

COMMON COUNCIL.

Hank Kauffman Elected Police Magistrate in the North Division.

Elmer Washburn Confirmed as Superintendent of Police.

Various Ordinances Presented for New Street Railroads.

The Council Refuses to Allow the Claim of Letz & Co.

There was a regular meeting of the Council yesterday evening, present, Aldermen Knickerbocker, Bowen, Otis, Dixon, Coey, McGennis, Thompson, Daggy, Stone, Schmitz, Tracey, Hickey, Callerton, Bailey, Powell, Holden, Verdier, Sweet, Witbeck, Heath, Gardner, Sherwood, Gill, Cleveland, McGrath, Schmidt, Stout, Schaffner, Lengacher, McCaffrey, Carney, Clarke, Ogden, Busse, Woodman.

Alderman Gill was elected temporary Chairman.

NORTH SIDE POLICE JUSTICE.

The following communication from the Mayor was read:

The Board of Police officially informs me of the death of Owen Doughterty, Police Justice for the North Division, and I communicate the same to your honorable body, in order that early action may be had to fill the vacancy caused by said demise. This duty will devolve on the Common Council, as I am legally advised by the Corporation Counsel. The charter provides (see Ch. xi., Sec. 1) "That, should any vacancy occur, it shall be filled by the Common Council, but the person so appointed shall serve for the unexpired term only."

A Police Justice is not, properly speaking, a "city officer," but is a part of the State Judiciary, deriving his powers and jurisdiction from the constitution and statute law, and his appointment from the Governor and Senate.

The new Justice of the Peace act approved April 1, 1872, declares (Section 4) that Justices of the Peace shall have jurisdiction in all cases for the violation of the ordinances of such cities, towns, or villages." The Common Council is authorized by its charter to designate from among the Justices of the Peace some particular one for each Division of the city before whom the city may appear as plaintiff or complainant, for the violation of its ordinances, by laws or police regulations; and the said Justice so designated, is compensated by a salary to be paid by the Council in lieu of the fees allowed by the Fee bill to Justices of the Peace; and he is required by the charter, before entering upon his duties, to sign and execute an express relinquishment of all fees, emoluments, or other compensation. The magistrate is thus employed by contract with the city, to sit in judgment in all actions where the city is complainant for breach of all ordinances and rules.

The act of March 9, 1872, enlarging the powers of Mayors, does not, in the opinion of the Council for the Corporation, confer on the Mayor this right to designate the Justice of the Peace before whom the city shall thus appear with its complaints, or change the charter provisions in the matter; and, as I do not wish to exercise doubtful powers, I prefer to recommend that your honorable body fill the said vacancy in the mode prescribed by the charter, at the earliest practicable moment.

Ald. Schaffner moved that the Council proceed to fill the vacancy.

Ald. Carney moved to make the subject a special order for Monday.

The motion was not agreed to—yeas, 7; nays, 22.

Ald. Schaffner's motion was agreed to.

A vote was had, resulting: H. A. Kaufman, 20; R. C. Hamill, 8; scattering, 2.

NEW STREET RAILROADS.

Ald. Knickerbocker presented the following ordinance:

Be it ordained by the Common Council of the City of Chicago, that permission and authority be, and the same are hereby, given and granted unto the People's Horse Railroad Company to lay down and operate a single or double track upon and along any of the following streets and routes in said city, to wit:

Commencing on Canal street where it intersects with Kinzie street, thence running south on Canal street to Canalport avenue, thence south-westerly on Canalport avenue to Twenty-second street, thence west on Twenty-second street to Western avenue, thence north on Western avenue to Sixteenth street, thence west on Sixteenth street to Douglas Park, thence from Douglas Park running north on California street to North avenue, thence east on North avenue to North Dearborn street.

Also commencing on Kinzie street, where it intersects with North Dearborn street, thence west on Kinzie street to North Wells street, thence north on North Wells street to Division street, thence west on Division street to the present and future city limits.

Also commencing on East Twelfth street where it intersects with State street, thence west on Twelfth street to the present and future city limits.

Also commencing on Adams street, where it intersects with State street, thence running west on Adams street to Morgan street, running south on Morgan street to Harrison street, and north on Morgan street to Erie street, thence west on Erie street to Western avenue, thence south on Western avenue to Sixteenth street and north on Western avenue to North avenue.

Also commencing on East Harrison street, where it intersects with State street, and running west on Harrison street to the present and future city limits.

The said company shall be subject to any and all ordinances of a general nature now in force, or which may be hereafter passed relating to horse railways.

This ordinance is granted upon the express condition that the said company shall not charge for single fares in its cars, in a greater sum for each ride than five cents, and in case it shall charge to exceed that sum, this ordinance shall cease and become void.

The company also agree to pay 5 per cent of their receipts into the City Treasury.

Ald. Daggy moved it be referred to the Committee on Railroads, and on Streets and Alleys, of the three Divisions.

It was finally referred to the Committee on Railroads.

Ald. Ogden introduced an ordinance, already published, giving the Garden City Street Railway the right of way on certain streets.

It was also referred to the Committee on Railroads.

POLICE SUPERINTENDENT.

Ald. Knickerbocker moved the confirmation of Elmer Washburn as Superintendent of Police.

Ald. McGrath thought the Council should confirm the nominee, and still he thought there were just as good taxpayers in Chicago. The Mayor, however, could have had none but the best motives in nominating him. It was certainly time to do something to stop the demoralization of the police. The business men were unanimous for Washburn's confirmation, and wanted to give him a trial.

Ald. Carney thought that Mr. Washburn was qualified, but he thought a good man could be found in Chicago without going to Joliet for him. He was willing to vote for Washburn if he was an honest man and a good thief catcher. He did not care whether he was white, black, blue, or anything else, if he was a good honest man. He was as well prepared to vote on the question then as he would be a month from this, but if there was but one vote cast against him it would be his.

Ald. Daggy said he wanted the floor before Ald. Schaffner, as he was afraid Schaffner would make one of his long-winded harangues. He had only a few words to say. He had heard of Mr. Washburn from those among whom he lived, to the effect that he was an honest man. He (Daggy) did not say, in Committee, that Washburn was once Division Superintendent of the Illinois Central Railroad. He was a fuel agent, and resigned because he did not agree with the man above him. That was all he had to say.

Ald. Schaffner moralized on the condition of the police force. He did not pull wires for Washburn. He denounced it as a base falsehood and slander. He hoped the Council would confirm Washburn. The police force should have a head; Washburn was a clear-headed man.

Ald. Holden said the idea of the Mayor bringing before the Council a man who lived in Madison County as Superintendent of Police, was to his mind preposterous. There was material in the city, if placed at the head of the police force, to drive pin-pricks, thieves, and scoundrels beyond the city limits. Booms were running wild. They should discuss the qualifications of the nominee. Daggy was wrong. Washburn was fuel agent of the branch of the Illinois Central Railroad and not of the main line. Washburn's career was reviewed in general. Washburn did not fill the bill at the Penitentiary. He did not like to say these things. He could not do without them. If he had to choose the chief of that department he would choose Captain M. O. Hickey (Ald. Dixon: "Correct.") The police force was nicely run. A few days ago the authorities made the newest Captain of the force temporary Superintendent. For all that he would vote for Washburn, and do all he could to back him, but Washburn was assuming a terrible responsibility, and the Mayor would be held responsible for it.

The nomination was confirmed—yeas, 29; nays, 5—Callerton, Baller, Gardner, McCaffrey, and Carney.

DOGS.

Ald. Knickerbocker presented an ordinance, raising from 25 to 50 cents the reward for each dog taken to the pound. The ordinance was passed.

COMPRESSED AIR.

A resolution allowing the Myers American Pneumatic Car Company to use compressed air on the Van Buren street track, from Wood to Throop streets, for ninety days, on obtaining the consent of the railway company, was offered by Ald. Sherwood, and was adopted.

ORDERS.

The Board of Public Works was ordered to prepare ordinances for paving LaSalle street, from Michigan street to Chicago avenue; for lamp-posts on Miller street, from Polk to Taylor; for a sidewalk on the west side of Walker street, from Fulton to Kinzie; for water pipes on Blue Island avenue, from Harbison street to Twenty-second; for a sidewalk on the north side of Monroe street, from LaSalle to Fifth avenue; for sidewalks on the south side of Evans, from Ashland to Western avenue, and Clayton street, from Wood to Leavitt; for a sewer on Reuben street, from Twelfth to the river; to advertise for the removal of rubbish about the Court House square; for opening Arnold street, from Twenty-sixth to Twenty-seventh; for a sidewalk on the south side of Twenty-sixth street, and to report the names of all streets which it is proposed to sewer during the present year, and the cost thereof.

The Board of Police was requested to put up a fire alarm box at the corner of Archer avenue and Reuben street.

PETITIONS.

Petitions for water pipes on State, Burnside, and Butterfield streets, south of Thirty-fifth street; for lamp posts on Walnut from Hoyne to Western avenue, were appropriately referred.

LETZ & SON.

The report of the Committee on Public Buildings, recommending that \$6,300 be allowed to Letz & Son, for extra work on the City Hall, was taken up.

The opinion of the Corporation Counsel, adverse to the claim, was read.

Ald. Gardner spoke in favor of the claim, since the work had been actually done, although not ordered in writing, as required by the contract.

Ald. Schaffner also supported the claim, which was, he thought, substantially just.

Ald. Stout moved to refer the ordinance for engrossment.

Ald. Knickerbocker opposed the claim, as it was plainly illegal.

Ald. Coey moved to lay the matter over for two weeks, so that it might be further investigated.

Ald. Bowen moved to lay the motion on the table.

Ald. McGrath moved to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was lost, 22 to 9.

Ald. Powell moved to lay the motion to engross on the table. Lost, 15 to 16.

Ald. Powell could not see any justice in the claim, and never believed until then that any such ordinance would receive favor in the Council. If that claim was paid it would be a swindle on the city.

Ald. Thompson moved the previous question, and it was ordered, 22 to 9.

The question upon ordering the ordinance for engrossment, was lost, 13 to 19.

Yeas—Schmitz, Bailey, Verdier, Sweet, Heath, Gardner, Schmidt, Schaffner, Lengacher, Clarke, Ogden, Busse, Woodman—13.

Nays—Knickerbocker, Bowen, Otis, Dixon, Coey, McGennis, Thompson, Daggy, Stone, Tracey, Hickey, Callerton, Powell, Holden, Sherwood, Gill, Cleveland, McGrath, McCaffrey—19.

Ald. Coey asked to be excused from voting, and then arose innumerable points of order, an appeal from the decision of the Chair, and speeches by Ald. Knickerbocker, Dixon, Schaffner, Lengacher, and a general row and disorder, during which Ald. Schaffner called Ald. Dixon a "d--n fool." It was ended by Ald. Coey voting in the negative.

Ald. Knickerbocker moved to place the claim on file.

The motion prevailed.

The Council then adjourned.