Councilman Ferguson said that a number of the property owners had requested him to take the matter up. He said that to declare intention to establish grade would not cost anything and would bring it up where the property owners could decide for themselves. At the south end of the street, a cut of 18 feet would be made and at the north end, the cut would be about 20 feet.

Other Street Work.
The plans and specifications for improving Fourteenth street from Central to Highland were adopted last night. The street will cost about \$4800.

The question of opening South Front street to the depot was brought up but nothing was done about it.

C. J. Reizard entered protest against contractors being allowed 90 days in which to start street improvements. He said that he would like to see tenth street and Johnson avenue started soon so that they could be completed before rainy weather. Councilman Allen said that 90 days was too long and as a result of it South Seventh street and Second street were being held up too long.

This brought up the question about the reported delay in Hall avenue work. City Engineer Gidley said that there had been no delay, that Contractor Johnson was doing the work as fast as anyone could be expected to do it. R. K. Booth declared that the city never got a faster nor better piece of work than Mr. Johnson was doing on Hall avenue. Councilman Copple said that Superintendent Miller had protested about the delay. Messrs. Albrecht and Ferguson said the city was to blame because it should have more than one street improved leading to the depot.

A. H. Staatsman in behalf of property owners at Fourth and Johnson, asked that the assessment be changed to meet a revision of the lots, but the council couldn't make it.

An ordinance providing for the purchase of Billy Cox's houseboat for a municipal post-office was adopted. The price is \$150.

Waterfront Street.
Councilman Ferguson last evening presented a formal application to the council for a permit to alter his warehouse on the waterfront. Councilman Winkler reported that the waterfront committee had not had time to take up the question of clearing the waterfront and asked for another week.

City Attorney Goss said that to clear the waterfront it would be necessary to pay the costs of all buildings removed.

Mr. Ferguson offered to agree to remove his improvements without expense to the city whenever the rest of the waterfront was cleared, but the council tabled his application.

Mr. Goss said that he had been acting for the Chamber of Commerce in trying to get the slough closed. He said that Capt. Robert and Major Morrow and the P. S. Engineers took the view that Mill Slough was not sufficiently navigable to warrant the War Department paying any attention to it. As to whether the land would revert to the property owners in case it was closed he said would have to be determined by the courts. The bills now pending simply empower the city to close and fill the slough if it wishes.

Notice of intention to construct an eight-inch sewer on Fourth street from Johnson to Kruse and on Kruse from Fourth to Fifth and also on Fourth from Johnson to Golden was given.

Adjourn Two Weeks.
After paying off bills, the council adjourned for two weeks, the next meeting being June 2, when the assessments on the various street projects will be equalized.

TABLE OFFER OF WATER CO.

(Continued from Page 1.)

said, that three or four charter amendments would have to be drafted, one empowering the city to take over the plant, one providing as to how the city should operate it, etc. Then, he said, North Bend would probably have to enact a charter amendment and at least adopt a resolution or ordinance specifying that it would take over the water system there.

In consequence of these matters, he said at least four months would elapse before an election could be held. Then this would be full and in case the voters turned the proposition down, the water company could delay making improvements on account of the rainy weather and another year would elapse before anything was done.

In addition to this, he said, the hearing before the Railroad Commission would bring out much desirable information. For one thing, he said, the report of the two experts, who had gone over the plant for the commission, would be obtained and this would give the city an idea of what would have to be done in the way of improvements in addition to the estimate of the value of the property.

Don't Want a Lemon.

It was suggested that in case the city went ahead with the special election that it would be necessary to have the hearing before the Railroad Commission postponed. Mr. Goss said that he thought that the desire to postpone the hearing before the Railroad Commission was the principal reason that the company had made the tender at this time.

Councilman Ferguson said that while he favored municipal ownership and wanted the city to own the water system here, he did not propose to have a lemon handed to the community. He said that no business proposition had yet been made to the city. No one knew the income the company is now deriving, what it cost to maintain the plant nor what the water supply was. He said the water supply, according to men who were familiar with it, was constantly diminishing. He said that just because the city was getting some land that might prove valuable no reason why the property should be bought. He said, the council had no right to speculate in land. He said, that to buy this old system, which many thought would be a lemon, would probably be a barrier to securing a municipal system that would be what the community needed and desired.

Want Action.

Councilman Albrecht said that he had talked with some of the North Bend councilmen and they were ready to purchase the North Bend system and operate it, buying water from Marshfield. He said that they would pay the increased price for it. He said that he thought \$145,000 was somewhere near the value of the system and while a little high was not beyond reason.

Councilman Copple said that the people wanted action now and he for one was in favor of submitting it to a vote. He declared that the price now fixed was \$23,000 less than the company had asked a year and a half ago. He said that the matter of income and cost of maintenance made no difference to him because water was something the people must have, no matter the cost. He said that he thought it would be well to have the Railroad Commission hearing postponed and submit the matter.

Councilman Ferguson said that it wasn't \$23,000 less than the other offer because the company had secured the income from it for eighteen months.

Councilman Merchant declared he was opposed to doing anything that would interfere with the city's case before the Railroad Commission.

Councilman Winkler said that he didn't have any faith in the Commission and what they would do.

Councilman Ferguson said that the commissioners were public officials trying to do their duty and were entitled to just as much confidence as a member of the council.

Mr. Goss said that the Railroad Commission was very anxious to make a good showing in the Marshfield case as it was the first one under the new public utilities law.

Councilman Merchant said that while the people were anxiously waiting for a settlement of the water question, he thought it best to do nothing that would interfere with the hearing before the railroad commission.

C. H. McLaughlin said that the water question should be settled, as several families had left here recently on account of the water. "Let the

STREET WORK TO GO AHEAD

Council Decides to Make Improvements Without Altering Assessment Plan

The city council last evening decided to go ahead with the proposed improvements of various streets under the old system of assessment. Mr. Goss stated that he did not think the council could change the system without a charter amendment and that it would not be well to do so while the Lapp-North Cedar street case is pending.

L. A. Wheat sent a letter to the council withdrawing from the remonstrance against Johnson avenue improvement. Chas. Sneddon sent in a letter protesting against it. J. B. Sneddon, who was present, said that he thought it was strange now that some of the principal ones protesting against the improvement of Johnson avenue at first were now withdrawing from the remonstrance. After some discussion, the council decided to go ahead with it. Owing to some dirt having to be taken off Eighth street and also Seventh street, Councilman Albrecht suggested that the city start plans for improving them so that the Johnson avenue property owners would not have to pay for the improvement of another street. No action was taken in this regard, however.

Councilman Ferguson proposed the establishment of improvement districts, whereby all the property owners in each district would pay for the street improvements instead of having just the abutting property owners do it. He said that this would distribute the cost over a period of years and make it easier for the property owners.

The council adopted the following assessment for the Eleventh street improvement: From Hall to Ingersoll, \$2.44 per front foot and from Hall to Golden, \$29.93. This does not include the street intersections. The assessment for replanking Hemlock avenue was fixed at 66 cents per front foot with \$79.20 each for the intersections of Fourth, Fifth and Sixth streets.

For Johnson avenue, the following assessment was adopted: For hard paving from Second to Seventh \$4.46 per front foot, the intersections of Second, Fifth and Seventh costing a little over \$1,000 each. From Seventh to Tenth, which will be planked, the assessment will be \$3.455 per front foot.

"I. V. W. go," interrupted Arthur McKeown.

Councilman Albrecht said he would like to see the negotiations continued and may be that Councilman Ferguson could get it rounded into a business proposition.

Councilman Ferguson said that just now the city wasn't buying any water plant. He said that they were appealing to the Railroad Commission to enforce the franchise that the water company held.

Councilman Copple said that Mr. Ferguson was mistaken, that citizens wanted the city to own the plant. Also that Mr. Merchant had been elected on a municipal ownership platform.

Councilman Winkler wanted Councilman Ferguson added to the water committee to negotiate further with the company, but the latter objected.

The estimates of the value of the plant made by City Engineer Gidley and others a year ago were brought up. Mr. Gidley in answer to questions said that the committees couldn't agree on a valuation of the water and mineral rights but that he supposed that his estimate would bring up the total valuation of the system to between \$129,000 and \$130,000.

Councilman Winkler said that as the water company had paid the Flanagan Estate \$25,000 for the water rights, he thought \$145,000 was a fair valuation.

Engineer Gidley's estimate that it would cost about \$60,000 for improvements at once was also brought up.

Councilman Copple argued long in favor of submitting the question of buying now, saying that the water company's statement in its letter that the offer would not be for longer than last night if it was not favorably acted upon. The latter was in response to a suggestion that the matter go over for a week.

Finally, Councilman Ferguson's motion, seconded by Merchant, that the water committee's report be tabled was put to a vote. Councilman Allen in voting said that while he favored municipal ownership, he thought that now was the wrong time to inject a proposition to purchase as the city's case before the Railroad Commission was near a hearing and it would bring out much valuable information that the people ought to have before voting on it.

Councilman Ferguson took the same view, saying that in case the present system proved inadequate, the city of Marshfield would be up against getting a good municipal system, the \$200,000 or \$250,000 farther off from getting a good system. He and Mr. Allen suggested that in case the water company should withdraw its offer, the city could go elsewhere, even Libby, and get as good a supply for less money.

After the vote, Councilman Winkler said he had done his best to hasten the securing of a municipal system for Marshfield as he had promised but he had failed. However, he wanted the people to know it.

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Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been duly appointed administratrix of the estate of John A. Hanson, deceased, and letters of administration on said estate duly issued to her.

Now, therefore, all persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same to me at the office of James T. Hall, 11 Eldorado bldg., Marshfield, Oregon, with the proper vouchers duly verified as by law required, within six months from the date hereof.

Dated this 22 day of April, 1913.
ANNA HANSON

Administratrix of the estate of John A. Hanson, deceased.

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