

P R O C E E D I N G S

O F T H E

C O M M O N C O U N C I L .

R E G U L A R S E S S I O N .

CHAMBER OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE }  
 CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS, }  
 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH, 1865, 7 O'CLOCK, P. M. }

The Common Council met in regular session.

Present—His Honor, the Mayor, John Caven, in the chair; and the following members at first roll-call :

Councilmen Allen, Boaz, Brown, Coburn, Colley, Emerson, Fletcher, Glazier, Grosvenor, Jameson, Kappes, Loomis, MacArthur, Schmidt and Staub—15.

Absent—Councilmen Lefever, Seidensticker and Thompson—3.

The proceedings of the regular session, held November 6th, 1865, and of the special session, held November 7th, 1865, were read and approved.

By Mr. Brown—Petition :

INDIAANPOLIS, November 13, 1865.

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

The undersigned became the purchasers, at a sale for city taxes, on the 7th day of February, 1863, of twenty feet south side of south-west quarter of Square 4, in Indianapolis, used for school purposes, for the sum of \$245 87  
 Interest to November 13, 1865, - - - - - 40 57

They also purchased at city tax sale :

February 11, 1865. south-west quarter of Square 4	- \$243 89
Interest to November 13, 1865	11 04
Total,	\$541 62

Having understood that a case has lately been decided by the Supreme Court, to-wit, Indianapolis vs. Sturdevant, that property held for similar use is not taxable, we respectfully ask that our purchase money and interest be refunded.

LANGSDALE & HAMILTON.

We herewith enclose our certifiates.

Which, on motion, was referred to the City Attorney.

By Mr. Grosvenor—Petition :

INDIANAPOLIS, November 13, 1865.

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

Your petitioner asks the privilege of paving the sidewalk in front of his property, on Georgia street, to be done with brick or stone, under the direction of the City Engineer; said property is between Illinois and Tennessee streets.

HUGO MARMONT.

Which, on motion, was granted.

By Mr. Loomis—Petition :

INDIANAPOLIS, Nov. 13, 1865.

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

I respectfully ask further time to complete my contract for the grading and paving the sidewalk on the west side of Pennsylvania street, between North street and Corporation line, it having been delayed on account of the scarcity of hard burned brick.

C. E. WHITSIT, *Contractor.*

On motion of Mr. Loomis, the prayer of the petitioner was granted, and thirty days' time given for the completion of the contract, provided the written consent of his bondsmen be filed with the Civil Engineer.

By Mr. Allen—Petition :

INDIANAPOLIS, November 13, 1865.

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

We do earnestly request of you to increase our salary from \$2.50 per day to \$2.75 per day. The very best we can do with our orders is 15 cents discount, which only leaves \$2.12½ cents per day, and 12 hours for a day; we have to carry up almost all the wood that we use, and if we had not been vary strong in the knees we would have broken down at it; but always looking for a better prospect ahead, have been able to hold out till the present time, which we do not feel willing to do any longer. We have succeeded in getting the Alarm apparatus in good order, and now all we ask is a fair compensation for our services. The small sum of 25 cents more per day is what we ask for, hoping that you will be pleased to grant it.

C. W. RHOADS,  
T. BARNITT.

Which, on motion, was referred to the Finance Committee.

## By Mr. Grosvenor—Petition :

INDIANAPOLIS, Nov. 13, 1865.

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

Your petitioners would respectfully ask that your honorable body would grade and cover with cinders the proper depth Illinois street, between the north line of McCarty street and the north line of Ray street, to be done at the expense of the property holders.

Joseph Myers,	E. M. Preston,
John Schultheis,	John Stellwagen,
Christ. Reitzel,	And 7 others.

Which, on motion, was referred to the Committee on Streets and Alleys.

## By Mr. Coburn—Communication :

INDIANAPOLIS, November 13, 1865.

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

GENTLEMEN:—I hereby respectfully tender my resignation as Commissioner of the City of Indianapolis, appointed by the Court of Common Pleas, on your application, to appraise and assess damages on petition to open streets and alleys in the city. I am so situated that I cannot give it that time and attention that the duties absolutely require.

Very respectfully submitted,

L. VANLANINGHAM.

Which, on motion, was referred to the City Attorney.

## By Mr. Brown—Petition :

INDIANAPOLIS, November 9, 1865.

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

The undersigned, property holders on the line thereof, respectfully petition your honorable body for the privilege of grading and graveling the alley extending from Michigan to North streets, being the easternmost alley in Square 6, of this city.

A. Harrison,	J. M. Tilford,
J. C. S. Harrison,	H. G. Carey,
William Glenn,	John Stelzel.
Charles Williams,	

On motion, the prayer of the petitioners was granted, and the Civil Engineer directed to set the stakes.

## By Mr. Kappes—Petition :

INDIANAPOLIS, November 13, 1865.

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

GENTLEMEN:—The undersigned does humbly petition your honorable body to vacate the street, between the Old and New Burying Grounds, so as to make a carriage way between them twenty feet in width, and throw the balance of the street into the City Burying Grounds.

McKERNAN & PIERCE,  
JAMES M. RAY.

Which, on motion, was referred to the Committee on Streets and Alleys.

Mr. Brown moved—

That W. & H. Glenn be authorized to remove the Central Alarm Bell Tower from its present position on their lot to such other portion of their lot that they may select: *Provided*, The same be done to the satisfaction of the Chief Fire Engineer, and at the expense of the Messrs. Glenns.

Which motion prevailed.

Mr. Loomis moved—

That the contract for grading and graveling the sidewalk on the north side of Louisiana street, between New Jersey and East streets, be awarded to the lowest bidder this evening.

Which was laid upon the table.

Mr. Kappes moved—

That the Street Commissioner be instructed to extend the culvert at the intersection of Ft. Wayne Avenue and North street the whole width of said Avenue, including sidewalks.

Referred to the Board of Public Improvements.

Mr. Brown moved—

That the vote concurring in the report of the Committee on Streets and Alleys, recommending that the passage of an ordinance granting certain privileges as to changes of tracks of the Bellefontaine Railway Company, be reconsidered.

The question being on the adoption of the motion, the ayes and noes were called for.

Those who voted in the affirmative were Councilmen Allen, Boaz, Brown, Emerson, Glazier, Grosvenor, Kappes, Loomis, MacArthur and Staub—10.

Those who voted in the negative were Councilmen Coburn, Colley, Fletcher, Jameson and Schmidt—5.

So the motion was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Brown, the report was then laid upon the table.

By Mr. Loomis:

*Resolved*, That His Honor, Mayor Caven, and the Committee appointed for that purpose by this Council during the last session of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, act as a Committee to prepare certain changes or amendments to the Bill for the amendment of the City Charter, now pending in the House of Representatives, and that other cities in this State be, and are hereby, requested to meet said Committee, by their delegates, in this Council Chamber, on Tuesday, the 21st of November, 1865, for the purpose of co-operating with said Committee, as aforesaid, and that the City Clerk be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to notify the Common Councils of such other cities, through their Mayors or Presidents, of the action of this Council.

The question being on the passage of the resolution, those who voted in the affirmative were Councilmen Allen, Boaz, Brown, Coburn,

Colley, Emerson, Fletcher, Glazier, Grosvenor, Jameson, Kappes, Loomis, MacArthur, Schmidt and Staub—15. Noes, none.

So the resolution passed.

Mr. Brown introduced general ordinance No. 24, as follows, to-wit:

AN ORDINANCE accepting the proposals of the Indianapolis Gas Light and Coke Company, for furnishing gas to the city and citizens of Indianapolis, upon certain conditions therein named.

SECTION 1. *Be it ordained by the Common Council of the City of Indianapolis,* That the proposals made on the 4th day of September, 1865, by the Indianapolis Gas Light and Coke Company, for lighting the City of Indianapolis with gas, and for furnishing the citizens thereof with gas, for twenty years from the fourth day of March, 1866, be accepted and agreed to upon the said Company, by its Board of Directors, on their records, to be certified to the Mayor of the city, agreeing and binding itself, within twenty days hereafter, as follows, to-wit:

1. That all of the surplus net income of the Company, resulting from its operations and business of every kind, after defraying all current expenses, including the cost of keeping the property in as good condition from ordinary wear, tear and damage, and after retaining for the stockholders of the Company, for dividends, including provision against extraordinary and unforeseen contingencies, thirteen per cent. annually, on the stock of the Company, as it now stands on its books, representing the value of its property on November 7th, 1865, shall accrue to the City of Indianapolis, and be paid over to its treasury at the end of each year from March 7th, 1866; *Provided,* That if in any year, from any causes, sufficient net income shall not arise from the operations and business of said Company, of every kind, to amount to thirteen per cent. for the stockholders, on their stock, the amount of the deficit in such income, for such failing year, shall be carried over to the succeeding year or years, as may be necessary, to be retained in such year or years for making up to them such deficiency, and interest thereon, in addition to the per cent. for such succeeding year or years, above stipulated to be retained annually.

2. All expenditures for permanent objects, such as extensions of mains, meters, services, additional benches, retorts, gasometers, or otherwise, to be incurred after November 1st, 1865, shall be provided for by cash, to be raised by the issue of new stock, and not out of the means of the Company; which stock shall be entitled to have retained for it the same per centum of dividend, including provision for extraordinary contingencies, as is to be retained for the present stock, and no more.

3. It shall be obligatory upon the said Company to determine, and notify the Common Council, on the first Monday of March, annually, the rate per one thousand cubic feet, for furnishing the city and citizens of Indianapolis with gas for the succeeding year; which shall never exceed the amount stated in its proposals above referred to, and which shall be reduced below that rate, from time to time, as much as the Directors of said Company, in their judgment, from experience, shall be sufficient to secure a yield of the per centum on their stock herein above stipulated to be retained for the stockholders of the Company; *Provided,* the Common Council, on being notified of such reduction, shall agree thereto.

4. The entire management of the operations and business of the said Company shall continue and remain as heretofore in its hands, to be conducted as consistently with sound and judicious economy, as if all the income of the Company was to accrue to the stockholders.

5. The said Company shall, from time to time, and at the proper season of the year for such work, make such extensions of mains and service pipes, as a joint committee of three members of the Common Council and of the

Board of Directors of said Company shall agree to be justifiable under the spirit of this contract.

6. The books of the Company are to be at all times, during the existence of such contract, and in business hours, subject to the inspection of such officers or committee of the Common Council as may be appointed for such purpose.

SEC. 2. This ordinance shall be in force from and after the filing with the Mayor of the city of the certified copy from the records of the Board of Directors of such Company, accepting the terms and conditions herein set forth; and it is hereby made the duty of the Mayor to make proclamation of such acceptance, accompanying such publication with a copy of this ordinance.

Which was read the first time, and, on motion, was read the second time, and ordered to be printed in the proceedings.

Dr. Thompson moved that the rules be suspended in order to receive the reports from the Board of Health and the Special Committee on Cleaning the Streets and Alleys of the City.

The question being on the suspension of the rules, those who voted in the affirmative were Councilmen Allen, Boaz, Brown, Coburn, Colley, Emerson, Fletcher, Glazier, Grosvenor, Jameson, Kappes, Loomis, MacArthur, Schmidt, Staub and Thompson—16. Noes, none.

So the rules were suspended.

Dr. George W. Mears, President of the Board of Health, then submitted the following report, to-wit:

INDIANAPOLIS, NOV. 13, 1865.

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

The gradual but certain approach of the cholera has excited just apprehensions of its advent, sooner or later, to this city.

The fearful effects of its ravages in other countries give assurance of the malignity of its character in the present outbreak, and admonish us of the grave importance of an intelligent and efficient preparation for its reception, whenever, in its erratic wanderings, it may assail Indianapolis.

The cause of this shocking malady, whether mediate or immediate, proximate or remote, though questions in themselves interesting, it is not the object of the Board of Health now to discuss. Their purpose will be attained by urging upon the attention of your honorable body the fact, universally admitted, we believe, that whatever may be the essential nature of the poisonous agent or agents involved in the production of the disease, malaria and all noxious gaseous exhalations from filth, and the decomposition of animal and vegetable matter, conduce largely to its virulence, and swell to fearful magnitude the bills of mortality wherever cholera is known to prevail as an epidemic.

That causes contributing greatly to the production of the elements in question, are to be encountered at every turn in this city, must be patent to all enjoying, even in a moderate degree, the faculties of sight and smell. Very much of the unhealthy condition of the atmosphere is believed to be attributable to the radical blunders of the system of engineering inaugurated twenty years ago by the elder Wood, and with filial devotion to the teachings of the father, persisted in by the present incumbent to the extent of reducing some of the streets to nearly a perfect level, so confounding the water

shed upon them in periods of heavy rains, that it is often observed to stand still, as if studying hydraulics, with a view to determine its proper course to White river.

Under existing circumstances, it is an object of primary importance to remedy, as far as practicable, the evils of this defective drainage with the means and appliances at hand; leaving the great question of the introduction of a system of permanent sewerage to the judgment of able and educated engineers. The cost being a secondary consideration, the hope is indulged by the Board of Health that enlarged views, somewhat commensurate with enlightened progress, and the great utility and magnitude of the undertaking, will govern the Council in its selection of agents for the prosecution of so important a work.

Dealing then with the condition of things as we find them, our first attention is due to the thorough cleansing of the streets and alleys, and then to so opening and improving the channels already provided for the purpose, as, to afford the readiest and best means for the escape of water shed upon the city, the imperfect discharge of which is the chief source of uncleanness, and all its mischievous consequences. To accomplish the latter of these objects, it is recommended that the gutters, at all points of the city where the flow, on account of the flat state of the general surface, is languid, be widened, and either deepened or filled, as needed, to their original grades; that in all cases where mud holes or basins containing or capable of holding water are found, they shall be scraped out and filled up with gravel, or cinders from the Rolling Mill. This work can only be properly performed by previously staking all such gutters, so that the Commissioner may be able to work to them, and thus preserve a smooth and even floor to those drains, which it must be apparent to every one is essential to the uninterrupted and rapid passage of the water.

Thus improved, and so kept by the rigid enforcement of the laws against permitting them to be filled up with grass, stones, and other rubbish, and all obstructions at street crossings, they will be found, in the judgment of the Board, to possess abundant capacity for the free discharge of all the water allotted to them.

To prevent holes constantly made by horses hitched so as to stand in them, and which so much obstruct the current in these outlets, it is important that no hitching posts should be allowed within or nearer than four feet without the curbing, except in cases where the gutters are paved or covered with a platform.

On removing from these gutters the slimy filth usually found in them, especially in warm weather, it is of the utmost importance to have it carried away immediately, instead of drawing it out to one side, and leaving it to stand in disgusting mounds, as is the present practice, allowing its stench to infect a whole neighborhood, while it is permitted to dry for the convenience of transit to some favored vacant lot, the neighborhood of which may for all time to come be regaled by its fragrant and healthful exhalations. Too much can not be said in reprehension of this filthy practice, and it is hoped that stringent measures will be adopted to prevent it in future.

Next to cleaning the gutters and keeping them open, it is important to have the streets put in perfect order. All basins or depressions containing or liable to hold stagnant water, should be promptly filled up with either gravel or slag. If the latter be used, the large cinders and pieces of brick, often found in and mixed with it, should, by all means, be broken into fragments, as being in that form much better adapted to the improvement contemplated, than the large boulders from the Rolling Mill now thrown into the streets, to the great annoyance of all carriage drivers, and the injury of vehicles passing over them.

All rubbish and filth must be scraped from the streets and carted away—the decomposable matter to the crossing of White river, below the graveyard, and dumped into the water. The drier earth may be used for filling low places found in streets or alleys.

To get rid of the nuisance of refuse water from hotels, boarding houses,

dye houses, and breweries, not well disposed of by surface draining, the expedient of clay piping, so extensively and successfully used in the city of London, for under drainage, suggests itself to the Board as a cheap and efficient means of disposing of these offensive fluids. It has been intimated that with so little inclination they would be liable to fill up with sediment and become useless. To obviate this possible objection it is recommended that no water shall be permitted to enter the pipes until after being kept in a reservoir, or catch-pool, as it is technically termed, for a sufficient length of time to deposit its sediment. The water thus settled is let into the pipe through a fine filter, which will effectually prevent from entering solid substances, or such matter as would, if admitted, be liable to settle and obstruct the passages.

In addition to this precaution, the opportunity of flushing will be presented at nearly every square, by the admission, through small lateral pipes into the main, of the surplus water from the pumps on the way. This, it is perceived, would very effectually dispose of all the water, except that shed upon the surface in rainy seasons. The expense of this work, like that incurred for abating a nuisance on individual property, should be assessed upon the parties by whose agency the nuisance is committed.

In like manner as the streets are cleaned, so should every alley in the city be treated. Thoroughly cleaned at first, it should be so drained or filled up that no basins may be left for the accumulation of mud and water. Thus cleared of all manure, garbage, sticks, stones, and other rubbish, notice should be served upon the property holders adjoining that they will be held accountable, on default of the renters, who should also have notice, for the maintenance of cleanliness.

The streets, after being subjected to a similar process of purifying, should be kept as nearly so as practicable, by the rigid enforcement of ordinances against making it, and in an especial manner the gutter, the receptacle of coal or wood ashes, chips, wood, decayed fruit, melon rinds, sweepings of houses, or any other rubbish which would arrest the free passage of water in the gutters, or be subject to decomposition. Builders should be notified of the penalty for stopping the gutters with building materials, the subject at present of altogether too much indifference and neglect.

When we speak of notifying the people of the existence of municipal laws, of which many may be ignorant, it is not intended that the ordinance shall be published in the papers, or even alone printed in hand bills and stuck up at public places, but that officers properly authorized shall visit every family in the city, leaving at each house a copy of the printed laws bearing upon the subject, and in all cases where heads of families are found who can not read, so explain the enactments, and their own responsibilities under them, as that the laws shall, in no case, be misunderstood.

In making a disposition of the garbage, we are aware that we shall encounter difficulties inseparable from the introduction of so troublesome an innovation upon fixed habits. Some will be found to object to the waste, others, perhaps, to the labor and inconvenience; while still another, and perhaps a larger class, will be too poor to pay for its removal. For the latter class provision must be made by the Council—scavengers must be contracted with for certain districts, to collect from the poor. In many instances, no doubt, there will be found persons of sufficient thrift, ready to do the work at first at a nominal sum, and perhaps soon after the working of the system is fairly tested, be willing to pay a small consideration for the contract. Meantime, it might be proper to advertise for proposals to remove it from districts circumscribed to suit contractors. On failure of this expedient, it will be incumbent upon the authorities to provide the necessary means for its disposal, assessing a small charge upon housekeepers able to pay for their proportion of the work. Here the question presents itself, as to whether, as in Boston and some other cities, it might not be made a source of revenue to the city, to feed it to hogs and cattle, kept for the purpose at some short distance from its limits. In all cases where it can be disposed of by feeding to cows

owned by housekeepers producing it, permission should be granted them to use it in that way.

The premises of hotels and boarding houses, as well as those of private individuals, will be subjected to rigid inspection by the proper officers, and where offensive matters are discovered, the nuisance must be promptly abated by a thorough cleansing at the expense of the keeper, or, on his failure, the responsibility of the property holder.

In the case of filthy and overflowing cess-pools and privies, after proper cleansing, a free application of lime (ordinary quick lime) must be made.

All holes in the yard, garden or lot, liable to be filled with water or rubbish, subject to stagnation and decay, must be filled up or effectually drained. Gutters and sinks for water must be kept clean, and treated also during hot weather with lime; and in case there is a redundant flow of water from the frequent use of the pump, dry wells must be resorted to to prevent the excess of water from reaching the alley or street. No soapsuds should be permitted to stand in tubs, or be thrown into the alleys. While fresh, it may be poured upon the garden, or any other place, (except the street or alley,) where it will not be allowed to collect in pools, and left to decompose before it is absorbed by the earth or evaporated by the sun.

No manure will be permitted to be thrown in the alleys, nor to be kept in large bodies on lots contiguous to alleys or streets.

The water of all wells within twenty feet of a privy, especially in clay subsoil, should be condemned as unfit for culinary or drinking purposes; and it is earnestly recommended to the Council that no wells should be sunk in future within the above prescribed limits.

Hogs shall in no wise be kept within the city limits after the first day of February next. Notice to this effect should be given to all housekeepers in the habit of keeping them.

The stables for horses and cows will also be subject to inspection, and the enforcement of all laws applicable to uncleanness in other departments.

Cellars will be the object of very special attention; old, mouldy and half decayed barrels, boxes and pieces of wood, decaying and decayed fruits and vegetables, old clothes, filthy and torn pieces of carpet, and other like offensive articles, of which cellars are frequently the receptacle, must be removed and burned, or carted to the river and thrown into the stream. In cases of unusual dampness lime should be freely applied, and in those instances where the cellar is liable to fill with water, the digging of dry wells should be enforced.

For the removal of the small lakes, ponds and pools of water within and near the limits of the city, efficient drainage or filling up should be made indispensable. Immediate attention is due this subject, in order that the bottoms of those basins may be exposed to the action of the frost of the approaching winter. The effect of thorough freezing will be to deprive in a great degree the animal and vegetable deposits of their noxious gases, which would be eliminated by exposure to the sun of next summer, to the manifest danger of those vicinities if the waters were permitted to cover them until spring.

It is always preferable to dispose of the water of such places by surface drainage, where at all practicable—wells for that purpose being liable to the objection of puddling very soon, even if the substratum reached for that purpose be porous. The only remedy for the difficulty suggested is, we believe, to dig some feet into the gravel, and wall loosely with brick or stone up to the clay, and then select a period for the first draining when the water is most clear.

The arrangement with the Sanitary Commission for the use of the City Hospital, it is hoped, is temporary—it being all important, in the judgment of the Board of Health, that it should be placed in a condition of readiness for the reception of patients. Strangers being attacked with diseases of any kind popularly believed contagious or infectious, never willingly kept, and sometimes ejected from hotels and boarding houses, should have a place of

refuge prepared for them, especially in times of pestilence. The attention of the Council is respectfully directed to this subject.

Complaints are from year to year, very justly, as we think, filed against the slaughter houses within the city limits, on account of the stench which, in heavy and damp weather, issues from them and spreads over one-third of the city. While the Board of Health, being endowed with like sensitive olfactory nerves, regard the exposure to that nauseous effluvium as disgusting in the extreme, and as obnoxious to abatement as a nuisance by the Council, they are not in the possession of facts, either as the result of personal observation or medical authority, which dispose them to condemn these savory institutions as making unfavorable sanitary impressions upon the neighborhoods in which they are located, especially when they are kept clean and the owners are permitted by municipal regulations to exercise their sanguinary functions only during the winter season. It might, however, be well here to suggest that the nuisance here complained of may very probably be obviated by the erection of stand pipes or chimneys of sufficient height, and so constructed as to convey the tainted air out at the top. Such appliances are adopted successfully by the manufacturers of prussiate of iron from the carcasses of dead animals in the midst of large cities, both in this country and Europe.

The subject of excavating cellars is one we approach with diffidence, as it involves a very large interest and seems difficult to provide against. The exposure to the sun of fresh surface earth, in hot weather, is admitted to be a fruitful source of miasma. In the process of cellar excavation the disturbance of the surface earth is produced in the digging, which exposes the immediate vicinity of the work to unhealthy exhalations from the partial decomposition of vegetable deposits, as well as the neighborhood of the locality where such earth is thrown.

The remedy of the evil, which occurs to the Board, is to notify builders of the danger, in the time of an expected invasion of epidemic disease, and suggest the propriety and safety in all cases where building during the approaching season is anticipated, of removing the surface earth before the 1st of May. It is confidently believed that most well disposed persons of intelligence, having the sanitary condition of the city in view, will yield to the intimation, and so prepare their work for the summer's completion.

The encroachments of the old cemetery upon the limits of our growing city, with perhaps the vague idea with some that the proximity of so large a deposit of dead bodies was deleterious to health, and with still another, and it is trusted the larger class, the noble impulse of providing a retired and beautiful resting place, more in accordance with the sanctity of sepulture for departed friends, the idea originated to substitute for it the more commodious grounds of Crown Hill. The work accomplished, it was hoped that the remains already deposited there would at an early period be transferred to the new grounds. The fact, however, that the admission of subjects from town and country are now more than counterbalancing the removals, is difficult to reconcile with the idea of even the ultimate success of the enterprise.

Would not the purchase of a Potter's Field, at a short distance from the city, accommodate strangers and others unable to provide a burial at Crown Hill, and thus promote the success of an undertaking so worthy the co-operation of the city authorities.

In order that the work proposed for your accomplishment may be the more speedily and efficiently performed, it is proposed that you shall increase, as well as more fully define the powers of the "Board of Health," hitherto a merely nominal office.

It is manifest that it should have a controlling influence in the management of the sanitary system about to be inaugurated.

It should be consulted in regard to the need, nature and execution of all the changes and improvements contemplated by your body, having reference to the sanitary condition of the city.

Its members, individually or collectively, should have authority, and it should be made their duty to abate nuisance wherever and whenever it is encountered, without the intervention of Marshals or other officials.

They will need two or more working assistants, who shall be intelligent and energetic men, willing to give their entire time to the duties with which they shall be charged by the conditions of office, and be subject, at least in part, to the direction of the Board, to whom they will report at least once a week.

Having thus, gentlemen, in as concise a manner as the nature of the circumstances will admit, furnished the views and submitted the recommendations of the Board of Health, on the subject of the herculean work of placing the city in position for the apprehended epidemic, we have, in conclusion, but to add our earnest petition for the prompt and energetic execution of your plans. It is hoped that no time, not a day, will be lost on account of the delusive impression that the approaching winter will allow time for the work, before the cholera season appears. Although it is generally believed to be more fatal when it appears in hot weather, the fact of its having in 1833 prevailed fearfully at St. Petersburg in mid-winter, shows that the morbid cause is not destroyed by the intense cold, and should warn you against delay.

Respectfully submitted.

GEORGE W. MEARS,  
*President of the Board.*

W. R. BULLARD, *Secretary.*

On motion of Mr. Brown, the report was received, and ordered to be spread at length upon the minutes.

Mr. Brown, from the Special Committee, then submitted the following report, to-wit:

INDIANAPOLIS, November 13, 1865.

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

The Special Committee appointed at the last meeting of the Council to confer with the Board of Health, and report some plan by which the streets, alleys, &c., can be cleaned and kept cleaned, beg leave to report as follows:

The Committee met the Board of Health, and learned from it that a report would be submitted to the Council on this evening, in which sundry recommendations would be made for the improvement of the sanitary condition of the city. The Board enter fully into details, and your Committee cheerfully recommend the Council to adopt such of their suggestions, as are practicable; that ordinances be passed to enforce such regulations as may be made to secure thorough cleanliness throughout the city; and that the necessary appropriations of money be made to carry out the orders of the Council in this particular.

Among the suggestions which your Committee deem practicable are the following:

1. The immediate cleaning of all the alleys and gutters at the expense of the city.
2. The filling up of all mud-holes and ponds in the streets and alleys, at the expense of the city.
3. The draining or filling up of all mud-holes and ponds on private property, at the expense of the property owners.
4. The construction of suitable sewers, to carry away from all hotels, large boarding houses, and breweries, all waste water, (not including garbage and kitchen slops); such sewers to be constructed by the property owners, and at their expense.
5. The passage of such additional ordinances as may be necessary to compel property owners to keep their lots, premises, privies, stables, cellars, and out-houses, and the water-ways from pumps, wells and cisterns clean; and to provide for the carrying away, at least one mile from the city limits, of all garbage, slops, &c., that accumulates from day to day on the premises of citizens.

6. The adoption of severe penalties against the throwing into the streets, alleys, or gutters, of slops, garbage, water, manure, or filth of any kind; and against the flowing of noisome liquids, slops, or water, into the gutters, streets, or alleys, from any lot or house in the city.

7. Prohibiting the running at large of hogs within the city limits.

8. The employment of a sufficient number of scavengers in each Ward to haul away all the accumulating garbage, at least twice a week in winter, and every day in summer.

9. The organization of a Sanitary Police, consisting of one for each Ward, to patrol the Wards and bring to punishment all violators of the ordinances relative to cleanliness. Such police force should be under the joint control of the Board of Health and a Committee of the Council, selected for that purpose. It is suggested that these policemen might also act as supervisors of streets and alleys, and as such see that the instructions of the Street Commissioner and Engineer, as to improvements and repairs, are enforced.

10. Some better regulation as to the removal and burial, or destruction, of dead animals beyond the city limits, at least one mile.

11. Some better regulation, with severe penalties attached, for keeping slaughter houses cleanly. For this purpose the Council has jurisdiction for one mile beyond the city limits, and that jurisdiction ought to be exercised, not only in this matter, but in every other regulation of a sanitary nature.

12. The appointment of a Sanitary Commission, composed of the Board of Health and three Councilmen, with ample power to enforce all the regulations, except the infliction of penalties, which the Council may from time to time adopt, for the prevention of disease and promotion of health.

AUSTIN H. BROWN,  
J. HENRY KAPPES,  
JOHN B. MACARTHUR, } *Committee.*

Which, on motion, was received and ordered to be spread upon the minutes.

On motion of Mr. Brown, the regular order of business was resumed.

Mr. Coburn, from the Board of Public Improvements, in accordance with instructions from Council, reported special ordinance No. 81, entitled,

AN ORDINANCE to provide for the paving of the south sidewalk of Washington street, between Alabama and New Jersey streets,

Which was read the first time, and, on motion, was read the second time.

By Mr. Coburn, from the Board of Public Improvements:

OFFICE BOARD OF PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, }  
Indianapolis, November 13, 1865. }

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

The Board would report that they have examined the report of the Street Commissioner, and find it correct, vouchers for the same being herewith submitted.

H. COBURN,  
W. CLINTON THOMPSON, } *Board.*

INDIANAPOLIS, Nov. 13, 1865.

*Report of the Street Commissioner to the Board of Public Improvements :*

I have the honor to report that—

1. I cleaned the gutters on Pennsylvania street, between Maryland street and Railroad.
2. I dug down the alleys on Georgia and Meridian streets.
3. I put two new foot bridges on New Jersey and Market streets.
4. I cleaned the gutters on Illinois street, between Washington and Louisiana streets.
5. I cleaned gutters on Maryland street, between Virginia Avenue and Pennsylvania street.
6. I repaired sidewalk on Pennsylvania street, between Georgia street and Railroad.
7. I filled the crossing on Illinois and Vermont streets with cinders.
8. I filled two crossings on Illinois and New York streets with cinders.
9. I filled two crossings on New York and East streets with cinders.
10. I filled in with gravel the foot bridges on Washington street across the Canal.
11. I cleaned gutters on Market street, between West street and Canal.
12. I cleaned gutters on New York street, between Canal and California street.
13. I built culvert on Pennsylvania and North streets and Fort Wayne Avenue.
14. I cleaned gutters on West street, between Washington street and Indiana Avenue.
15. I cleaned gutters on Washington street, between Illinois street and the Canal.
16. I built culvert on Market and Tennessee streets.
17. I filled the holes on New Jersey street, between Washington street and Pogue's Run.
18. I placed six new foot bridges on Tennessee and Market streets.
19. I placed two new foot bridges on Illinois and Market streets.
20. I dug a ditch along Madison Railroad, and drained the small pond into the large.
21. I filled the crossing on Illinois and Michigan streets with cinders.
22. I filled two crossings on Liberty and Michigan streets with cinders.
23. I built a culvert on Washington and Mississippi streets.
24. I filled the crossing on Mississippi and South streets with cinders.
25. I repaired bouldering on Meridian street, between Washington and Louisiana streets.
26. I repaired bouldering on Illinois street, between Washington and Louisiana streets.
27. I repaired bouldering on Washington street, between Virginia Avenue and Merrill street.
28. I repaired bouldering on Virginia Avenue, between Washington and Delaware streets.
29. I repaired bouldering on Pennsylvania street, between Washington and Market streets.
30. I built a culvert on Madison Avenue, at intersection of Railroad street.
31. I repaired culvert on Madison Avenue, near Railroad.
32. I cleaned gutters on Indiana Avenue, between the Canal and Allen street.
33. I cleaned gutters on East street, between Washington and Market streets.
34. I built a culvert on West Maryland street.
35. I cleaned gutters on Delaware street, between Massachusetts Avenue and St. Joseph street.
36. I hauled 76 loads of gravel on sidewalk on Delaware street, south of McCarty street.
37. I filled up South Delaware street with dirt, and hauled 250 loads of cinders and gravel.

38. I placed 12 foot bridges on Circle street.

39. I took up 230 yards of bouldering on Washington and Mississippi streets and replaced them.

In building culverts I am obliged to fill up a great deal, which I have not mentioned in this report.

Respectfully submitted,

AUGUST RICHTER, *Street Commissioner.*

Which, on motion, was accepted and approved.

Mr. Kappes, from the Committee on Benevolence, introduced the following ordinance :

AN ORDINANCE appropriating money for the payment of expenses incurred in building a new fence around the City Cemetery.

SECTION 1. *Be it ordained by the Common Council of the City of Indianapolis,* That the sum of six hundred dollars be appropriated, payable out of any money in the City Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of paying expenses incurred by the City Sexton for building a new fence around the City Cemetery, payable when said fence shall be completed to the satisfaction of the Civil Engineer.

SEC. 2. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to issue warrants upon the City Treasurer to Garrison W. Allred for the amount set forth in section first of this ordinance.

SEC. 3. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Ordained and established this 13th day of November, 1865.

JOHN CAVEN, *Mayor.*

Attest:

C. S. BUTTERFIELD, *City Clerk.*

Which was read the first time, and, on motion, was read the second time.

Mr. Kappes moved that the rules be suspended and the ordinance read the third time and placed upon its passage.

The question being on the suspension of the rules, those who voted in the affirmative were Councilmen Allen, Boaz, Brown, Coburn, Colley, Emerson, Fletcher, Glazier, Grosvenor, Jameson, Kappes, Loomis, MacArthur, Schmidt and Staub—15. Noes, none.

So the rules were suspended and the ordinance read the third time and placed upon its passage.

The question being on the passage of the ordinance, those who voted in the affirmative were Councilmen Allen, Boaz, Brown, Coburn, Colley, Emerson, Fletcher, Glazier, Grosvenor, Jameson, Kappes, Loomis, MacArthur, Schmidt and Staub—15. Noes, none.

So the ordinance passed.

Mr. Coburn moved—

That the contractor for the paving of the sidewalks of Massachusetts Avenue be instructed to boulder in front of the No. 2 Engine House, instead of paving with brick.

Which motion prevailed.

Mr. Glazier introduced special ordinance No. 82, entitled:

AN ORDINANCE to provide for grading and graveling the continuation of Duncan street, running east and west through out-lots 19 and 22,

Which was read the first and second times.

On motion of Mr. Brown, the Council adjourned.

Present at roll-call on adjournment: Councilmen Allen, Boaz, Brown, Coburn, Colley, Emerson, Fletcher, Glazier, Grosvenor, Jameson, Kappes, Loomis, MacArthur, Schmidt and Staub—15.

JOHN CAVEN, *Mayor*.

ATTEST:

C. S. BUTTERFIELD, *City Clerk*.