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COUNCIL MEETING

Many Matters of a Routine Nature Disposed Of

PHONE SYSTEM DISCUSSED

\$20,000 Insurance Policy Expires on City Hall and Out of Town Companies May Sign up New Policies in Preference to the Local Companies.

The regular meeting of the Common Council was held last night at the city hall with all the councilmen present except Councilman Belland. Mostly routine business was transacted, although the local telephone company and the unsatisfactory service came up for considerable discussion.

As the city hall insurance policy with the present companies has run out, and in view of the high rates charged by the local companies, a committee was appointed to investigate out of town insurance companies, and if better rates could be secured the committee is authorized to take out policies with them in part or whole as they thought advisable. The above was put to a motion and was carried by a vote of 5 nays and 3 yeas. The city hall heretofore was covered by a \$20,000 policy. No insurance being carried on the furniture and fixtures, it was therefore, after a vote, decided to add \$5000 to cover the furniture and fixtures thus making the total insurance carried on the building \$25,000.

The business disposed of during the meeting was as follows:

Petitions.

From L. A. Carter in regard to the construction of a sewer on 17th street from Irving to Jerome was placed on file.

Petition from Mrs. Leinenweber by H. B. Leinenweber, asking to be allowed to redeem lots 5 and 6, block 35 Adair's, for amount the said lots were sold for, to the city, together with interest at the legal rate and to be exempt from penalty. The report was adopted.

From Frank Patton asking that a quit claim be issued him for lots 5 and 6, block 111, Shively's, a fraction of said lots were sold to the city June 16, 1902, was referred to committee on ways and means and the city attorney.

Ordinances.

Confirming special assessment roll No. 166 of 11th street from Exchange to Franklin. The rules were suspended and ordinance read third time and passed.

Confirming special assessment roll No. 168 at 12th street from Commercial to Duane streets. The rules were suspended, read third time and passed.

Appropriating the sum of \$1212.20 out of the special fund for improving Melbourne avenue from Commercial to Alameda avenue for John Slotte, was read the first and second time.

Appropriating the sum of \$2350.60 out of the special fund or improving Columbia avenue from Melbourne to Lincoln avenue for the benefit of John Slotte, was read the first and second time.

Accepting the improvement of Exchange street from 10th to 9th streets. Was read third time and passed.

Accepting the improvement of 11th street from Exchange to Franklin avenue. Rules were suspended and ordinance read the third time and passed.

Appropriating out of the general fund for improving 8th street from Harrison to Lexington avenue the sum of \$265 for the benefit of John Slotte was read the third time and passed.

Appropriating out of the special fund for improving 8th street from Harrison to Lexington avenue the

sum of \$2514.20 for the benefit of John Slotte, was read the third time and passed.

Appropriating out of the special fund for improving 11th street from Exchange to Franklin the sum of \$525 for the benefit of E. A. Gerding was passed.

Appropriating out of the special fund for improving 12th street from Commercial to Duane the sum of \$1830 for the benefit of Makela & Wuopio was read the third time and passed.

Appropriating the sum of \$625 for improving Exchange street from 10th to 9th street for E. A. Gerding was read third time and passed.

Appropriating the sum of \$1200 out of the special fund for improving Irving avenue from 11th to 15th street for the benefit of E. A. Gerding was read the third time and passed.

Resolutions.

To improve 14th street from Jerome to Lexington avenue was adopted.

To improve 3rd street from Commercial to Astor street excepting the crossing with Bond street was adopted.

To improve Exchange street from 10th to 11th street was adopted.

To establish a grade on 46th street from Bond to Front street was adopted.

To re-establish the grade on Harrison avenue from 26th to 30th streets, was adopted.

To re-establish the grade on Grand avenue from 23rd to 29th streets was adopted.

To improve Astor street from 8th to 6th streets excepting crossing with 6th street was adopted.

Accepting the bid of E. A. Gerding of \$2453 for improving Grand avenue from 6th to 5th streets was adopted.

To improve Irving street sewer from 18th to 19th, the committee was authorized to proceed with work to the extent and expenditure of \$175.

The following claims were ordered paid: Astoria Hardware Co., 85 cents; Fisher Bros., & Co., \$6.60; Leo Gramms, \$1.50; C. W. Holmes, \$4.75; A. V. Allen, \$43.28; A. V. Allen, \$3.16; C. W. Holmes, \$16; A. D. Craig, \$3.75; John Corno, \$3; Foard & Stokes, \$19.28; A. V. Allen, \$10.65; Simington Dry Goods Co., \$3.44; Sherman Transfer Co., \$3; R. M. Gaston, \$1.55; Ross, Higgins & Co., \$14.32; Zapf Furniture Co., \$1.10; Steel & Ewart, \$6.88; Astoria Hardware Co., \$48.66; Mrs. M. Olson, \$1.75; Charles Heilborn, \$18.50; S. Elmore, \$22; Allen Wall Paper & Paint Co., \$1.80; Eastern Painting & Decorating Co., \$28.92; George Lindstrom & Co., \$2.20; Clatsop Mill Co., \$23.50; City Lumber and Box Co., \$11.10; City Lumber & Box Co., \$39.90; Foard & Stokes Hardware Co., \$12.79; Astoria Budget, \$1.20, \$1.20, \$9.90, \$15.84, \$5.28, \$5.28, \$1.20, \$5.40, \$6.80, \$8.65, \$34, \$4.15. City Lumber & Box Co., \$12; W. A. Goodin, \$95; Street Assessors, \$10; J. C. Clinton, \$4.20; J. C. Clinton, \$19.50; Street Assessors, \$10; Street Assessors, \$20; J. C. Clinton, \$6.25; S. Elmore, \$12; Knapp Fuel Co., \$13.

Bids.

Of Christ Larson of \$517 for the improvement of Irving avenue from 9th to 8th streets was accepted.

Of Christ Larson of \$1070 for improving 8th street from Harrison to Lexington was accepted.

Of E. A. Gerding of \$1720 for improving 12th street from Exchange to Grand avenue was accepted.

Of Birch and Jacobson of \$1832 for improving 23rd street from Commercial to Exchange street was adopted.

Communications.

From the Clatsop Fuel Company accepting the franchise recently issued by the council was placed on file.

From the county court of Clatsop in regard to improving Commercial street from 7th to 8th street was filed.

From the Northwestern Long Distance Telephone Company in regard to a franchise to install a new telephone system in the city of Astoria was referred to the committee on ways and means and city attorney.

From the Mayor to the city council, in regard to the telephone situation in the city of Astoria, referred to committee on ways and means and city attorney.

From John Hahn regarding the ground slides at the improvement of Commercial street was read and placed on file.

Remonstrances.

From Joseph Bernard protesting against the assessments as made on 8th street from Harrison to Kensington avenue, as pertains to lot 5, block 120, McClure's was referred to the committee on way and means and the attorney.

From Mrs. Annie Trullinger against the construction of a bulkhead in the improvement of Commercial and 3rd street to lot 1, block 3, H. Tract was referred to committee on streets and public ways and the city attorney.

Reports.

Of the chief of police of licenses issued (sundry) for quarter ending June 30, 1908, was adopted.

Of the auditor and police judge for quarter ending June 30, 1908, which was read and referred to committee on ways and means at the last meeting was adopted.

Of the city surveyor regarding the drain on Irving avenue from 18th street to 20th street was adopted.

Statements.

Of the city surveyor of amount of work performed by E. A. Gerding on his contract with the city of Astoria to improve Irving avenue from 11th to 15th street. The report was adopted.

Of auditor and police judge for month ending June 30, 1908, report was adopted.

Quarterly report of the City Treasurer was adopted.

Building Permits.

Application from the Banking Savings & Loan Association for a building permit was granted.

Certificates.

Certificate of improvement of Exchange street from the west line of 10th street to the east line of 9th street for the sum of \$625 was adopted.

Of approval for improvement of 11th street from the south line of Exchange to the north line of Franklin for the sum of \$525 was adopted.

Of completion of Melbourne from Columbia to Alameda was adopted.

Assessment Roll.

No. 168 for the improvement of 12th street from Commercial to Duane, report was adopted.

No. 166 for the improvement of 11th street from Exchange to Franklin avenue was adopted.

THE ASTORIA PHONE QUESTION

**MAYOR WISE EXPRESSES FA-
 VOR FOR MUNICIPAL PLANT
 —DR. HENDERSON DEFENDS
 THE PRESENT COMPANY.**

George E. Waggoner, a representative of the Northwestern Long Distance Telephone Company who is seeking a franchise for his company, attended the meeting of the common council last night and talked at length of his system. He claims that there is not, to his knowledge a town the size of Astoria in the country that has the automatic system, for the reason he says that the system is an expensive one and must have at least two thousand subscribers to bring the rates down to a reasonable figure, and stated that he didn't think his company could undertake to install such a system in Astoria unless they were assured that amount of business, but he continued, as an automatic plant would cost about \$165,000, their present center energy system was giving perfect satisfaction throughout the country, and that they had now in operation about 14,000 more phones than any other company.

If however his company could secure the franchise for their central energy system they could make the rates, for business houses \$2.50 and for resident telephones on a two party line \$1.50, he said.

The local telephone company and its unsatisfactory service came up for considerable discussion among the members of the council last night, and they all seemed heartily in favor of an improved system, by the present company, or by a new company.

The only member who seemed to defend the local concern was Dr. Henderson, who said that he had been using his present telephone for about 11 years, and in all that time he never had any trouble getting prompt, and

satisfactory service.

Mayor Wise also spoke, expressing his views of the present system and recommended that the city take the matter in hand and if they could not in any other way secure better service to organize a municipal telephone plant.

Mayor Wise said: "To the Honorable, the Council of the City of Astoria.

"I have the honor to submit for your consideration an appeal for redress from the Astoria Chamber of Commerce. The facts therein stated are so well known and the delinquencies of the Pacific States Telephone & Telegraph Co., are so glaring that a recital of them at this time would be superfluous. Two years ago the Home Telephone Company applied for a franchise the old combine presented a remonstrance signed by a number of business men also promising as usual a more modern system at an early date, at their service today would be a disgrace to Skookom Creek; it is a system that in olden days tickled the ears of our great grand fathers, a system which future generations will look upon as one of the curiosities of the 18th century; but to us today it is nothing more than a patented aggravation. Astorians are known to be a generous, long suffering people; during '07 these many years they have paid a fortune into the combines coffers, sufficiently large to build a dozen telephone lines for hours have the busy public stood at these old coffee grinders, thinking words no dictionary has ever dared to print, they have swallowed annoyances that would have ruined the digestion and completion of communities more distant from the invigorating sea air than Astoria; but hope deferred maketh the heart sick; patient as they are, the boss Tweed methods of the Pacific Company are more than the people can endure and we, the people's representatives, should terminate this imposition once and for all. If a responsible opposition company will in good faith apply for a franchise, we should then with open arms grant them a reasonable franchise only insisting, that they provide a modern system and that they furnish a good and sufficient bond, that such new company will begin work as soon as practicable and complete it at the earliest possible date. If such new company does not meet with our reasonable demand then I suggest, that your honorable body make use of the power given to you by the people at the last charter election and proceed with the establishment of a municipal telephone plant, insuring to the people the best possible service, as well as providing an additional source of revenue to the city. In order that expedition be a proof of your sincerity I hope that you will provide for the immediate appointment of a committee to carefully look into the advisability of building a municipal telephone plant regardless of any other proposition, so that, if any opposition company fails to meet the popular expectation or by any chance becomes absorbed in the watered stock of an old company the council will then be in a position to act without loss of time."

GOOD NEWS.

Many Astoria Readers Have Heard it and Profited Thereby.

"Good news travels fast," and the thousands of bad back sufferers in Astoria are glad to learn that prompt relief is within their reach. Many a lame, weak and aching back is had no more, thanks to Doan's Kidney Pills. Our citizens are telling the good news of their experience with the Old Quaker Remedy. Here is an example worth reading:

Arthur Rooke, 412 Duane street, Astoria, Ore., says: "At the time I began using Doan's Kidney Pills I was suffering severely from pain in my back and shoulders which descended at times into my limbs. The pains seemed to be as severe during the night as in the day and many times interfered with my rest. At one time I was so lame that I was not able to stoop to lace my shoes without suffering acutely. My kidneys were irregular in action and the secretions were in a terrible condition. At last a friend recommended Doan's Kidney Pills to me so highly that I procured a box at Charles Rogers & Son's drug store. They helped me from the first and I continued using them until I was entirely free from kidney complaint. I am now entirely well and it gives me pleasure to recommend a remedy of such great benefit as Doan's Kidney Pills."

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