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OREGON ELECTRIC GETS EXTENSION OF FRANCHISE

Council Gives Hill Company Another Year's Time—Other Matters

The granting to the Oregon Electric Railway Company of one year's additional time in which to build the line from Albany to Eugene and on Fifth street in this city, receiving an assurance that the road would probably be built before that time and that the \$10,000 bond, to guarantee good faith, would be filed in three days, besides a large amount of routine business, characterized a long session of the city council last night at which new sidewalks, street and sewer improvements figured conspicuously.

Chairman Garrett, of the committee of the whole, reported that the only thing that his committee had ready was the matter of street improvement about the tracks of the P. E. & E. in the eastern part of the city and which had been delayed from final decision because Attorney Woodcock could not be found when needed. Ness, of the finance committee, recommended that warrants be drawn to pay off the Hills park crew, because some of the men were no longer needed and they wanted to pay them off, and that the McLain & McArthur sewer work had been inspected and found O. K. and recommended that their bill of \$845.54, less 5 per cent, be allowed. Councilman Garrett brought up the matter of the extension of the Oregon Electric franchise.

He explained that the committee of the whole had been informed of the railroad's desire for a year's extension, but that they deemed it best to grant only a six months' extension. Attorney Harrison Allen, of the Oregon Electric, was then called on and explained the necessity of the year's time. He explained that they were having difficulty in getting out of Salem both with their right-of-way and their location of routes, and this was delaying their progress. The extension of the franchise, he said, did not necessarily mean that it would take them that much longer to build the line, but that it would enable them to get more money on hand to work with.

Mayor Matlock said that he thought the difference between September 12, 1912, and March of the following year would not make much difference to the city and suggested that

it be granted.

Allen then put in his final word before the vote was taken, saying that if the extension was granted the \$10,000 bond would be filed within three days, but otherwise it would not be put up. The bond would be put up by the National Security company. This clinched the whole matter and when the franchise was read for passage the only negative vote was that of Councilman Dorr.

As a word of thanks, Mr. Allen said: "This means that our right-of-way department will come into the field at once and it means that the road will positively be built into Eugene in that time." He then mentioned the Fifteenth street survey and said that he thought his company would ask for this street soon, and mentioned it so that they could be expecting it. Touching on this, he said: "I do not know whether the line will be built further than Eugene or not. If it is, it may be necessary to select another route out of the city. This will probably be along Fifteenth street where the Lane County Asset company holds a franchise. We shall be glad to make arrangements for a common users clause with them. We will know about this in a very short time. The Fifth street line will be built very soon."

The Guard reporter saw Mr. Allen afterward and asked him about how many days it would be before the route out of the city was decided upon. He said that it would be less than thirty days. The engineers have not made their report yet, but just as soon as they do The Guard will announce it.

Error in Assessments

The next matter was brought up by Rev. J. M. Morris for the property owners on East Sixteenth street, asking that the sewer assessments on this street be re-assessed. Their complaint was that two quarter blocks on Mill street and seven lots on Sixteenth street had not been assessed at all. The reason for not assessing the two quarter blocks was given that they might in the future have to pay for another, but that there was no reason for leaving out the block and three-fifths on the south side of Sixteenth street. They also complained that the ratio for the north and south sides of these streets has been changed from 60 and 40 to 100 and 80. There were also other complaints. The city engineer said that if there was any errors they could be looked up, but he thought it was alright, and he suggested that it be referred to the sewer committee. This was done by the council.

East Eleventh Street

The question of the improvement of Eleventh street was then brought where it is and not 16 feet as proposed on the street. He would have the street narrowed, the curb placed where it is and not 16 feet as proposed. He said that he had investigated and thought that the railroad could be forced to pay their share toward improving their side of the

street. He cited cases in several states where this had been done.

The claim of Mrs. L. C. Kelsay for \$150 for an iron grate that fell into an open sewer ditch and was killed was read and referred to the street committee.

Extends Boundaries

A petition was then read to enlarge the boundaries of the city. The proposed change was the same as was voted upon last spring. The petitions had 225 names attached and this is more than the twenty per cent of the registered voters required so it was referred to the city engineer and the city attorney to prepare a resolution.

Councilman Berger suggested that there be a district formed where permanent sidewalks be required. It met the opinion of all the councilmen and Berger and Ness were added to the street committee to form such a district.

The city recorder asked for a two weeks' leave of absence without pay and suggested a substitute. The vacation was granted. It will begin next Monday.

An ordinance was passed to grade and improve Alder street from Seventeenth to Twenty-fourth street. The streets shall be graded to a width of 34 feet and with a 16-foot crown of crushed gravel.

Councilman Koppe mentioned the fact that the water service on High street was very poor because of too small a main and the district was actually in danger without fire protection. The fact seemed to be well known among the other members of the council and it was referred to the water board.

The city engineer recommended that the right-of-way be condemned for the extension of the sewer system between Washington and Jefferson streets. This was referred. Recommendation for changing catch basin in front of the city attorney's land adopted. Recommendation to let the assessment stand against property on West Sixth was denied and assessment was cancelled; property does not abut directly on the street improved.

The petition of G. E. Kilborn to put in a macadam walk above grade on Orchard avenue denied as to material, but matter of grade left to the street committee.

Councilman Garrett expressed the opinion that the street committee and street commissioner be consulted by the city engineer before the new street grades be established. Motion to this effect carried.

Petition for sidewalk on the west side of Lawrence from Twelfth, south one half block, referred to the street committee with power to act.

A petition for a sidewalk on the south side of Nineteenth street from Agate granted.

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