

Monday evening, January 12, 1920

The Council met at 8 o'clock. There were present the Mayor and Councilmen Hendrick, Lewton, Lilly, Rogers and Taff.

The minutes of the last regular meeting and of the special meeting of December 29 were read by the Clerk and approved.

The monthly report of the Treasurer, examined and approved by the Finance Committee, was submitted as follows:

|                                    |           |            |   |          |             |
|------------------------------------|-----------|------------|---|----------|-------------|
| Balance on hand last report        |           | \$ 6017.89 | assistance to engineer                                    | \$ 70.64 | 395.41      |
| Receipts:                          |           |            | Water system: meters                                      |          | 75.09       |
| From general taxes                 | \$ 321.97 |            | Street work: labor  | 222.13   |             |
| " special "                        | 1172.21   |            | material  | 428.28   | 650.41      |
| " water rents                      | 5.45      |            | Concrete walks  |          | 1110.50     |
| water meter advances               | 57.50     |            | General expenses: printing                                | 6.00     |             |
| water and sewer permits            | 23.00     |            | telephones  | 10.75    | 16.75       |
| plumbers' deposits                 | 10.00     |            | Street lighting   |          | 172.50      |
| building permits                   | 8.00      |            | Miscellaneous   |          | 9.63        |
| interest on deposits in bank       | 64.76     |            | Salaries: supt. of public work                            | 125.00   |             |
| transfer of water and sewer system | 125000.00 | 126662.89  | clerk and treasurer                                       | 50.00    | 175.00      |
|                                    |           | 132680.78  | Water and sewer bonds transferred to San. Com-<br>mission |          | 48000.00    |
| Disbursements:                     |           |            | Accrued interest on water and sewer bonds                 | 320.00   | 50925.29    |
| Pumping plant: miscellaneous       | \$ 79.77  |            | Balance on hand   |          | \$ 81755.49 |
| fuel oil                           | 135.00    |            |   |          |             |
| salary of engineer                 | 110.00    |            |   |          |             |

on motion of Mr. Taff the report was received and ordered filed.

The Clerk presented a communication from Mr. Robert F. Morse, addressed to the Mayor, requesting that, in order to avoid mishaps likely to occur, that general permission be granted to Mr. Blodgett to work upon the water and sewer system, under direction of Mr. Hechmer, the time consumed thereby, either by Mr. Blodgett or his workmen to be charged to the Sanitary Commission.

On motion of Mr. Rogers, Mr. Blodgett was instructed to render all requested assistance to the Sanitary Commission, under direction of Mr. Hechmer, or other competent representative of the Commission, in emergency cases affecting the water and sewer system, provided such assistance does not interfere with urgent and necessary work of the Town, Mr. Blodgett to keep an accurate account of the time devoted to such work and to report the same monthly to the Town Treasurer for adjustment with the Commission.

On motion of Mr. Taff the Mayor was requested to confer with the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission and make such arrangements as may be practicable relative to the convenient issue of plumbing and excavating permits, deposits for street

repairs and kindred subjects incident to the transfer of the Town's water and sewer system to the Sanitary Commission.

Several citizens appeared before the Council with reference to the bad condition of certain streets and urged immediate action with a view to their improvement. A considerable time was spent discussing the general matter of improvement of dirt streets throughout the Town and responsibility for lack of greater effort and the accomplishment of results.

On motion of Mr. Hendrick the Mayor was authorized to proceed, in his best judgment, with such street improvement as seemed necessary and urgent and that authority is granted for the necessary expenditure thereby incurred.

A communication was laid before the Council from the Takoma Park Co-operative Wholesale and Retail Society, by H. S. Deck and D. N. Shoemaker, in which a building permit was requested for a store building proposed to be erected on the corner of Carroll and Elm Avenues, and in which letter inquiry was made as to depth of parking, the established corner and the sidewalk grades on south side of Elm Avenue. On motion of Mr. Lewton the communication was referred to the Committee on Civic Betterment for report at next regular meeting and a public hearing to be arranged for parties in interest.

The Mayor invited attention to the proposal presented to the County Commissioners by Commissioner Hunt relative to requiring the issue of building permits by the County and suggested that the Clerk be directed to advise the County Commissioners that such proposal is disapproved by the Town of Takoma Park unless incorporated Towns be excepted therefrom. On motion of Mr. Lewton the suggestion of the Mayor was approved.

Mr. Taff, from the Finance Committee, submitted the following bills, approved for payment.

|                               |          |                              |           |                                     |        |
|-------------------------------|----------|------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| J. H. Cissel, 1 ton coal      | \$ 11.75 | Taylor & Balderson, cinders  | \$ 240.10 | Hunter Bros. 4 belt lace            | \$ .80 |
| Geo. L. Tarbell, hauling oil. | 12.00    | Standard Oil Co. 12 bbl. oil | 110.16    | Victor E. Dietel, steam rolling     | 19.89  |
| Wash. Sanitarium, express     | .34      | Mattingly Bros. disinfectors | 4.20      | U.S. Fidelity Co. Prem. Treas. bond | 10.00  |

On motion of Mr. Taff the bills were approved and payment directed.

Mr. Taff, for the Finance Committee, recommended that the Treasurer be authorized and directed to pay out of money on hand the \$19000 of outstanding indebtedness represented by general improvement bonds. The motion was carried.

On motion of Mr. Hendrick the Mayor and Mr. Rogers and Mr. Grabill, were authorized to proceed to Philadelphia to examine certain road machinery and to make such purchases thereof as their judgment deemed desirable for the needs of the Town.

On motion of Mr. Rogers 6 electric streets lights were authorized on Eastern Avenue, south of Ash Ave, and 3 on Allegheny Street; also changes in location of lights on Elm Ave, and corner of Tulip and Carroll Avenues. (sence with pay, to January 31, 1920)  
 Upon suggestion of the Mayor and on motion of Mr. Lewton, the resignation of George Day as Engineer was accepted and he was granted leave of absence.  
 There being no further business the Council, at 11:10 o'clock p.m., adjourned.

Approved:

*W. H. Platt*

Mayor.

*Bruce Davis*

Clerk

Thursday evening, January 29, 1920

Upon call of the Mayor a special meeting of the Council was held at the office of the Clerk this date, convening at 8 o'clock. There were present the Mayor and Councilmen Lewton, Lilly, Rogers and Taff.

The Mayor stated that he had called the meeting for conference concerning the proposed purchase of road machinery; that he and Mr. Rogers had gone to Philadelphia and inspected the motor roller, but that upon reflection they had concluded more practical machinery adaptable to our needs could be purchased for considerably less than the \$4200 price of the motor roller. After practical advice and in consideration of the needs of the Town the Committee would recommend the purchase at this time of a 3 1/2 or 4 ton horse-drawn roller and a Cleveland tractor - the latter purchase to be made only after a rigorous demonstration which the agent will give as soon as the weather is propitious. Additional purchases may be recommended later.

Mr. Rogers moved that the purchase of a suitable horse-drawn roller be authorized and that a demonstration of the Cleveland tractor be requested and its purchase authorized if, in the judgment of the Mayor and Street Committee, it shall be found to answer the necessary requirements. The motion was carried.

There being no further business the Council, at 9:20 p.m. adjourned:

Approved:

*W. H. Platt*

Mayor.

*Bruce Davis,*

Clerk

Monday Evening, February 9, 1920

The Council met at 8 o'clock. There were present the Mayor and Councilmen Lewton, Lillie, Rogers and Taff.

The minutes of the last regular meeting and of the special meeting of January 29 were read by the clerk and were approved.

The monthly report of the Treasurer, duly examined and approved by the Finance Committee, was submitted as follows:

|  |             |                                       |           |             |
|--|-------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Balance on hand last report              | \$ 81755.49 | salary of engineer                    | \$ 110.00 | 230.46      |
| Receipts:                                |             | Street work: labor                    | 149.03    |             |
| From general taxes                       | \$ 471.67   | material                              | 266.17    | 415.20      |
| " special "                              | 1391.45     | Street lighting                       |           | 172.50      |
| " water rents                            | 4.95        | Telephones                            |           | 8.20        |
| " gas permits                            | 2.00        | Interest on \$19000 genl. impvt bonds |           | 353.16      |
| " builders' deposits                     | 10.00       | Miscellaneous expenses                |           | 14.20       |
| " building permits                       | 2.90        | Salaries: clerk and treasurer         | 50.00     |             |
|  | 1882.05     | superintendent of public work         | 125.00    | 175.00      |
| Disbursements:                           | 83637.54    | General improvement bonds paid        |           | 19000.00    |
| Pumping and filter plants: miscellaneous | 12.55       | Balance on hand                       |           | \$ 63268.82 |
| fuel oil                                 | 107.91      |                                       |           |             |

On motion of Mr. Taff the report was approved and ordered filed.

The Mayor announced that pursuant to notice the Council would be pleased to hear from parties interested regarding the application for a building permit for a store building on the corner of Carroll and Elm Avenues, to be erected by and for the use of the Takoma Park Co-operative Wholesale and Retail Society.

The general plan of the proposed building and the purposes of the Cooperative Society were explained by Mr. Deck and the subsequent discussion participated in by Mrs. Morris Bien and Messrs. Gerdsen, Stewart, McKenney and others.

Upon conclusion of the hearing Mr. Lewton, for the Committee on Civic Improvement, moved that that portion of Block A of the Fifted Tract fronting on Laurel and Carroll Avenues, from Eastern Avenue to Elm Avenue, be declared a business block, that the parking space be determined by the Council, and that the Clerk be directed to issue a building permit for the building proposed by the Takoma Park Co-operative Wholesale and Retail Society, at the corner of Carroll and Elm Avenues. The motion was carried.

A communication was presented <sup>from</sup> by Mr. Lisle Morrison suggesting that the removal of overhanging vines on the fence between Oak and Holly Avenues, on Tulip Avenue, be completed and that a hole on Chestnut Ave. at Takoma Avenue, be filled. On motion

of Mr. Taff the work referred to in the communication was ordered done.

Mr. Morris Bien called the Council's attention to the action taken at a recent meeting of citizens regarding county tax bills of Montgomery County, it being desired that such bills be mailed to taxpayers without request and that the bills show itemized lists of property and assessments thereon. Mr. Taff moved that the Clerk advise the County Commissioners that it is the sense of the Mayor and Council that tax bills of Montgomery county should be mailed to taxpayers promptly at the beginning of the taxable fiscal year wherever the address of such taxpayers is known to the county treasurer; and that all county tax bills should contain an itemized list of property for which the bill is submitted and itemized assessments thereon. The motion was carried.

Mrs. Morris Bien addressed the Council with respect to plans for street extensions and for general beautification of the Town. She spoke of the prohibitive charges in securing expert landscape advice and suggested such financial assistance as the Council may be disposed to contribute. Mr. Skeels suggested that landscape assistance could doubtless be secured without charge from the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Lee R. Grabill addressed the Council with reference to certain improvements that seemed most desirable, particularly the concreting of Takoma Avenue from Chestnut to Buffalo Avenue, and of Carroll Avenue, from the District Line to Laurel Avenue. Mr. Grabill suggested also the purchase of motor fire equipment.

Mr. Taff, from the Finance Committee, submitted the following bills, approved, and which, upon his motion were ordered paid when properly compared and checked; Taylor and Balderson, 257 cu. yds of cinders @ 70¢, \$179.90; T. Morris White, balance due on hauling cinders, \$707.50

Mr. Taff moved that the Sheriff of Montgomery County be requested to appoint Charles E. Ferrar as Deputy Sheriff with all rights, powers and privileges pertaining thereto. The motion was carried.

On motion of Mr. Taff the Mayor, the Corporation Counsel, the Clerk and the Judiciary Committee, were authorized and empowered to draw up and present to the legislature for enactment into law such amendments to the Town Charter affecting the boundaries of the Town and the increase in the maximum tax rate as they may deem desirable and to the Town's best interests

In connection with the declaration of Block A, Fifield Tract, as a business block, Mr. Lewton moved that the building lines on Laurel and Carroll Avenues adjoining said block be established at 15 feet and on Elm Avenue at 6 feet back of the lot lines. The motion was carried.

Mr. Lilly moved that the Committee on Civic Improvement be directed to investigate desired sites for town purposes, together with probable purchase prices thereof and to report at the next meeting of the Council or as soon thereafter as practicable. The motion was passed upon an aye and nay vote as follows: voting aye the Mayor and Councilmen Lewton and Lilly; voting nay, Councilmen Taff and Rogers.

On motion of Mr. Taff, Messrs. J. H. Van Houten, J. W. Shadle and E. N. Jackson were appointed as a Board of Assessors to revise the Town assessment list of real property for the purposes of municipal taxation for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1920.

Mr. Rogers, from the Street Committee, submitted the following Ordinance:

**Ordinance No. 338.**

Be it Ordained by the Mayor and Council of Takoma Park, Maryland:

Section 1. That in accordance with the provisions of the Act of the General Assembly of Maryland approved March 3, 1904 the following public work is contemplated: construction of cement concrete roadway on Takoma Avenue and on Carroll Avenue, with cement curbing, between Chestnut and Buffalo Avenues and between the District Line and Laurel Avenues, adjacent to the following described lots, to wit: lots 4 and 6 in block 11, Gilbert's subdivision; lots 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 21, block 76, lots 1, 2 and 3, block 77, and lot 1, block 78, Takoma Park Trust Company Subdivision; lot 2, block 3, Gilbert Subdivision; lots 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38 in block 3, lots 1, 2 and 3, block 5, and lots 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 in block 6, Lipscomb and Earnest, Trustees, Subdivision, which property will be assessed for two-thirds the cost of said proposed work, such cost being estimated at \$ 10.00 per lineal foot.

Section 2. The Mayor and Council contemplate further the following proposed work: construction of cement sidewalks on Garland, Carroll and Flower Avenues, abutting the following described property, all of which will be assessed with the total cost of said proposed work, estimated at \$1.50 per lineal foot, namely: lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 in block 101; the unsubdivided land of B. W. Palmer, Margaret Stewart, and block 51; lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, block 48, and lots 4, 6 and 10, block 49.

Section 3. The Mayor and Council, at their regular meeting on Monday evening, April 12, 1920, at 8 o'clock, p.m., in the basement of the Presbyterian Church, will hear all persons interested in the work herein contemplated.

Mr. Rogers moved that the Ordinance be adopted and the Ordinance was adopted upon an aye and nay vote as follows: voting aye, the Mayor and Councilmen Lewton, Lilly, Rogers and Taff; voting nay, none.

There being no further business the Council at 10:30 p.m. adjourned.

Approved:

W. H. Platt Mayor

Bruce Davis

Clerk

Monday Evening, March 8, 1920

The Council met at 8 o'clock with the following members present: Mayor Platt and Councilmen Lewton, Lilly, Rogers and Taff.

The minutes of the last regular meeting were read by the Clerk and were approved.

The monthly report of the Treasurer, examined and approved by the Finance Committee, was submitted as follows:

|                                      |             |                               |                 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Balance on hand last report          | \$ 63268.82 | Disbursements:                |                 |
| Receipts:                            |             | Pumping plant: fuel oil       | \$ 120.85       |
| From general taxes                   | \$ 331.61   | Street work: labor            | 119.51          |
| " special taxes                      | 432.38      | material                      | 1089.33 1208.84 |
| " water rents                        | 1008.50     | Street lighting               | 172.50          |
| " road tax refund, Montgomery County | 1967.77     | Telephone service             | 8.45            |
| " sale of cinders                    | 9.80        | Salaries: clerk and treasurer | 50.00           |
| " builders' deposits                 | 10.00       | Supt. of public work          | 125.00 175.00   |
| " building permits                   | 8.00        | Refund of plumbers' deposits  | 10.00 1695.64   |
|                                      | 3768.06     | Balance on hand               | \$ 65341.24     |
|                                      | 67036.88    |                               |                 |

On motion of Mr. Taff the report was received and ordered filed.

A petition from certain residents of Willow Avenue requesting that authority be granted them to plant pin oak trees in the center of the parking of Willow Avenue, at intervals of 50 feet, all expenses thereof to be borne by the petitioners, was granted, the details of the work to be subject to the approval of the Street Committee.

Mr. Saulsbury addressed the Council relative to the necessity of adding a foot-way to the Sliqa bridge for the benefit and safety of pedestrians. The matter was referred to the Street Committee for investigation and report and for submission of an estimate of the cost of the work.

Mrs. E. B. Phillips, of 87 Eastern Ave. appeared before the Council in opposition to declaring Laurel Ave. a business street as such action would be detrimental to her property interests. Mrs. Phillips was informed by the Mayor that the Council had already acted favorably and declared this a business street after a public hearing and that it was now too late to reopen the matter.

Residents of Cedar Avenue again invited attention to the condition of that street and were informed that it was hoped to give it early atten-<sup>tion.</sup>

Mrs. Morn's Bien addressed the Council relative to beautification of the Town, the necessity of planning for its future extension and development and kindred subjects.

A communication from Mr. R. F. Baker relative to electric light poles adjacent to his driveway was referred to the Street Committee to con-

fer with the Potomac Electric Power Company with power to take such action as the Committee deemed advisable

The Mayor reported that in accordance with the authority granted by the Council he had purchased a 4 1/2 ton road roller from the Good Roads Machinery Company, of Kennett Square, Pa., and hoped it would be received at an early day.

On motion of Mr. Taff authority was granted for renting the barn on the Brainard place, Oak Ave, for temporary storage of town property, at a monthly rental of \$15.00.

Mr. Rogers, from the Street Committee, reported that the Superintendent of Public Work had performed 22 hours work for the Washington Suburban Sanitary District and the Clerk was directed to submit a bill therefor.

The Finance Committee submitted the following bills, duly examined and approved for payment:

|                                    |          |                                       |           |                                   |          |
|------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| J. B. Simpson, Sundries            | \$ 12.20 | Aushin-Weston Road Mch. Co, Road Mch. | \$ 334.00 | Aushin & Van Derenter, excavating | \$ 50.00 |
| Columbia Brick and Coal Co., Stone | 14.48    | Taylor and Balderson, 210 yds cinders | 147.00    | F. R. Hughes, printing            | 5.25     |
|                                    |          |                                       |           | Total                             | 562.93   |

Payment of the bills was directed subject to the usual checking up by the proper authority.

Mr. Taff, from the Finance Committee, submitted the following proposed Ordinance:

**Ordinance No. 339.**

*Be it Ordained by the Mayor and Council of Takoma Park, Maryland:*

*Sec. 1. In order to provide a permanent working fund for the construction of special improvements and to conserve the finances of the Town by the saving of interest and commission charges, the Town Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to set aside and deposit in a separate fund, to be designated the "Special Improvement Fund," from monies now on hand the sum of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) together with such additional funds now embraced in and credited to the sinking fund.*

*Sec. 2. The "Special Improvement Fund" herein created, with the exception hereinafter provided, shall be used exclusively for those special public improvements provided in the charter which, in whole or part, are payable by assessment against abutting or benefited property.*

*Sec. 3. All monies due from assessments for special public improvements, together with interest thereon, and including the portion due from and payable by the Town, when collected, shall hereafter be deposited in the "Special Improvement Fund" and shall become a part thereof for the purposes herein indicated.*

*Sec. 4. In case of urgent necessity the Town, by a two-thirds ye and nay vote of the Council, may appropriate for general Town purposes from the "Special Improvement Fund" herein created an amount at no time to exceed \$5000 in the aggregate; provided that certificates of indebtedness of the Town shall be issued to the full amount of said appropriation and deposited to the credit of said "Special Improvement Fund." Said certificates of indebtedness shall bear interest at the rate of not less than 4% per annum and shall be redeemed from the general revenues of the Town at not less than one-fifth the amount thereof annually, the proceeds thereof to be redeposited to the credit of the "Special Improvement Fund."*

Mr. Taff moved that the Ordinance be adopted and the Ordinance was adopted upon an aye and nay vote as follows: voting aye, the Mayor and Councilmen Lewton, Lillie, Rogers and Taff; voting nay, none.



Mr. Taff, from the Finance Committee submitted the following recommendations which were approved by the Council:

The Finance Committee recommends the appointment of a special committee of the Council, consisting of two members and the Mayor, the latter to be Chairman, for the purpose of considering and investigating the feasibility and advisability of constructing a Town Hall for the transaction of the business of the Town. The Committee is instructed to report upon a suitable site for the proposed building, with the probable cost thereof, and as definitely as possible upon the probable cost of a suitable building together with tentative sketch plans thereof, the cost of such building, complete and finished, not to exceed \$20,000. The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$100.00 for the necessary expenses in connection with the special Committee's investigations.

Corporation Counsel Smith and Mr. Lillie, from the Judiciary Committee, laid before the Council the proposed amendment to the Charter altering the boundaries of the Town. The matter was discussed and considered at length. Mr. Smith advised the Council to withdraw its request for the inclusion of blocks 64 and 65 as, in his judgment, favorable action could not be secured therefor in face of the unanimous opposition of the residents of the section indicated.

Mr. Lillie moved that the bill as drawn be submitted to the Montgomery legislative delegation with request for introduction and favorable report, including the inclusion of blocks 64 and 65 and that, should it become apparent that favorable action was impossible that further action in the matter be left to the judgment of the Mayor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Rogers called attention to the Widows' Pension Act and moved that the Clerk be instructed to write to the proper county authorities urging that appropriate action be taken to render the provisions of said Act effective. The motion was carried.

On motion of Mr. Taff the Clerk was instructed to call a caucus of the Town voters, at an appropriate time prior to the annual Town election for the purpose of nominating candidates for Mayor and three members of the Council.

There being no further business the Council, at 10:55 o'clock p.m., adjourned.

Approved:

*W. J. Platt*

Mayor

*Paul Davis*

Clerk.