

CITY COUNCIL FOR SEWERAGE.

Engineer Barbour's Plans and Specifications Adopted.

AND A CALL FOR TENDERS HAS BEEN ISSUED.

Three Aldermen Voted Against the Resolution.

TENDERS FOR CONSTRUCTION WORK TO CLOSE ON DECEMBER 21ST

The city council at last night's meeting adopted Engineer Barbour's plans and specifications for a system of sewerage and decided to immediately invite tenders for the work of construction. The resolution carried by a vote of seven to three and it was decided to have tenders close on December 21st. There was an unusually large number of spectators present and the discussion on sewerage was followed with great interest.

Those present at the meeting were Mayor McNally in the chair, and Alds. Chestnut, Barbour, Mitchell, McGinn, McKenzie, Everett, Hanlon, Stockford, Randolph and Edwards. The minutes of the last meeting were read by the city clerk and approved.

The auditor's report for November was read by the mayor and adopted. The payments in the several departments during the month were as follows:

Roads and streets...	\$ 78.28
Public Works...	104.09
Fire Department...	157.38
City Hall...	64.77
Contingents...	57.49
Administration of Justice...	26.97
Market...	40.37
Old Burying Ground...	1.80
Street Lights...	435.11
Sewerage and Water...	730.72

On motion of Ald. Chestnut the monthly salaries of the city officers were ordered to be paid.

On motion of Ald. McGinn, Messrs. Darlington and Fortier, employees of the fire station were allowed \$20 each on account.

The statement of the alms house commissioner, was read by Ald. McKenzie and adopted. A check for \$225 was ordered to be issued in favor of the commissioner to meet current expenses.

Ex-Alds. Farrell and Ross were invited to seats within the railing, but declined the honor.

The assessment appeals committee, through Ald. Edwards, recommended as follows:—That the prayer of the petition of Miss Frances Fisher be complied with so far as the water rates are concerned; that the assessment of Mrs. Eliza Farrow on property on King street be reduced to \$1000; that the prayer of the petition of McMurray & Caldwell be complied with and that the assessment on their Waterloo Row property be reduced accordingly. The report was adopted.

TAX COLLECTIONS.

The following statement of tax collections was read by Ald. Chestnut and ordered to be entered into the minutes:

Nov., 1904 for 1902.....	\$124 57
Nov., 1904 for 1903.....	661 21
Nov., 1904 for 1904.....	740 09
Total.....	\$1,525 87
Nov., 1905 for 1900.....	\$53 92
Nov., 1905 for 1901.....	58 71
Nov., 1905 for 1902.....	83 03
Nov., 1905 for 1903.....	132 29
Nov., 1905 for 1904.....	325 51
Nov., 1905 for 1905.....	681 31
Total.....	\$1,334 71

The road committee recommended the tenders of William Belyea and W. A. Clark for snowplowing be accepted. Mr. Belyea is to receive \$80 for the up town division, and Mr. Clark \$75 for the down town division.

Ald. Barbour moved that tenders be invited for the purchase of \$10,000 worth of city debentures to defray the expenses of extending and improving the water system.

He explained that the issue was to cover the cost of permanent improvements to the water service. Already about \$6,000 had been expended and the amount was required at once. The remaining \$4,000 would not be issued until the proceeds were needed.

Ald. Barbour moved that the charge against the street light department in future for water be \$100 per annum.

Ald. McKenzie seconded the motion. Ald. Mitchell moved in amendment, seconded by Ald. Edwards, that the amount be \$75.

Ald. McGinn stated that the Gas Company, when they operated the Gaslight Street plant, paid annually for water the sum of \$200. He thought if the resolution were to pass, the Gas Company might think that they had been badly treated.

Ald. Edwards said that the amount had been fixed at \$75 shortly after the plant had been taken over. By an oversight the arrangements had not been entered in the minutes.

Ald. Barbour did not think a charge of \$100 was at all exorbitant. Ald. Stockford was pleased to see the chairman of the committee endeavoring to protect their departments. He thought that \$75 was enough to charge the electric light department for water.

On the vote being taken, Ald. Mitchell's amendment was carried by a vote of 6 to 4.

Ald. Hanlon said that he had made

NUMBERING THE HOUSES.

Ald. Barbour submitted a report from the committee appointed to look into the question of properly numbering the houses and lots of the city. The offer of Prof. Porritt to number the houses for \$120, and the lots for \$70 was the lowest received, and the committee asked authority to enter into a contract with him. It was stated that specifications for the work had been prepared. The committee asked for power to prepare a bye-law regulating the numbering of streets. Another sub-section of the bye-law asked authority to give to those streets that are continuous one name, so that the numbering of them can be facilitated.

Ald. Barbour explained that it was proposed to unite Victoria lane, Saunders and Newham streets under one name, and also Aberdeen and Grove streets.

The report was taken up section by section and adopted.

SEWERAGE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Ald. Chestnut submitted the report of special committee on sewerage and moved that the same be taken up section by section. He regretted the absence of City Engineer Brown but explained that the plans had been prepared on lines agreed on by Mr. Brown and Engineer Barbour. He added that before taking action the committee would submit the plans and specification to the City Engineer Brown for approval.

Ald. McGinn said that he had always been of opinion that the undertaking was too large a one for the council to undertake on their own responsibility. Had the sewerage question been submitted to the people at the last election he thought the personnel of the board would be different. He did not think the council should enter on expenditure of \$92,000 without first consulting the people. Engineer Barbour's report was the statement of one man, who undoubtedly stood high in his profession. He felt therefore that it would be advisable to invite tenders so that they might have other estimates of the cost in addition to that of Mr. Barbour. After the call for tenders had been issued it was his intention to go among the ratepayers and obtain their opinions so that he might be in a position to know what action to take when the proper time arrived. He felt that if the council did not call for tenders the money spent on plans would be lost.

The first section of the report stated that it was desirable that Fredericton should have a modern sewerage system. This was unanimously adopted.

On the second section, which asked authority to issue tenders, Ald. Stockford moved in amendment that further consideration of the matter be deferred for a month until further information was obtained. He was not opposed to sewerage, he said, but was opposed to having the sewerage dumped into the river. He had no objections to Engineer Barbour, but it seemed strange that his work on the St. John water system was likely to bring on three or four law suits. He (Stockford) did not propose to have any lawsuits in connection with the sewerage system if he could avoid it.

Ald. Hanlon seconded Ald. Stockford's amendment. He said that Mr. Barbour's plans were only received yesterday and he for one had not had time to carefully look into them. He did not believe that there was an alderman at the Board who understood the plans. He saw no reason for haste in the matter; the interests of the city would be as well served by delaying a few months. Contractors from outside would come here to tender for the work and the council would be bound to accept one of the tenders. Ald. Hanlon thought a report should be received in regard to the proposed improvements to the water works before anything was done in regard to sewerage.

Ald. McGinn said he was perfectly satisfied to let the matter lay over until January so far as he was concerned.

Ald. Randolph said that the most important question now was to decide whether or not sewerage was needed by this city. Mr. Barbour thought if a move was made now in the matter, contractors would have a better chance to study the general conditions of the city than they would have in midwinter. He saw nothing to be gained in delaying action for another year. The question had already been handed down by successive councils and the time had arrived now, for action. The whole

province was to a certain extent interested in Fredericton, and those who sent students here expected the city to provide sanitary conditions. The city did not enjoy the very highest reputation in this respect at the present time, and whether there was any real ground for complaint or not, it was the duty of the council to remove the doubt. In regard to the water investigation he stated that the amount expended this year up to the present time was \$240. He was not in a position to say that any other source of supply but the river would be adopted, as the engineer had not yet reported. Possibly the city would have to fall back on a filtration plant.

Ald. Barbour said, regardless of what was to be done to improve the water supply, there was an urgent need of sewerage at the earliest possible moment. The fair name of the city was at stake in the matter and they could not afford to delay any longer. Any council would to a great extent be compelled to depend upon the knowledge and experience of engineers. He was satisfied that Engineer Barbour was well qualified to handle the matter, and if the council followed his plans no difficulty would be experienced.

Ald. Everett thought that there would be plenty of opportunity before the contract was let for the aldermen to familiarize themselves with the whole question. He was satisfied that Fredericton needed a system of sewerage and it should be installed without unnecessary delay. It was in the interest of the city that more time should be lost in providing the city with a modern system sewerage.

Ald. Stockford thought there should be delay to give the council a chance to obtain fuller information. Ald. Mitchell said that the committee had given the matter careful attention, and had expended a lot of time. As a contractor he would be willing to take Mr. Barbour's plans and work from them.

Ald. Edwards said the council had the assurance of the committee that before action was taken the city engineer would be given an opportunity to examine the plans. The vote on Ald. Stockford's amendment was then taken and resulted as follows:

Yeas—Alds. Stockford, McGinn, Hanlon, 3.

Nays—Alds. Chestnut, Barbour, Randolph, McKenzie, Mitchell, Edwards, Everett, 7.

The section was adopted by the same vote reversed.

Ald. Chestnut moved that the date for the closing of tenders be Thursday, December 21st. He had it on the authority of Engineer Barbour that in the United States ten days was considered sufficient notice to contractors in jobs of this kind. It was desirable that the call should be issued at once so that would be possible that contractors could form some idea as to the nature of the soil before the snow became too deep.

Ald. Stockford saw no reason why there should be so much haste in the matter. The city had the plans and should certainly make use of them. Ald. Mitchell was satisfied that the length of notice would be sufficient for the contractors.

Ald. Randolph said that he thought at first that several months notice should be given in the call for tenders, but had changed his mind after consultation with Engineer Barbour. The latter had stated that contractors as a rule made no move in matters of this kind until the last few days.

The vote on Ald. Chestnut's motion to have tenders close on Dec. 21st was carried on the following division:

Yeas—Alds. Chestnut, Barbour, Randolph, McKenzie, Everett, Mitchell, 6.

Nays—Alds. Edwards, Stockford, McGinn, Hanlon, 4.

On the motion to adopt the report as a whole the council divided as follows:

Yeas—Alds. Chestnut, Barbour, Mitchell, Everett, Randolph, McKenzie, Edwards, 7.

Nays—Alds. McGinn and Stockford, 2.

Ald. Hanlon did not vote.

OTHER MATTERS.

A communication was read from the University Y. M. C. A. asking for a rebate of \$10.00 on the amount charged for use of the Opera House, for the last college entertainment. A similar communication was read from the city Y. M. C. A. asking for a rebate of \$10 on each of the five entertainments in the Star Course.

Ald. Edwards moved that the communications be received and the rebates granted.

The question was briefly discussed by Alds. Hanlon, Barbour, McGinn and Ald. Edwards' motion was adopted.

A communication was read from the gaslight company giving notice that the charge for the use of poles for fire alarm purposes would be fifty cents per pole. The question was referred to the fire committee.

On motion of Ald. Stockford the council adjourned sine die.

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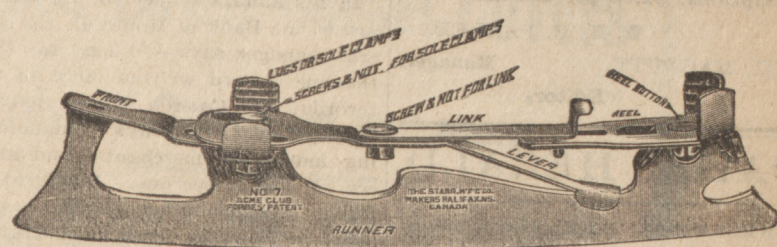
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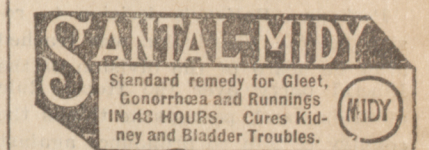
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