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COUNCIL MEETING

City Fathers Transact Much Business.

A NEW TELEPHONE LINE

Automatic Telephone Company Desires to Secure a Franchise in Astoria—Many Street Matters Are Discussed at Length.

City Council met last night in the city hall with all members present except Councilman Belland, who is out of the city. After the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting a communication was read from Frank Parker, and others conveying the title to certain property to the city, for street purposes, and the auditor was instructed to file the deed for record.

The resignation of George Effler as sexton of the city cemetery was accepted, and the committee on public property was advised that their appointment of a man to fill the place of Mr. Effler, would meet with the approval of the council.

A communication was received from the water commission together with an application for the position of janitor for the water commission's rooms, stating that the commission desired the council to appoint one person to do all the janitor work in the city hall; that in the judgment of the commission, the present situation, where three janitors are employed by the different bodies who occupy the building, is unsatisfactory, and the source of constant friction, and for this cause one person could better do the work. There was considerable discussion regarding the communication of the commission, and finally the matter was referred to the committee on public property to confer with the water commission and endeavor to come to some satisfactory arrangement. As it now stands a majority of the council seems to think that one janitor could not do all the work required, and from expressions made last night, the opinion seemed to be in favor of having one head janitor and an assistant to aid him in his labors.

A petition from the property owners living in the district bounded by Harrison, Niagara, Eighth, and the claim line of McClure's Astoria, to re-establish the grade was read and granted.

A petition for a liquor license by Enquist and Hendrickson, was referred to the committee on health and police.

A petition for the improvement of Harrison avenue from Tenth to Eleventh streets was granted.

The committee on ways and means reported favorably on the quarterly report of the city treasurer, and it was ordered filed. The bill of Charles Gammal of \$5 for postage, was allowed on the recommendation of the committee.

The following liquor licenses were reported favorably on by the committee on health and police and granted: J. N. Vansel, Charles Wise and Fred Neilsen. The bills of Robinson & Hildebrand for \$28.60 and Olof Peterson for \$22.50 were allowed.

Regarding the communications from the Shively improvement club asking that the sidewalk be repaired on Harrison avenue, the committee on streets recommended that the request be granted, and the recommendations was adopted.

The petition for a sewer on Harrison avenue which was referred to the committee on streets was granted.

The following bills referred to the street committee were allowed: City Surveyor, \$153.50; Street Superintendent, \$82.50; Astoria Electric Co., \$350.18; Street Assessors, \$14; J. C. Clinton, \$7.50; T. S. Cornelius, \$1.50; City Lumber & Box Co., \$35.50; and Leander Lebeck, \$110.

The final bill of Councilman Lebeck, was for rent of a shed belonging to him, for the use of the street superintendent to keep his tools in. The bill which amounted to \$110 was for a period of twenty-two months, at \$5 a month. A number of the councilmen thought this was excessive, and queried why the bill had not been presented long before. The matter was finally adjusted to the satisfaction of all the councilmen present, except Stangland who voted not to allow the bill.

The following bills were reported favorably on by the committee on fire and water: Andrew Asp, \$4.65; Holmes & Siebert, \$10; Ross, Higgins & Co., \$4.80; Uppertown Transfer Co., \$0.50.

The committee on public property having reported favorably on the bill of the Astoria Electric Co., for \$32.45 and that of Ford & Stokes for 20 cents were allowed.

City Physician Mohr stated that he had received a favorable reply from the

Federal Government relating to the matter of placing a scow in the river for quarantined cases. His communication was filed.

The statement of the police judge and auditor for April was filed.

Plans and specifications were submitted and filed for the following: Fourth street improvement, Irving avenue improvement, Drain on Melbourne avenue, and Duane street improvement.

An ordinance licensing and regulating auctioneers, and placing the license at \$300 per annum, was passed.

An ordinance licensing junk dealers of two classes (itinerants at \$50 a year, and store keepers at \$5 a year), was read the first and second time.

An ordinance granting a franchise to the Automatic Electric Company, of Chicago, to install and operate automatic telephones in the city of Astoria, come up for its first and second readings. This bill gives the company a franchise for thirty-five years, with the stipulation that the city may buy the property after ten years, if it so desires, the price to be fixed by three arbitrators. The charge for the use of these telephones is to be no more than the price charged in cities of the same size as Astoria. The ordinance was referred to the committee on public property and the city attorney to report on at the next meeting.

An ordinance for the improvement of Fourth street from Astor to the A. & C. railroad track was passed.

An ordinance for the construction of the Melbourne avenue drain was passed.

An ordinance for the improvement of Duane street from Sixth to Tenth streets was passed.

An ordinance for the improvement of Irving avenue from Eighteenth to the west line of the Port of Upper Astoria, was passed.

An ordinance to prevent blasting within the city limits within 600 feet of any residence or building, was referred to the committee on streets, to make certain suggested changes.

An ordinance to fix the salary of the poundmaster at \$50 per month, was lost.

An ordinance appropriating \$33.08 for the improvement of Fourteenth street from Grand to Jerome was passed.

An ordinance appropriating \$382.50 for the improvement of Eighth from Grand to Lexington streets was passed.

An ordinance appropriating \$582 for the improvement of Birch from Fifty-second to Fifty-third streets was passed.

An ordinance confirming the assessment for the improvement of Birch street was passed.

An ordinance accepting the improvement of Birch street from Fifty-second to Fifty-third street was passed.

A resolution to improve Tenth street from Commercial to Duane streets was adopted.

A resolution to lay out the alleys in block 69, McClure's Astoria, was adopted.

A resolution lowering the grade on Harrison avenue from Ninth to Eleventh streets was adopted.

A resolution to improve Exchange street from Eighth to Ninth was adopted.

The matter of establishing three substations for the police department's use, was discussed, but nothing done.

A communication was received from the Woman's club calling the council's attention to the deplorable condition of the city cemetery, and on motion the public property committee was instructed to appoint a man to clean up where needed.

The council then adjourned.

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