

Tuesday Evening, January 8, 1929

On call of the Mayor a special meeting of the Council was held this date at the Office of the Clerk, convening at 7:30 o'clock. There were present the Mayor and Councilmen Iverson, Sherburne and Ware. The Mayor stated that he had called the meeting for a general informal discussion of certain proposed amendments to the Town Charter which had accumulated during the past two years through suggestion, discussion and experience. A number of the suggested amendments were simply verbal changes to clarify or simplify procedure; several of them eliminated duplicate or obsolete sections; the principal proposed amendments of importance, the Mayor stated, provided for a method of nomination, in public meeting, of candidates for Mayor and Councilmen; providing a compensation of \$25.00 and \$100.00 per month, for Councilmen and Mayor, respectively; defining, in more detail, the duties of the Mayor and the several officials of the Town; and setting forth more clearly the provisions relating to special improvement work, the assessment therefor and designating bonds for this purpose as distinct obligations of the Town.

The Council thereupon took up for discussion these amendments as submitted by the Mayor which were given careful and thorough consideration; a few slight changes in verbiage were suggested and made, and the amendments, thus considered, were given the approval of the members present. The Mayor expressed his regret at the unavoidable absence of three members of the Council and stated that another meeting would be called at an early date, in order that the Council may take definite action with respect to the proposed amendments.

The Mayor laid before the Council a proposed corrected plat of the subdivision of a part of the Petty Estate providing for a slight divergence of the lines of Cedar Ave. and an adjustment of the abutting lots thereon to conform therewith. Mr. Ware moved the adoption of the following Ordinance:

Ordinance No. 493

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

That the plat submitted by the Petty heirs, providing for a relocation of the lines of a part of Cedar Avenue in the Petty Subdivision, and a re-adjustment of certain lots and the lines thereof to conform with the new lines of said street, be and the said plat is hereby approved.

The Ordinance was approved upon an aye and nay vote as follows: voting aye, the Mayor and Councilmen Iverson, Sherburne and Ware; voting nay, [none]

There being no further business the Council, at 10:00 o'clock p.m., adjourned.

Approved:

Bryan Davis Mayor

Bryan Davis Clerk

Takoma Park, Md., Monday Evening, January 21, 1929.

The Council met at 8 o'clock. There were present the Mayor and Councilmen Iverson, Remsen, Rogers, Sherburne and Ware. The Mayor announced that Councilman Adams' absence is due to illness. The minutes of the last regular meeting and of the special meeting of January 8th were read by the Clerk and were approved. The Treasurer's monthly report, examined and approved by the Finance Committee, was submitted as follows:

Balance, last report		21551.26	rentals	25.00	30.85	Special Deposits: Balance last report	\$ 730.00
RECEIPTS:			Interest account		825.00	No receipts or disbursements	
From general taxes		3719.65	Garbage collection		160.00	Tax Sale Redemptions; Receipts	268.92
building permits	6.00		Street lighting		353.28	Disbursements	268.92
electric "	3.00		Miscellaneous		112.20	Special Improvement Fund:	
excavation "	1.00	10.00	Salaries; Clk and Treas	150.00		Balance last report	30347.61
miscellaneous		141.31	Supt. Public Work	187.50		RECEIPTS:	
		3870.96	Electrical Inspector	25.00		From outstanding accounts	3408.12
		25422.22	Building "	25.00		Interest on deposits in bank	529.89
DISBURSEMENTS:			Chief Police Officer	100.00			3938.01
Street work: labor	299.40		Justice of the Peace	50.00	537.50	Disbursements:	
material	101.11		Balance on hand		22792.34	Semi-annual interest	3420.00
machinery and tools	210.54	611.05				Balance on hand	30865.62
Genl expenses: telephone	5.85						

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

The Clerk laid before the Council two communications from the North Takoma Improvement Club, one relating to the construction of sewers on Takoma and Buffalo Avenues, which was referred to the Street Committee and the other advocating some form of ward government for selection of Councilmen, was referred to the Ordinance Committee.

Mrs. Estelle Phillips, Eastern Avenue, entered protest against conditions existing in the rear of the stores on Laurel Ave., due to dumping of trash and garbage. Referred to the Health Committee.

Messrs. Walter D. Lambert, Dann Faber, H. L. Thornton, C. C. Waters and L. M. Simpson addressed the Council with reference to certain proposed amendments to the Town Charter. The Mayor stated that the text of the amendments had not yet been completed and that the suggestions submitted by the gentlemen would be given due consideration.

Mr. Dann Faber called attention to washouts on Boston Avenue near Takoma Ave, and advised that unless something was done to prevent it, the improvements made last fall would be destroyed. Referred to the Street Committee.

Dr. Llewellyn Jordan addressed the Council on the proposed tax revision law which has been introduced in both branches of the General Assembly. He also outlined his efforts to prepare legislation to clear up tax sale titles and more effective methods of making sales for delinquent taxes. In concluding his remarks Dr. Jordan indorsed the resolution of the North Takoma Improvement Club relative to establishing wards in the Town, and reiterated his request for an additional street light on Takoma Avenue, between Chestnut and Baltimore Avenues.

Mr. Rogers, from the Finance Committee submitted bills examined and approved for payment, amounting to \$ 229.25 and on his motion payment was ^{directed.}

Mr. Iverson, from the Health Committee, referring to the unsewered house on Lee Ave, stated that the occupants were preparing to vacate the premises and that future occupancy should not be permitted until sewer conditions are remedied. He reported further that the Burns property on Sherman Ave. is having plumbing installed and sewer connections made. Mr. Iverson reported hygienic conditions in the colored section on Jackson Ave, off Sliquo Ave, as very bad, due to lack of public sewers; conditions are unsightly and streets bad.

Mr. Ware, from the Police, Fire and Lights Committee, reported adversely on relocation of light on Philadelphia Ave, desired by Mr. Gordon, which report was approved. On his recommendation and motion the stop signs on Tulip Avenue at Maple were ordered removed as being no longer necessary. Mr. Ware reported that the new Fire Department Building is being rapidly pushed to completion and that the Council will find it possible to hold its meetings there at an early date.

There being no further business the Council thereupon at 9:55 o'clock p.m., adjourned.

Approved:

Bryan Davis

Mayor

Bryan Davis

clerk

Tuesday Evening, February 12, 1929.

Upon call of the Mayor a special meeting of the Council was held this date at the Office of the Clerk, convening at 7:30 o'clock. There were present the Mayor and Councilmen Adams, Iverson, Remsen, Rogers, Sherburne and Ware.

The Mayor stated that he had called the meeting to submit to the Council the final draft of the proposed amendments to the Charter; that a new section had been written to provide for an annual budget and that the provision for compensation of the Mayor and Councilmen had been drafted to include its submission to the voters for approval. After discussion and without objection these changes were approved.

With respect to the relative compensations fixed for the Mayor and for the Councilmen, the Mayor called attention to implied criticism of the considerably larger amount provided for the Mayor and suggested, inasmuch as the Town's revenues would not justify increasing the allotment proposed for the Councilmen that the Mayor's proposed compensation be reduced to \$600 per annum. This the Council unanimously disapproved.

The various proposed amendments were thereupon briefly reviewed; no further changes or amendments being proposed or offered the Council, upon motion of Mr. Ware, unanimously approved the amendments as drafted subject to such changes in verbiage as may be required for legal reasons.

It was decided to hear any citizens or organizations desiring to be heard on the Charter amendments at the regular meeting on Monday evening, February 18th.

The Mayor presented to the Council copies of letters he had addressed to Senator Mitchell and Delegate Lindsay protesting against those provisions of the proposed tax ~~pro~~vision law which require incorporated towns to adopt the state and county assessments for municipal taxation purposes, to use the calendar year as the fiscal year, and to abolish the discounts allowed by incorporated towns for early payment of taxes. On motion of Mr. Rogers the Mayor's action was unanimously approved.

There being no further business the Council, at 9:05 o'clock p.m., adjourned.

Approved:

Bruce Davis

Mayor

Bruce Davis

Clerk

Monday Evening, February 18, 1929

The Council met at 8 o'clock. There were present the Mayor and Councilmen Adams, Iverson, Remsen and Sherburne.

The minutes of the last regular meeting and of the special meeting of February 12th 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, last report	\$ 22792.34	General expenses: telephone	5.80			SPECIAL DEPOSITS:	
RECEIPTS:		rentals	25.00	30.80		Balance, last report	730.00
From general taxes	1501.79	Garbage collections		160.00		TAX SALE REDEMPTIONS:	
" building permits	19.00	Street lighting		361.22		Receipts for month	40.60
" electric "	9.00	Salaries: Clk and Treasr.	150.00			Disbursements for month	40.60
" excavation "	1.00	Supt. Public Work	187.50			Balance	00.00
Miscellaneous, St. repairs	239.90	Electric Inspector	25.00			SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT FUND:	
DISBURSEMENTS:	24563.03	Building "	25.00			Balance last report	30865.62
Street work: labor	270.00	Chief Police Officer	100.00			Receipts for month	2210.22
material	101.44	Justice of the Peace	50.00	537.50	2562.67		33075.84
machinery and tools	128.31	Balance on hand			22000.36	Disbursements for month	18.23
Miscellaneous	973.40					Balance on hand	33057.61
	1473.15						

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

The Clerk laid before the Council communications and petitions as follows which were acted upon as indicated:

From certain property owners in the Wildwood Section requesting that the 1929 paving program include the paving of Heather Ave between Sliqo Parkway West and Circle Ave., and Sliqo Parkway West from its intersection with Heather Avenue to the Flower Ave. bridge; and also the construction of a permanent bridge across Sliqo Creek at the foot of Flower Avenue. To the Street Committee.

From J. Dann Faber calling attention to the dangerous condition existing in the culvert across Takoma Ave., near Boston Ave., especially to the washout on the southeast side of Takoma Avenue which is a source of danger to traffic. To the Street Committee.

A petition from residents on Philadelphia Avenue, between Takoma and Chicago Aves., for the construction of a cement sidewalk on the west side thereof. Referred to the Street Committee.

A letter from Mr. Phillip W. Avshin approving the proposed amendments ^{to the Charter} which the Mayor and Council have submitted, ~~to the Charter~~. Referred to the Council in Committee of the Whole.

The Mayor stated that in accordance with announcement through the public press the Council would at this time be pleased to hear from any citizen of the Town relative to the proposed amendments to the Town Charter which it is proposed to submit to the General Assembly now in session. In order that there might be a complete understanding of the amendments the Mayor proceeded to explain them in detail, the necessity of each of them, from the Council's viewpoint and the purpose desired to be accomplished.

At the conclusion of the Mayor's remarks citizens present commented as follows: Mr. W. L. Houston suggested that more time than one week should be allowed between the nominating meeting and the election, not less than ten days; he also expressed objection to limiting voting to those candidates nominated at the Town meeting and thought that all the proposed amendments should be submitted to a vote of the people.

Dr. Llewelyn Jordan spoke in favor of the suggested amendments; he stated that he had felt favorable to a division of the Town into wards, which amendment the Council had rejected, but that in view of the Council's reasons therefor, as expressed by the Mayor, he was willing to withhold his judgment for further consideration. Dr. Jordan took occasion to compliment the Mayor on his lucid statement regarding the proposed amendments and suggested that ~~they~~^{it} should be printed either in the local papers or in pamphlet form and generally distributed among the citizens of the Town. Mr. W. J. Lambert stated that the views expressed by Mr. Houston were in accord with his own judgment. Mr. Fred Duehring agreed that a longer period than one week should elapse between nomination and election. Mr. Duehring also expressed objection to the amendment declaring 10 years as the period after which reconstruction of special improvement work could be assessed against the property, but upon further explanation by the Mayor withdrew his objection. Mr. Dann Faber suggested that the nominating caucus be held two weeks prior to the election. Mr. Walter Cruit asked how it would be possible to compensate the Mayor and Council to the extent of \$3000 per annum without increasing taxes. The Mayor replied that this could be accomplished through assessments of newly erected properties and by certain budgetary economies. Mr. G. F. Randall expressed objection to assessing reconstruction of streets to property owners where destruction of street was due to heavy hauling by contractors; Mr. Randall suggested also that public utility companies should be required to make service house connections prior to paving of streets. Mr. John W. Coffman stated that he had ascertained through the U. S. Civil Service Commission that the payment of any salary or compensation to the Mayor and members of the Council would not debar any civil service employee from holding any of these positions. All persons desiring to do so, having spoken, the hearing was thereupon declared closed.

Dr. Llewelyn Jordan addressed the Council briefly with respect to the proposed tax revision law now pending before the Legislature and also as to the present status of the Chestnut grade crossing legislation.

Mr. H.C. Heffner called the Council's attention to the drainage pipes from Maple Ave, which become clogged or are insufficient to carry the water with the result of flooding the church basement and asked that something be done to remedy the situation. Referred to the Street Committee.

Mr. D.L. Turner addressed the Council relative to the necessity of a sidewalk on the west side of Philadelphia Avenue between Takoma and Chicago Avenues. Referred to the Street Committee in connection with sidewalk construction program for the coming year.

^{Mr Adams} Mr. Rogers, from the Finance Committee reported bills amounting to \$145.01 examined and approved for payment and on his motion payment was [directed.
^{Mr Adams} Mr. Rogers, from the Finance Committee recommended that John D. Miller, Bernard R. Holmes and E.E. Blodgett be appointed a Board of Assessors to make such changes or corrections in the existing assessment as may be deemed just and proper, to add thereto any property subject to taxation not appearing in the previous assessment and to ascertain as far as may be all changes of ownership up to the date of such revision; as provided in Section 9-A of the Charter. On motion of Mr. Adams the recommendation was approved.

Mr. Iverson, from the Health Committee, reported that a survey of the rear of the Laurel Avenue stores disclosed a very bad condition both as to appearance and health. The Health Committee is of the opinion that these conditions can be improved only by the construction of a proper type of incinerator for the burning of all combustible materials and for proper trash and garbage containers to permit the prompt removal thereof. The Committee recommended that the owner of the stores be directed to provide a suitable incinerator in the rear of the stores for burning of all combustible material and suitable garbage and trash containers be provided by the occupants of the stores; also that the owner of the apartments on Laurel Avenue be directed to provide the premises with garbage receptacles of proper design and proportions; and that unless this be done with reasonable promptness the Police Officer be directed to file the necessary complaint for violation of the pertinent Ordinances. On motion of Mr. Iverson the recommendation of the Committee was approved.

Mr. Remsen, from the Street Committee, reported that several petitions were before the Committee for construction of cement sidewalks and recommended that an Ordinance be submitted providing for a hearing thereon. On suggestion of the Mayor the Committee was requested to submit all approved sidewalk applications at the next meeting so that all may be included in one advertisement and hearing.

Mr. Sherburne, from the Committee on Police, Fire and Lights recommended installation of a 250-watt street light on the pole in front of the Citizens Bank and 60-watt lights on Greenwood and at the corner of Maple and Erie Avenues. Recommendation approved on motion of Mr. Sherburne.

Mr. Adams, from the Civic Improvement Committee recommended that permission be granted for construction of a garage on the corner of Hancock and Sherman Avenues, provided said garage be set back 25 feet from the street line. Recommendation approved on motion of Mr. Sherburne.

Mr. Adams also recommended that the request of Mr. Ranson to plant shrubbery on the parking adjacent to his home on Holt Place be granted provided the shrubs are of dwarf variety and will be removed on request if found to interfere with traffic or are otherwise objectionable. Approved on Mr. Adams motion.

The Council thereupon proceeded to an informal discussion of the proposed charter amendments in the light of suggestions proposed in the evenings hearings. At the conclusion of the discussion the Mayor asked if the Council desired to incorporate any of the suggestions offered as part of the amended charter. No motions being offered to that effect the former action of the Council was adhered to.

There being no further business the Council thereupon, at 10:30 o'clock, p.m., adjourned.

Approved:

Bruce Davis

Mayor

Bryan Davis

Clerk

Monday Evening, March 18, 1929.

The Council met at 8 o'clock. There were present the Mayor and Councilmen Adams, Iverson, Remsen, Rogers, Sherburne and Ware.

The minutes of the last regular meeting were read by the Clerk and without objection were approved.

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

Balance, last report		22000.36	General Expenses: telephone	5.80	SPECIAL DEPOSITS:		
RECEIPTS:			Postage	10.86	Balance, last report		730.00
From general taxes	3615.31		Rentals	25.00	Receipts for month		10.00
building permits	17.50		Garbage Collection	160.00			740.00
electric "	16.00		Rubbish "	79.29	TAX SALE REDEMPTIONS:		
excavation "	3.00	36.50	Street lighting	370.52	Receipts during month		115.03
Miscel - Fines	2.00		Salaries: Clerk and Treasr	150.00	Disbursements " "		115.03
Road refund, Prince Geo. Co	543.34	545.34	Supt. Public Work	187.50			
		26197.51	Electrical Inspector	25.00	SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT FUND:		
DISBURSEMENTS:			Building "	25.00	Balance last report		33057.61
Street Work: labor	187.10		Chief Police Officer	100.00	Receipts for month		4742.17
Machinery and tools	145.01	332.11	Justice of the Peace	50.00	Balance		37799.78
				537.50			
			Balance	1520.99			
				24676.52			

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

Communications as follows were presented and read by the Clerk and disposed of as indicated:

From the North Takoma Improvement Club complaining of the condition of Albany Avenue between Takoma Avenue and the existing concrete pavement. Referred to the Street Committee for investigation.

From Mr. John Forsbacka requesting permission to lay a cement sidewalk in front of his property on Elm Ave., lots 48, 49, 50 and 51, block 24. On recommendation of the Street Committee desired permission was granted subject to all the necessary regulations and supervision to insure the laying of a standard walk at proper grade; and that proper lines and grades be furnished.

From the Takoma Park Community League commending omission of provision for wards in the amended Town charter and restating the League's desire for a lapse of two weeks between caucus and election and opportunity to vote for other than the candidates nominated. Read and ordered filed.

From E. E. Blodgett, Building Inspector, calling attention to unsafe condition of house on lot 2, block 62, Oswego Ave., recommending its thorough repair or early demolition. Referred to Civic Improvement Committee for investigation and report.

Dr. Llewellyn Jordan addressed the Council with respect to the Clean-up campaign of last fall which he suggested be again inaugurated and sponsored by the Town. He also requested that the bad condition of Takoma Avenue, due to unloading of cars, be remedied.

Mr. Boyd M. Brosius called attention to the need of connecting up a short break in the drain from the school grounds to Boston Ave. To the Street Com-

Mr. W. A. Mellen called attention to two Circle Avenues within the Town and suggested change of name of that one in the Wildwood Section.

Mr. Rogers, from the Finance Committee, submitted bills amounting to \$425.10 examined and approved for payment and on his motion payment thereof was directed. Mr. Rogers stated also that owing to the unusual demand upon the budget allotment to the Street Committee, resulting from extra work incident to paving of Carroll Avenue, said allotment had been exhausted. For the Finance Committee he therefore recommended an additional allotment of \$2000⁰⁰ for street work for the remainder of the fiscal year, from surplus funds. On motion of Mr. Adams the recommendation was ^{approved.}

Mr. Rogers, for the Finance Committee, stated that the Mayor had called the Committee's attention to the financial plight of the Playground Conference which finds itself without funds to meet a balance due of some \$1500 for grading the municipal playground at Philadelphia and Maple Avenues. The Mayor had suggested that the Council might advance \$500⁰⁰ from next year's appropriation of \$1000 for the Playgrounds which amount will

probably satisfy the contractor for the present. The Committee recommends that the Treasurer be authorized to pay to the Playgrounds Conference \$500, if required, said amount to be reimbursed to the General Fund from the Playground budget allotment for the next fiscal year. The recommendation was approved on motion of Mr. Adams.

Mr. Iverson, from the Health Committee, invited attention to many instances of dumping trash and rubbish on vacant lots throughout the Town. Investigation developed that many of the offenders were truck drivers from the District of Columbia though some of the offenders are residents of the Town. The Committee recommended that the Chief Police Officer be instructed to investigate and to notify resident lot owners to clean up their lots wherever there is an accumulation of trash and rubbish. Mr. Iverson reported also that with the Mayor he had investigated conditions back of the Laurel Ave. stores and found conditions very bad owing to scattered trash and garbage. The Mayor has written Mr. Thornton, owner of the apartments and stores, and in a subsequent interview ^{Mr. Thornton} had assured the Mayor of cooperation in improving conditions there. Mr. Iverson reported further that the Fire Department had responded to a number of calls due to spreading of open fires in burning of leaves and trash on private lots and invited attention to the Ordinance requiring the use of containers in fires for burning of trash on open property.

Mr. Remsen, from the Street Committee, submitted a detailed report of general street work during the past month. He stated that final bills had been received in connection with completion of Carroll and Laurel Ave. paving and were being checked up for final action.

Mr. Ware, from the Committee on Police, Fire and Lights stated that lights authorized on poles 7005, Carroll and Laurel Aves., pole 74426, Greenwood Ave., and pole 71177, Erie and Maple Aves., had not yet been installed. He recommended, for the Committee, that lights be authorized on poles 75620, - Maple and Sherman Aves; 72009, Greenwood and Division Streets; 74625, Maple Ave., between Sliqo bridge and Flower Avenue, when funds are available. The recommendation was approved on motion of Mr. Sherburne.

The Mayor took occasion, under this head of business to refer to the atrocious assault on Mrs. Louis B. Millar residing on Circle Ave. in Wildwood subdivision. He commended the vigorous efforts of the local police and citizens, of the County and State police and officers and the members of the Metropolitan police force of Washington, to apprehend the perpetrator of this outrage. Although these efforts had so far been unsuccessful the Mayor stated that there would be no abatement in the search and that he felt sure the negro would eventually be captured. In order to stimulate efforts for the capture ^{of} the culprit the Mayor stated that on his own responsibility he had offered a reward of \$500 for information leading to his arrest and conviction and would ask the Council to approve such,

action together with an appropriation of \$100 to meet necessary expenses incurred. Mr. Ware moved that the action of the Mayor in offering a reward of \$500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the party assaulting Mrs. Millar be approved and that an appropriation of \$100 be authorized for expenses incurred in connection with the case. The motion was approved unanimously. The Mayor referred further to the splendid services of the officers and members of the Volunteer Fire Department in valuable and indefatigable efforts to capture this criminal.

Mr. Ware suggested that additional police authority in the Wildwood section might be advisable and recommended the appointment of Mr. H. W. Evans as a deputy bailiff, Mr. Evans having consented to serve. On motion of Mr. Remsen the recommendation was approved and Mr. Evans was appointed. Mr. Evans took the required oath before the Mayor at the close of the meeting and became eligible for police duty.

Mr. Louis B. Miller requested opportunity to express his deep appreciation of the energetic and sympathetic action of the officials and citizens of the Town who have done everything in their power to apprehend the culprit who attacked Mrs. Millar. He expressed his assurance that these efforts will be continued and that ultimately the efforts will result in apprehension of the guilty party.

Mr. Adams from the Civic Improvement Committee recommended that the matter of the Spring Cleanup be referred for joint action of the Civic Improvement, Health, and Police, Fire and Lights Committees, with directions to report at the next meeting. The recommendation was approved.

Mr. Adams recommended further that the owner of the house on lot 2, block 62, on Oswego Ave., be notified that the property is in a very dangerous condition and must be repaired or razed, and that unless the matter be given prompt attention it will be necessary to condemn the property. The recommendation was approved on motion of Mr. Ware.

Mr. Sherburne stated that shrubbery of the value of \$25.00 has been offered for improvement of approaches to the B. and O. overpass near the Bliss School provided the Town would contribute a like amount. Mr. Sherburne recommended approval and appropriation of \$25.00 and on his motion the recommendation was unanimously approved. [official inspection of the premises.]

Mr. Wm. A. Mellen asked the Council to investigate general conditions in the colored settlement on Cherry and Lincoln Aves. and the Council agreed to an
There being no further business the Council thereupon, at 9:35 o'clock adjourned.

Approved:

Bruce Davis

Mayor

Bruce Davis

Clerk.