

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
COMMON COUNCIL.

---

SPECIAL SESSION

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CHAMBER OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS,  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 1867, 7½ O'CLOCK, P. M. }

The Common Council met in special session.

Present—Honorable Sims A. Colley, President *pro tem.*, in the chair, and the following members :

Councilmen Brown, Coburn, Colley, Davis, Geisel, Goddard, Henschen, Jameson, Kappes, Loomis, MacArthur, Schmidt, Seidensticker, Stanton and Woodburn—15.

Absent—Councilmen Burgess and Cottrell—2.

The President *pro tem.* announced that the first in order of business was the receiving of the reports of the Board of Equalization and the Finance Committee.

The City Assessor, from the Board of Equalization, submitted the following report :

INDIANAPOLIS, June 5, 1867.

To the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Indianapolis:

GENTLEMEN:—Your Committee, to whom was referred the Assessor's return, have heard the complaints that have been presented, and have equalized the assessments, and herewith return the total amount of taxables, as shown by the footings of the Assessor's books, to be twenty-one million nine hundred

and forty-three thousand six hundred and five dollars, and five thousand three hundred polls.

Respectfully submitted,

WM. HADLEY, *City Assessor.*  
 P. H. JAMESON,  
 C. F. SCHMIDT,  
 J. H. WOODBURN, } *Committee.*

Which was concurred in.

Dr. Jameson, Chairman of the Finance Committee, made the following report:

INDIANAPOLIS, June 5, 1867.

To the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Indianapolis:

GENTLEMEN:—The Finance Committee beg leave to report the receipts of the city during the year ending March 20th, 1867, from taxation, as follows:—

Balance in Treasury March 20, 1867.....	\$9,201 67
Delinquent taxes collected.....	34,011 50
Current taxes collected.....	269,777 73
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$312,990 73</b>
From other sources:—	
Loan from W. R. Noffsinger.....	\$40,000 00
Licenses, fines, Markets, &c.....	8,719 10
Receipts from ten per cent. warrants.....	82,619 10
Additional sources—money received on settlement.....	6,000 00
<b>Total receipts to March 20, 1867.....</b>	<b>\$450,329 14</b>
For the same period the following sum was disbursed, namely.....	336,340 10
This aggregate of disbursement includes \$40,000 paid S. A. Fletcher on bank loan, \$4,000 interest advanced in payment of 10 per cent. warrants and \$82,619.31, paid in redemption of current warrants on issue of ten per cent. warrants, amounting altogether to.....	\$126,619 31
Deducting this amount from the gross disbursements leaves.....	209,720 79
As the amount really expended as current expenses for the year ending March 20, 1867, which exceeds, by about one per cent., the estimate of your Committee presented a year ago.	
Deducting from the gross receipts above, namely \$450,329.14, the aggregate amount on hand, received from loan and from sale of ten per cent warrants (\$131,820.98) we have remaining as the current collections for the year ending March 20, 1867.....	\$318,508 16
Taking from this current expenses as above.....	209,720 79
And there remains ____ .....	\$108,787 37
In which sum the liabilities or indebtedness of the city were diminished during the year.	
At the close of the year, the following were the liabilities of the city:—	
On bank loan.....	\$100,000 00
On ten per cent. warrants.....	82,619 10
On three year bonds.....	27,000 00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$209,619 10</b>
Deducting balance of cash in hands of Treasurer at this date.....	122,929 93
<b>Leaves .....</b>	<b>\$86,689 17</b>

Which is the whole amount of indebtedness in excess of funds in the City Treasury March 20, 1867.

At the close of the year there was an unusually heavy delinquent list from which your committee estimate at least \$42,000 can be realized during the ensuing August and September.

Deducting this further sum from amount of debt unprovided for on the 20th day of March last, and the entire indebtedness of the City at that time, above its available assets (cash on hand and collectable on delinquent list) was \$44,070.07.

Though somewhat irrelevant to the subject of this report, your Committee find upon examining the records, that during the last two years the indebtedness of the city has been diminished nearly \$300,000 and that its present proportions are such as not in future to impede our growth or lessen our prosperity.

We present the following as our estimate of the expenses of the city during the current year ending March 20, 1868.

Gas and lighting lamps.....	\$35,000 00
Police (including Detectives).....	26,298 75
Fire Department, including repairs and new engine.....	25,000 00
Street repairs.....	15,000 00
Street crossings.....	8 000 00
Interest.....	20,000 00
Jail expenses.....	6,000 00
Hospital and pest house.....	8,000 00
Printing.....	5,000 00
Books and stationery.....	3,000 00
Bridges and repairs ordered.....	8,000 00
Fees and percentage.....	10,000 00
Salaries.....	12,000 00
Cisterns.....	6,000 00
Rent.....	1,200 00
Incidental expenses.....	10,000 00

Total ..... \$198,498 75

Your Committee do not wish to be considered as endorsing as proper, to be expended in the manner indicated, each of the items of the foregoing estimate, but in several particulars would suggest a reduction. In reference to the item of gas \$15,000 in our opinion might be saved annually by extinguishing street lamps at midnight, and by diminishing the size of the burners. Whether this shall be expedient the Council must determine. We are also in doubt as to the propriety of building additional fire cisterns, until more is definitely known in regard to the erection of water works.

We also think that with rigid economy some of the items of the estimate relative to the Fire Department, might be omitted.

To provide for the expenses of the present year in accordance with the estimate presented, and meet all other obligations in good faith, \$230,000 will have to be raised by taxation, \$170,000 of which should be paid out on current expenses, (the expense on gas being paid in two year warrants) and the remainder applied for the liquidation of the ten per cent. warrants and war bonds, both of which become due early next year, the former on the 1st of April and the latter on the 1st of July.

The aggregate of these liabilities is \$109,000 for the payment of which, according to our estimate, there will be in the City Treasury \$60,000, the remaining \$49,000 will have to be raised by a loan, in addition to which a sufficient amount, probably \$100,000, will also have to be raised by loan, to meet the current expenses of the city during the first half of the next fiscal year.

For the raising of this amount, namely, \$230,000, your committee respectfully recommends a levy of one dollar and fifteen cents be made on each one hundred dollars returned for taxation, for which levy your committee present the accompanying ordinance and recommend its passage.

The assessment this year as shown by the Assessors return, is \$21,943,605. Under this levy, taking last years levy and collections as a basis of calculation, there can be collected \$188,796, in addition to which there can be realized on collection of the delinquent list, about \$42,000, or in the aggregate, \$230,769, which will meet the above estimated requirements of the city and leave \$769 in the Treasury.

In view of the wants of the city in relation to sewerage, your committee beg leave to suggest, that by selling a sufficient amount of war bonds maturing fifteen years after date, to realize therefrom \$100,000 the floating debt of the city can be so adjusted, as to warrant the expenditure of \$40,000 during the latter part of this, and the first part of next year, for the inauguration of a general plan of sewerage.

Your committee would therefore respectfully ask to be empowered to negotiate for the sale of the same, said sale being subject to your final approval.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

P. H. JAMESON, }  
C. F. SCHMIDT, } *Committee.*

On motion by Mr. Davis, the report was received and ordered to be spread upon the printed records of the Council.

Dr. Jameson, Chairman of the Finance Committee, reported an ordinance entitled:

AN ORDINANCE levying a general tax for the year 1867, upon the taxable property within the City of Indianapolis,

Providing for a levy of one dollar and fifteen cents on the one hundred dollars for general purposes, and fifty cents on each poll.

Which was read the first time.

Mr. Loomis moved to strike out the words "one dollar and fifteen cents," and insert the words "one dollar and thirty-five cents."

Mr. Brown moved to amend Mr. Loomis' motion by inserting "one dollar."

The ayes and noes being demanded, those who voted in the affirmative were Councilmen Brown and Woodburn—2.

Those who voted in the negative were Councilmen Coburn, Colley, Davis, Geisel, Goddard, Henschen, Jameson, Loomis, MacArthur, Schmidt, Seidensticker and Stanton—12.

So the amendment was not adopted.

The question then recurring on Mr. Loomis' motion, the ayes and noes were called for.

Those who voted in the affirmative were Councilmen Loomis, Schmidt and Seidensticker—3.

Those who voted in the negative were Councilmen Brown, Coburn,

Davis, Geisel, Goddard, Henschen, Jameson, MacArthur, Stanton and Woodburn—10.

So the amendment was not adopted.

Mr. Geisel then moved to amend by striking out the words "one dollar and fifteen cents," and inserting the words "one dollar and twenty-five cents."

The ayes and noes being demanded, those who voted in the affirmative were Councilmen Davis, Geisel, Goddard, Henschen, Loomis, Schmidt, Seidensticker and Stantor—8.

Those who voted in the negative were Councilman Brown, Coburn, Colley, Jameson, MacArthur and Woodburn—6.

So the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Brown then moved that the further consideration of the ordinance be postponed until next Monday evening, June 10th, 1867.

The ayes and noes being demanded on the postponement, those who voted in the affirmative were Councilmen Brown, Coburn, Davis, Geisel, Goddard, Henschen, Kappes, MacArthur and Woodburn—9.

Those who voted in the negative were Councilmen Jameson, Loomis, Schmidt and Seidensticker—4.

So the motion to postpone was adopted.

Mr. Davis moved that the City papers be requested to publish the report of the Finance Committee.

Which was adopted.

On motion by Mr. MacArthur, the Council adjourned until Thursday evening, June 6th, 1867.

SIMS A. GOLLEY, President *pro tem*.

ATTEST :

D. M. RANDELL, *City Clerk*.