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MESSAGE IS READ

MAYOR COPPLE OUTLINES POLICY OF ADMINISTRATION

Economy is Watchword and a Necessity, He Says—To Draft More Rigid Liquor Ordinances

To the Members of the Common Council of the City of Marshfield:— Those who framed our charter have seen fit to require of the Mayor, at the beginning of the year, a statement, or review, of the general conditions of our city, together with such recommendations as he may deem expedient.

Due to materially changed conditions the question of revenue has become one of first importance. Our citizens have, most emphatically, approved of an economical administration, and by their votes have demanded relief from excessive taxation. I believe by practicing that same careful economy in managing Marshfield that careful men employ in conducting their own affairs, a considerable saving can be made, so much so that with like economy on the part of those in charge of our schools, the county and the state, a very substantial reduction can be made in the tax levy.

Economy a Necessity.

It is clearly our duty to lead in this matter. We should not forget that the money we are spending, in many instances, comes from the pockets of those who are laboring hard for small wages and can ill afford to part with it. As I view it it is criminal to waste so sacred a fund. I feel confident that you hold similar views and that I shall have your earnest co-operation in this work. I have tried to impress these matters on the minds of all employees of the city. I believe it is possible, with the funds which will be available this year, to meet all current expenses and take up all outstanding warrants. If we can accomplish this we will be in a position to make a substantial reduction in our levy for next year.

May I ask that this be the mark at which we aim? I do not believe the position is well taken that the municipality should set the pace for high wages and high salaries. All cannot share in these benefits, yet all are burdened to supply them. I shall not hesitate, therefore, in the interest of economy to take such action as in my judgment seems reasonable and right.

Should Own Public Utilities

It is not believed that economy alone, however, will give the relief our citizens are seeking. This suggests the second important question I wish to bring before you, namely: The ownership by the municipality of such utilities as can be made to pay a profit into the treasury. This in my judgment promises real relief to our taxpayers.

I believe I do not underestimate the difficulties we will probably encounter in the accomplishment of this, but they can and must be overcome. Other cities have succeeded in the face of equal difficulties. Good sense would dictate, however, that we undertake to acquire these utilities in the order most promising of profitable results.

Pay Heavily for Light.

Marshfield is paying for street lighting alone above \$6500 per annum. When we add to this the sums paid by property owners and business firms for lighting lamp posts our street light bill is more than \$7500. This, in addition to

PLANS FOR WORK

MAYOR R. A. COPPLE ANNOUNCES COMMITTEEMEN FOR 1916

Under New Administration More of Investigation Work to be Done Outside Chambers

Committees of the council for the coming year were announced last evening by Mayor R. A. Copple. The present indications are that in the new administration the committees will be called on to do more of their work outside the council chambers, the idea being to have a few of the members delve into matters and then present them to the others of the council in a definite and explicit manner. This does away with much of the argument and see-sawing of opinions.

Where Put Road Money.

Acting under law, which has since been declared unconstitutional, the corporate limits of the City of Marshfield, have been designated by the County Court a road district, and since this arrangement cannot be changed this year, a considerable sum of money may be available for road purposes within the city. This suggests the possibility of opening such streets as North Eleventh to connect with Sherman avenue in North Bend and the permanent improvement of North Front street without over burdening the property owners on these streets. Perhaps arrangements can be made whereby a part of the cost of making such improvements can be met from this fund. It is to be hoped the property owners on these streets will realize what this means to them and will join with the Council in working them out.

Grading Must be Done.

Commercial, Central, Bennett and Anderson avenue between Fourth street and Eighth street, also Fifth, Sixth and Seventh streets between Commercial avenue and the high land to the south should be graded this season. The unsightly appearance of our town cannot be greatly improved so long as this section, almost in the heart of the city, remains in its present condition. Central avenue from Fourth street to Eleventh street should be paved this season. Broadway north of Market to Birch street should be graded and paved. I have mentioned only those streets the improvement of which I consider most urgent. Others will probably be suggested to you.

Vehicle Tax up Next.

Justice would seem to require that all who habitually use our streets help in some way to maintain them. Under our present system it often happens that those who use the streets most pay little or nothing for the construction or maintenance of them. A vehicle tax might be so adjusted as to equalize this burden. If we can do no more, doubtless we can impose a license fee on those engaged in automobile passenger service on our streets.

Draft Liquor Ordinance

Since it will be necessary for our police force to have a large part locally in the enforcement of the state prohibition law it would seem to be advisable to have a city ordinance, or if necessary, a charter amendment, supporting and perhaps strengthening the state law. There seems to be nothing in the state law forbidding a person from personally carrying intoxicating liquor in any quantity into the city. I believe we should enact an ordinance embodying perhaps the major portion of the state law and further regulating the importation, storage and disposal of alcoholic liquor within the city of Marshfield. Our officers can more successfully enforce the law if we have an ordinance under which

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Finance: H. J. Kimball, E. Bandel and Charles Powers.

Street: Duncan Ferguson, D. L. Rood and G. E. Cook.

Health: G. E. Cook, H. J. Kimball, and Duncan Ferguson.

Light: E. Bandel, C. E. Powers; H. J. Kimball.

Fire and Water: D. L. Rood, G. E. Cook and E. Bandel.

Roseburg Newsdealers Cut Out Liquor Advs.

Find Themselves in Same Position as Did Those of Marshfield Yesterday

Roseburg newsdealers found themselves in the same position as did the Marshfield dealers regarding the handling of newspapers and magazines containing liquor advertisements. The Roseburg Review says: "Local newsdealers suddenly awoke to the fact that the selling of publications carrying liquor advertisements constituted a violation of the prohibition law, and that they were subject to prosecution in the event they failed to eliminate the said booze advertisements from such periodicals as they sold. The penalty for this violation is a fine of from \$100 to \$500.

WILL IMPROVE LAND

A. J. Sherwood has received a letter from the Russ Improvement Company, of Eureka, California, which owns over 2000 acres of rich bottom land near Coquille, which has been ditched and drained. The letter states that L. P. Branstetter will come to Coquille to take entire charge of the property with a view of developing it and placing it on the market.

they may act and under which offenders may be tried in our police court. It will be the policy of this administration to enforce to the letter this and all other laws.

Have your LETTER heads, bill heads, etc., printed at THE TIMES office.

DOINGS OF CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CONFIRMS

MAYOR COPPLE MAKES HIS APPOINTMENTS FOR YEAR

New Administration Starts and Economy Will be the Watchword of Mayor R. A. Copple

Wheels of the new city administration with the watchword "Economy" leading, were set in motion last night when ex-Mayor F. E. Allen, after two years of faithful service, turned over the reins of government to Mayor R. A. Copple, after the resignation of the latter as Councilman had been accepted. In announcing his policy of retrenchment, Mr. Copple declared that \$2500 a year, or about one-fourth of the present outstanding warrants of the city, has been lopped from the budget for 1916. Every appointment of the Mayor was confirmed, though not without a tilt or two, showing that the new Mayor has with him an altogether, uncertain majority.

People flocked into the Council Chambers until there was hardly standing room when Mayor Copple took the chair and began the reading of his message to the Council, outlining his policies and the work for the coming year.

Goss to Clear up Cases.

There was not a dissenting vote against J. T. Brand for city attorney. Duncan Ferguson declared it no more than right that John D. Goss, outgoing city attorney, should be retained to clear up the legal matters now pending, among them being the Port appeal to the state Supreme Court.

"I believe the Port case is the only important case on hand at present," said the Mayor. "I am in favor of Mr. Goss filing a brief in the case. He has told me he is agreeable to this."

"I told the Mayor I would serve the city the same as I would any other client," said Mr. Goss.

The matter came up again later in the meeting, when Mr. Goss asked in just what position he would be retained in the Port of Coos Bay appeal, saying that he merely wanted an understanding.

Wanted to Know Fee.

Members of the Council declared their willingness that he should be retained, though, as George E. Cook remarked, the size of the fee was also a matter of importance, and Mr. Bandel asked Mr. Goss to set a tentative sum.

"This business of law," laughed Mr. Goss, "isn't like mending a bicycle. You can't always tell beforehand what you are going to run into. We keep our time on all this and charge accordingly. In this case there are at least two briefs and also the argument before the Supreme Court. I should say the fee might be in the neighborhood of \$500."

As Council Wishes

City Attorney James Brand stated that inasmuch as another attorney had started the action and had fought it through to its present advanced stage, it would be only good business to let him superintend its completion. "However, I am willing to do exactly as the Council wishes in the matter," he concluded.

Mr. Copple expressed the opinion that such an added expense will hardly be necessary. On motion of E. Bandel this matter was referred to the finance committee to investigate and report back to the Council at the next meeting.

Officers Named.

Jack Carter was again elected marshal of the city. The name of John Brockmuller as night watchman was taken up. Opposition developed immediately, though he was later confirmed unanimously.

"Does this mean the firing of Shoup?" asked Duncan Ferguson. "It seems to me that after an employee of the city has worked faithfully for a long time that he ought to have at least a little consideration and not be turned out."

"Mr. Ferguson," put in the Mayor, "Shoup is not being fired. He was appointed for the previous term and his office automatically became vacant on January 1."

Then arose Mr. Bandel, "I move that the appointment be confirmed," he said. "Inasmuch as Mr. Copple is Mayor, I believe that we should honor his appointments and if at any time any of the men fail to do their duty, then we can begin our protests." Mr. Brockmuller passed under the official tape. Mr. Copple said that the new officer is willing to move into the city and will do so.

Hitch in Proceedings

There was another hitch in the proceedings when the name of Carl

NEW CITY OFFICERS OF MARSHFIELD

- Mayor—R. A. Copple.
- Old councilmen—Duncan Ferguson, Harry Kimball and Geo. E. Cook.
- New councilmen—C. E. Powers, D. L. Rood and E. Bandel.
- City engineer—A. B. Gidley.
- City attorney—J. T. Brand.
- City marshal—J. W. Carter.
- Night officer—John Brockmuller.
- City treasurer—G. W. Kaufman.
- Health officer—Dr. H. M. Shaw.
- Engineers fire Dept.—Gordon Smith and Duncan Ferguson Jr.
- Street Supt. and building and electric inspector—Carl Albrecht.

TO CURB HOT AIR

VISITORS TO MAKE NO FLIGHTS OF ORATORY BEFORE COUNCIL

Get Down to Business—Retrenchment Is Followed Out—City Engineers Needs Assistant

Long winded flights of oratory by visitors to the council will hereafter be dispensed with. This is a rule of the new administration. "Some of the previous talks have been lengthy beyond reason," was the declaration of Mayor Copple in making his announcement. The city fathers vigorously assented and plunged into the project of lopping off heavy expenditures by the city in a partially successful effort to follow along the lines of retrenchment.

See Salary Cuts

Here and there salary cuts were discernible. The cutting out of the office of building, plumbing and electrical inspector means a saving of \$900 a year to the city. "Last year the fees of the office were about \$400," said the Mayor.

He Explained that Mr. Albrecht Is Qualified to Take up Not Only the Street Commissioner's Work but This Inspection Job as Well.

Lawhorse Efficient

"I have nothing against Albrecht," was the statement of Mr. Cook, "but I do not think it is right to divide this work. I have always noticed that Mr. Lawhorse is a very busy man."

Is President of Council

Mr. Ferguson was unanimously elected president of the council. "Whenever the mayor may be away and I am in the chair," he said, "I'll try to handle things in cooperation with his policies and I'll endeavor not to turn things upside down."

There were more matters of retrenchment to come up. Mr. Copple expressed the belief that an assistant to the city engineer should be done away with. "We have had him now for several months and surely the records of the office should be in shape by this time," he said.

Pass Snap Judgments

"If you gentlemen would come in and see what we are doing in the city engineer's office and then make such a statement, I would have not a thing to say. Not a one of you has ever been there to investigate. Not one of you knows what is being done. If you feel competent to judge without first inquiring, why all right, but its the same as though I went into Mr. Copple's store and said, 'Here, you have too many clerks.'"

Office Has Been Busy

"It's been a long job to get things in shape," explained Mr. Gidley. "Some of the records are kept on pieces of paper and not tabulated. This is because at the time of the improvements there was no time for this. Our work now is to get these records where one, coming into the office, could take hold of things at once. I need a man all winter."

Mr. Rood thought the records should have been kept up to date. "We've paid dear enough for the office," he declared.

"You haven't paid one cent that you didn't get value received," forcibly put in Mr. Gidley. "I want to tell you that, sir."

Found Easier Now

Several of the councilmen said that since the records are being put in shape it is noticeable that now it is possible to run a line anywhere without "first going to South Slough" to get a start.

"This is the reason we want to get these records up," declared Mr. Gidley.

The matter was referred to the finance committee to investigate and refer back to the council, regarding the assistant at four dollars a day in the city engineer's office.

No Off Hand Opinions

In making a brief statement to the council City Attorney James Brand explained his position. "You gentlemen may know that it is difficult for a new person to jump right into this routine. If you will be patient for a little while while I am sure that everything will be working out as it should be."

He asked that councilmen, having matters of law to bring up, should let him know about them ahead of time.

"I have resolved to make no snap judgments, or pass no off hand opinions," he said and the council agreed with his views.

HEATING STOVES at reduced prices. Pioneer Hardware Co.

Libby Coal, \$5.00 ton. Phone 72.

PROTEST PAYMENT

NORTH FRONT STREET PROPERTY OWNERS APPEAL TO COUNTY

Say Traffic Companies Who Wear Out Streets Should Pay A Share for Improvements

Liberal protest against the recent by abutting property owners for the reworking of north front street, beyond Hemlock and city limits, was voiced in the city chambers last evening. Such as the highway is used entirely for traffic between Hemlock and North Bend the owners declare that they should not be the "goats." Attorney C. McKnight, chief spokesman, suggested a way out by laying a city ordinance or by taking the matter before the county court in effort to secure a portion of the money due the city, for making a permanent improvement.

Should Not Pay All

"The property owners along street feel that they have a right in protesting," began the attorney. "They feel that they are merely paying for a broad highway that is never used to their benefit. In the last five years owners property north of Hemlock have paid five dollars a front foot for improvements. They believe paying a share of the improvement to be sure, but not all of it."

Vehicle Tax Up Again

He suggested the vehicle tax traffic companies that continue use the throughfare. He said the Southern Pacific pays for roadway between its tracks and for the upkeep of the street on each side of the rails. "It is merely to show that other companies using the streets as throughfare should pay something for the upkeep of the streets."

I Had a Client in the East

owned some property out on Broadway that was in just about this same position," put in Goss. "The street taxes came fast and furious he finally decided for the land and told me split with him anything the market might bring."

Use County Road Money

Claude Nashburg also declared that it is a proposition where "interest is done eatin' up the principal." He suggested that the city should use part of Marshfield share of the county road money on this street.

It Might be fair for the county to put up something like 50 percent of the amount," said Mayor Copple.

"but not at all fair to the other property owners of the city that of this should be put up."

The matter will be turned over to the street committee and City Attorney Brand to take up this with the county court in an effort to secure an adjustment.

Fire Chief Dan Keating put in his annual report of the condition of the Marshfield Volunteer Fire Department and this was turned over to the Fire and Water Committee.

Back in Payments

Again the matter of logs through the streets of Marshfield was the timely topic of discussion. Though the logging company promised to pay \$200 more into the treasury after the holidays, the money has not yet been forthcoming. Once again, and more forcibly than before, the company will be asked for the money and the matter will come up again at the next meeting.

We must insist that the company keep turning in enough money to pay for the damages to the streets as such damages become apparent," declared Mayor Copple. The other members of the council expressed like opinions.

Adopt Assessments

Meeting as a board of equalization the council adopted the assessments for the sidewalks to be built about the block bordered by Broadway and Front streets and Central and Commercial as well as for an intended sewer on North Front street from Market to Alder streets. The plans and specifications for a sidewalk over this same territory were adopted.

DECEMBER IS COLD

WAS ALSO AN UNUSUALLY WET PERIOD

Over Twelve Inches of Water Fell and Nearly Every Day Was Cloudy

December was a cold month. The lowest temperature was 26 degrees above zero on the 30th. The highest was 62 degrees above on the 7th. The average temperature for the month was 51.5 degrees.

The total precipitation for the month was 12.51 inches and the greatest rainfall in 24 hours was 2.60 inches on the 5th. There were 11 days when .01 inches of rain or more fell.

There was but one clear day in the month, 4 partly cloudy days and 25 cloudy days.