

Common Council Chamber  
January 2nd 1856

The Council met at half past Six o'clock P M. Present the Mayor and all the members

The Treasurers monthly report was presented and on motion was referred to the Mayor and City Clerk for examination

The following report was received

| 1854. General Fund |   |            |
|--------------------|---|------------|
| Sep 30.            | Amount of warrants issued over cash in Treasury | \$ 5084.55 |
| Dec 31             | Amount of warrants issued from Sep 30 to Dec 31 | 9892.61    |
|                    |   | <hr/>      |
|                    | Recd from Tax Duplicate license & c to Dec 31   | 3561 00    |
|                    | Bal of warrants to date over cash in Treasury   | <hr/>      |
|                    |   | \$11416.16 |
| School Fund        |   |            |
| Sep 30             | Amount in Treasury Subject to warrant           | \$ 1683.41 |
| Dec 31             | Received from Duplicate                         | 2130 00    |
|                    |   | <hr/>      |
|                    |   | \$ 3813 41 |
| Dec 31             | Amount of warrants issued from Sep 30 to Dec 31 | 1872.31    |
|                    | Bal in Treasury Subject to warrant              | <hr/>      |
|                    |   | \$ 1941.11 |

James N Sweetser  
City Clerk

The Street Commissioner reported the following Cisterns in bad order. One at the corner of Meridian & Ohio Streets, one at the corner of Washington & Penna Streets, one at the corner of Market & Penna Streets, and one at the corner of Ohio & East Streets

On motion, Said report was referred to the Committee on Cisterns

The following report was presented

Indianapolis Jan'y 2 1854

Police report beginning Monday evening Dec 4th/54, ending Sunday Morning Dec 30th/54

|                                      |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Jefferson Springstean                | Served twenty seven days          |
| Joseph Colley                        | Served twenty five days           |
| Wm Robinson                          | Served twenty seven days          |
| John Bishop                          | Served two days, (one in December |
| which was not entered in last report |                                   |



|                    |                                    |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| John Bisbing       | Served twelve days (expelled)      |
| Francis Wright     | Served thirteen days               |
| Amos Scott         | Served twenty three days           |
| David Derringer    | Served twenty eight days           |
| David Anderson     | Served twenty eight days           |
| J W Buckhart       | Served twenty eight days           |
| Robert Johnson     | Served twenty eight days           |
| Jessee Vanblaricum | Served twenty six days             |
| Benjamin Sobaugh   | Served twenty eight days           |
| Wm McClain         | Served twenty eight days           |
| George Thompson    | Served twenty eight days           |
| Rewben Adams       | Served twenty five and a half days |
| Hubbard Adams      | Served twenty eight days           |

Number of arrests made by the Policemen beginning Monday evening Dec 4th/54

|                              |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| For intoxication, males      | 78        |
| Disturbing the Peace         | 4         |
| Associating with prostitutes | 4         |
| Females for intoxication     | 2         |
| Whole number                 | <u>88</u> |

Jefferson Springstean  
Captain of the Watch

On motion the City Clerk was instructed to issue warrants to the Watchman for their Services

The following accounts were presented and allowed

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| John Whiting for digging wells   | \$ 15.72 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Wm G Wright for pumps  | 11.50                  |
| Holeman Carle for Labor  | 13.50                  |
| Cleveland Coal Company, Coal for Bucket Company                        | 2.80                   |
| Indianapolis Coal Company Coal for Council Chamber                     | 10.50                  |
| Chas Neighbors for removing dogs                                       | 1.75                   |
| Wm S Hubbard for Rent of Relief Engine house                           | 20.00                  |
| John D Defrees for printing  | 15.50                  |
| James W Buckhart removing dogs   | 1.75                   |
| Edwards & Copeland for building Cupola on Western Liberty Engine house | 136.25                 |
|  | \$229.27               |

The account of Wm Stewart was referred to the City Attorney

The account of Messrs Jones & Glazier was referred to a select committee consisting of Messrs Karns Nelson & Gowan

On motion of Mr Karns the City Clerk was authorized to



issue a warrant for forty five to John S Dunlap for rent of the Council Chamber; provided said account is correct

The following report was receive

The undersigned respectfully reports to the Council, that no Lamps have been erected under the Ordinance, ordained and established the 11th day of December A D 1854. The undersigned would state to the Council, that twelve public lamps have been erected under former ordinances, three on the North side of Washington Street, between Meridian and Pennsylvania, Six on Washington Street, between Tennessee and Illinois, and three on the West Side of Pennsylvania Street, between Market and Ohio. As said public lamps have not all been paid for by the property holders on said Squares, it will be a matter for the Council to consider, whether the property holders are entitled to the benefits of the Ordinance, in relation to lighting the City, ordained and established, the 11th day of December A D 1852

Indianapolis Jan'y 2 1855

James Wood  
Civil Engineer

The Civil Engineer presented a contract for lighting the Street lamps, between the City of Indianapolis & the Gas & Coke Company

On motion of Mr Maguire it was laid on the table

The following report was presented

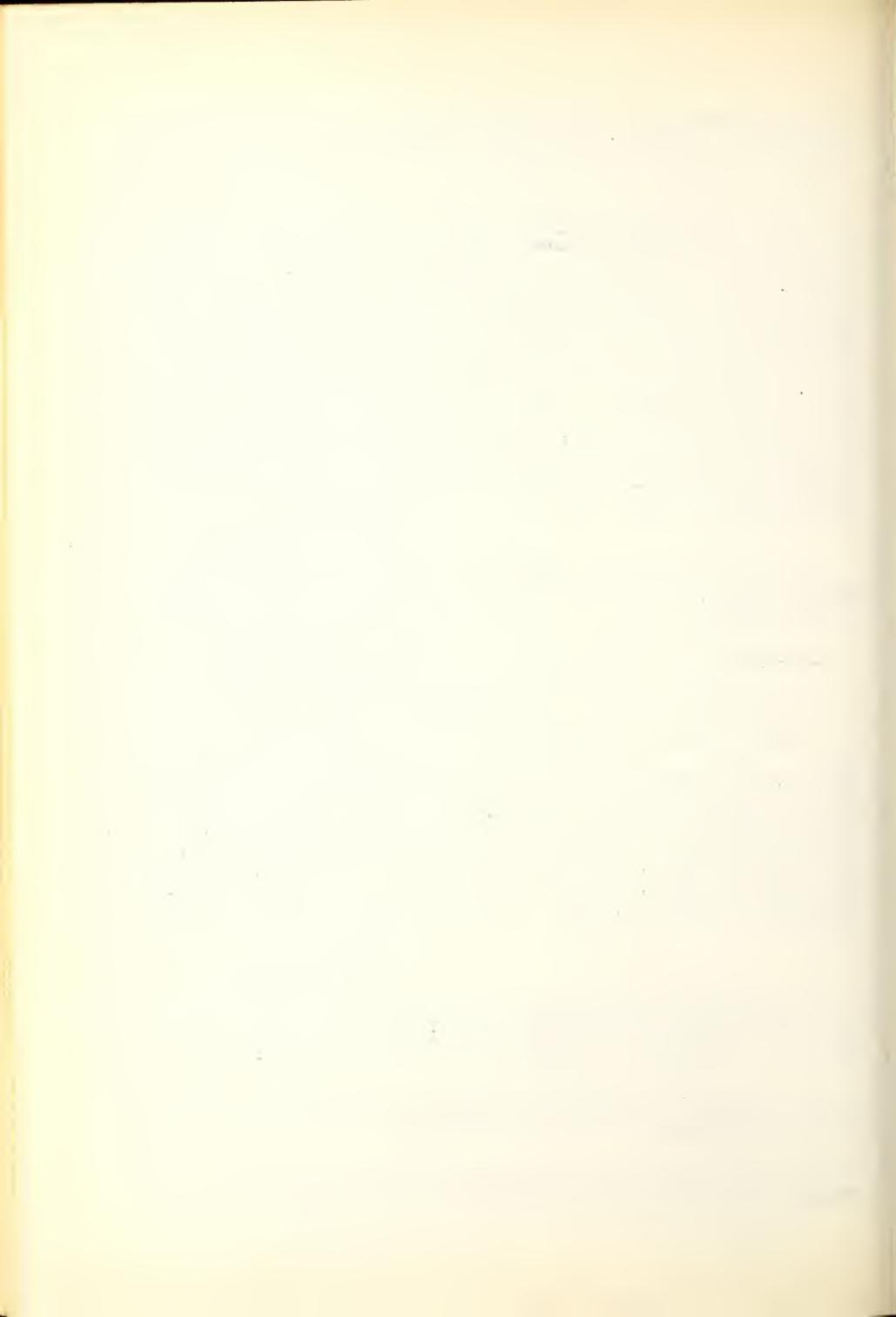
The City of Indianapolis Dr  
1854 To William S Saltmarsh  
Dec 25. To casing the windows in the hall of the Invincible Engine House with jamb and inside casing plain pilaster finish 6 inches wide, putting down a base six inches, leaded, casing the door at foot of stairway & headway on stair, skirting on stair, and casing the cupola opening, and making door for the same, as per contract \$30.00  
Indianapolis Jan'y 2, 1855 This certifies that the above is correct

James Wood  
Civil Engineer

A report was presented from the Fire Engineer, stating that the Engines are in good order; and recommending the purchase of hose for the Marion & Relief Engines.

On motion of Mr Karns that part of said report relating to the purchase of hose was referred to the Committee on the Fire Department

The following report was presented and on Motion of Mr Maguire was ordered to be spread on the Minutes



To the Common Council of the City of Indianapolis,  
 Sec 3 of an act entitled "An act for the encouragement of Fire Companies" declares, that the real and personal property, and the poll of active fireman of regularly organized fire Companies, who shall have done the duty of fireman for one year preceeding the time of listing, to an amount not exceeding five hundred dollars, shall be exempt from the payment of City or corporation taxes, 1 R S 1852 Vol 1 p 298. This statute creates a personal exemption in favor of the persons therein described, and their property. The undersigned is of opinion that it applies only to property owned by them individually, and not to partnership property or funds, or to the interest of the individual in partnership property or effects, and therefore, that a fireman who does not own property real and personal in his own right to the amount of five hundred dollars, is not entitled to make up the deficiency by taking into account any interest which he has in property or effects belonging to a partnership or firm of which he is a member

N B Taylor  
 City Attorney

Mr Maguire from the Judiciary Committee presented the following Ordinance

"An Ordinance for the protection of Travellers, and the preservation of public order at the Union Depot.

Sec 1. Be it ordained by the Common Council of the City of Indianapolis: That the Superintendent of the Union Railway Company shall provide in their building a suitable position to be occupied by Porters of Hotels in the City, and each of said Hotels that may furnish a sign or placard of the size and form prescribed by said Superintendent shall be entitled to place a Porter of said Hotel in the said building, under and subject to the rules and regulations thereof. Said Porters shall wear badges designating the Houses they respectively represent, and while in the building, or the Streets adjacent thereto, shall not engage in soliciting passengers in any manner nor interfering with them, nor in any calls of their respective Houses, but shall receive baggage checks, and the baggage for which such checks may call, and remove the same in a quiet and orderly manner.

Sec 2. The Omnibuses, or carriages running in connection with the several public houses, shall be under the direction and control of the Superintendent of the Union Railway Company while on the street in front of the Depot building. They shall be numbered by said Superintendent, and places allotted to each according to their said numbers. Each of said Omnibuses or carriages shall be accompanied by a Driver, and the Porter of the House, and by no other servant or employee. The Driver shall not engage in soliciting passengers, or calling names of House, nor in any manner interfering with such



passengers, further than civilly answering any interrogations that may be put to him. All Omnibuses for general accommodation to various parts of the City, shall be under and subject to the foregoing regulations and provisions

Sec 3. The Union Railway Company shall provide a suitable person or persons at their doors, or on the platforms to direct passengers to the Omnibuses of the public Houses which said passengers may designate, or to accommodation Omnibuses for other parts of the City, stating the number and position of said Omnibus, so they can be readily found Said person or persons shall not interfere in any way as between public Houses in directing passengers to any particular one, but shall simply designate such as may be named by such passengers themselves. And the said Railway Company shall keep the front of their building sufficiently lighted at night, so that the numbers and positions of said Omnibuses can be easily ascertained

Sec 4. All private carriages and Hacks for the accommodation of passengers shall be in like manner under the control of the Superintendent and shall occupy the positions assigned them fronting the Depot. The Drivers shall remain with their Carriages, and whenever a private carriage shall be required by any passenger, the necessary directions shall be given him by the employe of the Railway Company

Sec 5. The running for and solicitations of passengers for Public Houses, at and about said Union Depot, either by interference with them, solicitations, or importunities, or by calls of the names of said Houses, in the public Streets, is declared to be a nuisance, and a disturbance of the Public peace; And any person or persons engaging in or being guilty of the same, shall, upon conviction thereof before the Mayor, be fined in any sum not less than three, nor more than twenty dollars and costs of prosecution, and may be imprisoned in the County jail until such fines and costs are paid

Sec 6. Any Driver of any Omnibus, carriage or Hack who shall violate any provision of this Ordinance, shall in like manner be liable, upon conviction thereof, to fine and imprisonment as above provided

Sec 7. Parents and Guardians of any minor or minors shall be liable for any fine imposed upon such minor or minors for offending against the provisions of this Ordinance, and any person who shall employ any runner or solicitor of passengers in violation of this Ordinance, whether minors or not, shall in like manner be liable for fines so imposed

Sec 8. The Marshall at the Union Depot, or any police officer of the City is hereby authorized and empowered to arrest any person or persons offending against the provisions



of this Ordinance, upon view of the transgression, and take him or them before the Mayor for examination; or may prefer complaints before the Mayor, and cause such person or persons to be arrested and submitted to examination as aforesaid

Sec 9. The said Marshall at the Union Depot is hereby required and empowered to preserve order, and protect from impertinent interference or annoyance passengers arriving at said Union Depot. He shall keep the passages of egress from said building, and to the public conveyances free from runners, or persons disposed to interfere with such passengers; and any person who shall forcibly interrupt or interfere with him in the proper discharge of his duty, shall on conviction thereof before the Mayor, be fined in any sum not less than five, nor more than fifty dollars

Sec 10. The police force of the City, in addition to said Marshall is hereby charged with the observance of this Ordinance, and the enforcement of its provisions

Sec 11. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication

Mr Maguire moved to strike from the 5th Section the following words. "And may be imprisoned in the County Jail until such fines and costs are paid. And also to strike from the 6th Section the following words "to fine and imprisonment as above provided" and insert "to the same penalties as prescribed in the preceding Section".

Which motion prevailed, and on motion the rules were suspended and said Ordinance as amended was adopted by the following vote

Those who voted in the Affirmative are Messrs Avery, Boaz, Colley, Dunlap, Graydon, Gowan, Jones, Karns, Keeley, Maguire, Nelson, Pitts, & Trucksess

In the Negative - None

Mr Maguire presented an Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance Amending An Ordinance authorizing the Evansville, Indianapolis and Cleveland Straight line Railroad Company to construct a track through the City of Indianapolis, and prescribing the terms thereof, passed July 11th 1853

On motion of Mr Maguire it was passed to a third reading and laid upon the table until next meeting

Mr Maguire presented an Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance prohibiting the keeping or maintaining of houses, rooms, buildings or enclosures, constructed or used for playing therein at certain games, and for other purposes

On motion of Mr Jones said Ordinance was laid on the table



Mr Dunlap presented the following Ordinance

Be it ordained by the Common Council of the City of Indianapolis,

Sec 1. That an Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance relative to dogs running at large in the City" passed October 25th 1854, be and the same is hereby repealed

On motion of Mr Dunlap the rules were suspended and said Ordinance was adopted by the following vote

Those who voted in the Affirmative are Messrs Avery, Boaz, Colley, Dunlap, Graydon, Gowan, Jones, Karns, Keeley, Maguire, Nelson, Pitts & Trucksess  
In the Negative - None

Mr Pitts moved that the Ordinance increasing the pay of Watchmen be taken from the table

Which motion did not prevail by the following vote

Those who voted in the Affirmative are Messrs Boaz, Colley, Gowan & Pitts 4  
In the Negative, Messrs Avery, Dunlap, Graydon, Jones, Karns, Keeley, Maguire, Nelson, & Trucksess 9

Mr Maguire moved That Daniel Foust be appointed a police man at the Union Depot

Which motion prevailed

On motion of Mr Karns the City Attorney was authorized to bring suit against A E Jones for the amount of the estimate against him of work done on New York Street by Mr Harbison

Mr Dunlap offered the following resolution

Resolved That the Mayor be requested to lay before the Council at the 1st regular meeting in every month a detailed account of the arrests made by the City Watch, the Marshall and his deputies the names of the individuals arrested, and the amount of fines thereby collected

Adopted by the following vote

Those who voted in the Affirmative are Messrs Avery, Boaz, Colley, Dunlap, Graydon, Gowan, Jones, Karns, Keely, Maguire, Nelson, Pitts & Trucksess  
In the Negative - None

Mr Keeley offered the following resolution

Resolved That the Street Commissioner be requested to gravel the East Side walk on New Jersey Street from Washington Street to the Invincible Engine house under the direction of the Civil Engineer



Not adopted by the following vote

Those who voted in the Affirmative are Messrs Avery, Boaz,  
Colley & Keeley 4  
In the Negative, Messrs Dunlap, Graydon, Gowan, Jones,  
Karns, Nelson & Pitts 7

Mr Jones offered the following resolution

Resolved That the City Assessor be instructed to procure books and papers suitable for taking the Assessment for the present year.

On motion of Mr Pitts the following words were added "And that he proceed to make the assessment

And said resolution was adopted by the following vote

Those who voted in the Affirmative are Messrs Boaz,  
Colley, Dunlap, Graydon, Gowan, Jones, Karns, Keeley Maguire,  
Pitts & Trucksess 11  
In the Negative - Messrs Avery, & Nelson 2

Mr Karns moved That Mr Harbison be allowed one hundred dollars on his contract for graveling around the East Market house

Which motion prevailed

Mr Pitts moved That the Civil Engineer be instructed to continue the gutter on Mississippi Street across New York Street, and that he contract for building a foot bridge on Indiana Avenue

Which motion prevailed

The following agreement was presented

This memorandum of agreement made this 15th day of December A D 1854 Witnesseth, That William S Hubbard has leased to the City of Indianapolis for the terms of two years, the property of said Hubbard in said City now occupied by the Relief Fire Company upon the following terms; Said Hubbard agrees to put in good repair the ceiling of the upper room of said house; and the City is to pay the sum of two hundred dollars per year, in quarterly payments, but should said house be burned down, then this lease shall be determined

Wm S Hubbard

On motion said agreement was confirmed

On motion of Mr Pitts the City Marshall was instructed to notify Levi Comegys to clear up the City Lot in Square 37 and surrender the possession thereof

Mr Colley moved that the Council adjourn until Monday evening next



Which motion did not prevail

Mr Pitts moved that the City Attorney be instructed to report whether in his opinion Negroes compelled to pay School Tax?

Which motion prevailed

On motion the Council adjourned

Attest  
 James N Sweetser  
 City Clerk

James McCreedy Mayor

Common Council Chamber  
 January 15th 1855

The Council met at half past 6 O'clock P M. Present, the Mayor and all the Councilmen

The following report was received

Jan 15 1855

To the Common Council

The undersigned to whom was referred the Treasurers monthly account have examined the same and found it correct  
 James McCreedy, Mayor  
 James N Sweetser, City Clerk

The following report was presented

To the Common Council of the City of Indianapolis:

At your last meeting the undersigned was instructed to report "whether in your opinion, negroes are liable to pay School tax." By a proviso in the first section of an act entitled "An act amendatory of, and supplemental to, an act entitled "An act to provide for a general and uniform System of Common Schools, and School Libraries, and matters properly connected therewith, approved June 14 1852; acts of 1853 p 124, it is declared "that in all enumerations, the children of negroes and mulattoes shall not be taxed for School purposes, nor shall any negro or mulatto derive any of the benefits of the Common Schools of this State. The said first Section of the act of 1853, is amendatory of the 9th Section of the act of June 14" 1852, and the said 9th Section is not "set forth and published at full length" as required by Sec 21 Art 4 of the Constitution of 1851, for which reason, according to the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of Langdon V Applegate at the present term, the said amendment is unconstitutional. But in the absence of any such provision, as that contained in the first Section of