

Monday Evening, August 19, 1929

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

The minutes of the last regular meeting were read by the Clerk, and, there being no corrections or amendments, were approved.

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

Balance, last report	3092.50	Garbage Collection	201.55	<u>SPECIAL DEPOSITS</u>	
<u>RECEIPTS:</u>		Rubbish "	44.40	Balance last report	720.00
From general taxes	22963.60	Street lighting	379.40	Receipts for month	20.00
" building permits	27.50	Volunteer Fire Dept.	100.00	Balance on hand	740.00
" electric "	16.00	Police Department	23.20	<u>TAX SALE REDEMPTIONS:</u>	
" excavation "	8.00	Salaries: CLK. and Treasr.	150.00	Balance, last report	79.25
	51.50	Supt. Public Work	187.50	Receipts for month	417.95
	23015.10	Electrical Inspector	25.00		497.20
	26107.60	Building Inspector	25.00	Disbursements for month	417.95
<u>DISBURSEMENTS:</u>		Justice of the Peace	25.00	Balance on hand	79.25
Street Work: labor	528.45	Chief Police Officer	100.00	<u>SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT FUND:</u>	
material	243.72	Miscellaneous	93.07	Balance last report	71946.17
machinery and tools	75.24		512.50	Receipts for month	1469.78
miscellaneous	821.10	Balance on hand	22950.55		73415.95
Genl. Expenses: telephones	14.12			Certs of indebtedness and interest paid	39420.00
printing and adv.	12.50			Balance on hand	33995.95
rentals	25.00				
Parks	82.80				

Mr. Rogers moved that the report be approved and filed. Carried and so ordered.

The Clerk presented to the Council the following communications which were read and disposed of as indicated:

From E.H. Burrell, Poplar Avenue, complaining of proximity and condition of chicken yard on adjacent property of F.S. Bolden. To the Health Committee.

From Thos. Manley relating to the removal of two shade trees from his property by the sidewalk contractor. To the Street Committee.

From Joseph Ball relative to the surface drain pipes running across his property, 240 Willow Avenue. To the Street Committee

From Fred L. Glaize, Winchester, Va, calling attention to the condition of Manor Circle in the Carral Manor Subdivision and requesting, in view of the heavy taxes paid by him, that streets be improved and sidewalks laid. To the Street Committee.

A petition from The Sliqa Lumber Company and Victor Eisenbeiss for a cement sidewalk in front of their properties on Philadelphia Avenue, corner of Chestnut Avenue, agreeing to a waiver of all legal requirements. To the Street Committee.

The following citizens appeared before the Council in person, presenting the matters indicated:

Mr. Thomas Manley relative to two trees on his property which were cut down during construction of the sidewalk adjacent to his property, on Elm Avenue. The Mayor informed Mr. Manley that promptly upon receipt of his letter he called the sidewalk contractor and was informed by the latter that one of the trees was directly in the way of the walk and had to be removed; that in excavating for the walk it was necessary to cut the roots of ^{other} the tree which weakened it to the extent of rendering it dangerous and that he thought it best to remove it and so informed Mrs. Manley who seemingly acquiesced. Mr. Manley expressed himself as dissatisfied with the contractor's explanation and was informed by the Mayor that the matter would be referred to the Street Committee for further investigation. Mr. Manley also asserted that the sidewalk was not in proper alignment.

Mr. George W. Box and Mrs. D.W. Edwards appeared before the Council in behalf of improvement of Manor Circle. The Mayor explained that while the street could not be considered for permanent improvement, which involved grading and paving, until a new paving program was under consideration he felt sure that the conditions complained of could be appreciably improved and that he would bring the matter to the attention of the Street Committee for their early consideration and action.

Mr. F.D. Kitwell, 645 Carroll Ave., read to the Council a letter from Mr. Duncan, Division Engineer of the State Roads Commission relative to construction of the catchbasin in front of Mr. Kitwell's property. Notwithstanding Mr. Duncan's assertion that the catchbasin was properly constructed Mr. Kitwell maintained that it did not function during heavy rains, the water passing by and washing out the roadbed of the old line of Carroll Avenue. The matter was referred to the Street Committee for investigation and such action as may be deemed desirable.

Mr. T. J. Fitzpatrick addressed the Council relative to the inadequate compensation of \$100 per month paid to the Chief Police Officer of the Town. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that this public official was on duty from 18 to 24 hours per day, Sundays and holidays and that the salary is insufficient for any man to maintain his family in these days; he hoped the Council would remedy this situation. To the Committee on Police, Fire and Lights.

Mr. Jesse L. Huestis, 20 Woodland Ave., stated that a street drainage pipe extended into his property about 50 feet and emptied into the lower part of his lot; that during heavy rains his lot becomes badly washed out. He asked if this pipe cannot be extended through his property and thus prevent these constant wash outs. Referred to the Street Committee for investigation and report.

Mr. G.E. Robertson, 227 Willow Ave., called attention to a letter to the Council concerning drainage through his property and asked what action had been

taken thereon. The Mayor informed Mr. Robertson that the Street Committee is making an investigation of the drainage conditions affecting his and other properties in the vicinity in an effort to reach some feasible solution of the problem involved and that the Committee will doubtless make a report thereon just as soon as it has reached a conclusion in the matter.

Mr. Joseph Griffith, Sherman Avenue, renewed his complaint concerning close proximity of a chicken house and yard on an adjoining premises. Referred to the Health Committee for investigation and such action as may be found necessary.

Honorable J. Enos Ray, of Prince Georges County addressed the Council relative to certain street improvements in the Prince George County section of the Town which would render more readily available to school children the facilities afforded by the new public school building on the Ray road just beyond the Town limits. The streets referred to by Mr. Ray were Heather Ave, in the Wildwood Section, extension of Elm Avenue through the Glaize tract and the grading of Woodland Ave, from Elm Avenue to the corporation line.

The Mayor expressed the pleasure of the Council and himself at the presence of Mr. Ray and the interest thus manifested. He referred to a letter from Mr. Ray some weeks ago in which similar requests were preferred and in reply to which Mr. Ray was informed that Heather Avenue had been surfaced with crushed concrete, that the extension of Elm Avenue from Ethan Allen Avenue, through the Glaize Tract, to Wildwood, had been drained, graded and made passable for automobile and foot traffic and that the Council would be pleased to have the grade of Woodland Avenue adjusted between Elm Ave. and the Corporation line just as soon as the County is ready to proceed with the extension of the street to the school grounds. Mr. Ray expressed his appreciation of the action taken as indicated and was assured by the Mayor of the desire of the Town authorities to cooperate at all times with the Prince George County authorities in matters to their mutual advantage.

Dr. Llewellyn Jordan addressed the Council and indorsed the proposal of Mr. Fitzpatrick for an increase in the compensation of the Chief Police Officer. More at length Dr. Jordan commented on an anonymous letter printed in a recent issue of the Takama Journal, addressed to the Corporation Counsel, Mr. J. Bond Smith, asking him if he intended to adhere to his promise to make no charges for his legal services in connection with the B. and O. Siding litigation and whether this promise included other legal expenses in connection with the case. Dr. Jordan referred, from his personal knowledge, to the vast amount of legal work Mr. Smith had done in this case including the preparation of several extensive briefs, argument of the case before the court and direction of examination and cross examination of fifty witnesses producing 800 typewritten pages of testimony. While undoubtedly Mr. Smith has no intention of sub-

submitting a bill for his own services, Dr. Jordan did not consider it reasonable to expect him to stand the expense of associate counsel or those expenses outside the purview of personal services. Dr. Jordan deprecated the motive of the writer of the article and its publication.

Mr. W. P. Hutton, 12 Prince Georges Ave., inquired as to relocation of certain streetlights on Ethan Allen Avenue at Woodland Ave. and Manor Circle. The inquiry was referred to the Police, Fire and Lights Committee, for investigation and report.

Mr. Dann Faber, of Takoma Avenue, gratified the Mayor and Council by an expression of appreciation for completion of the culvert across Takoma Ave., at Boston Avenue. He was followed by Mr. and Mrs. Crouse, Westmoreland Ave., who were pleased at the construction of a new cement sidewalk on their street and by Dr. Jordan, Baltimore Ave., who stated that the citizens in his vicinity viewed with pleasure the beginning of the much needed sewer construction on Takoma and Buffalo Avenues.

Mr. Rogers, from the Finance Committee, submitted bills, examined by the Committee and approved for payment, amounting to \$976.61. On motion of Mr. Rogers payment of the bills was authorized.

Mr. Iverson, from the Health Committee, reported general health conditions throughout the Town as excellent. There are several complaints before the Committee concerning chicken houses and yards closer than 75 feet to dwelling houses. These are being investigated and appropriate action will be taken.

Mr. Remsen, from the Street Committee reported that he had consulted with Mr. J. V. McNary, bridge engineer of the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads relative to the proposed Slijo bridge at the foot of Flower Avenue; that upon examination of the site and the present bridge, Mr. McNary advised that the existing bridge be strengthened and the \$1000.00 available to begin construction withheld until next years appropriation is also available, as it would not be advisable to start the work on \$1000.00. The Committee recommends repair and posting of the bridge for not to exceed three-ton loads and that Mr. McNary's advice, as stated, be followed. The recommendation was approved on motion of Mr. Rogers.

Mr. Remsen reported completion of the culvert at Takoma and Boston Aves, and near completion of the culvert across Park Avenue at Maple; repairs to the concrete pavement on Maple Avenue and raising of 100 feet of sidewalk on Chestnut Avenue; also repairs to a number of catch basins. He reported sidewalk construction under contract of Mr. Taylor as proceeding satisfactorily, Elm and Westmoreland Avenues being practically completed.

With respect to the complaint of Mr. Ball concerning surface drain through his property Mr. Remsen stated that the Committee is endeavoring to investigate this and other similar complaints in an effort to arrive at a definite policy regarding natural water courses and the Town's responsibility in connection

therewith. This necessarily requires time and the Committee will report thereon as soon as it reaches a definite conclusion.

Mr. Remsen, for the Street Committee, recommended the construction of a sidewalk on Philadelphia Ave, abutting lots 14 and 15, block 83, the owners having petitioned therefor and agreed to a waiver of advertising and notice. Approved on motion of Mr. Sherburne.

Mr. Adams, from the Civic Improvement Committee, reported that the several parks in North Takoma had been cleaned up during the month and presented a much improved condition and appearance and that the Town force is now engaged in mowing unkempt street parkings which the adjoining property owners do not attempt to keep in good appearance. He suggested that if each property owner would consider his adjacent street parking as a part of his yard and keep it mowed it would add immeasurably to the general appearance of the Town. Mr. Adams reported that the Committee had visited the Adventist School on Columbia Avenue and after a personal inspection had approved the application for construction of a high wire mesh fence to inclose the play grounds and prevent the knocking of balls into neighboring yards. Mr. Adams reported also that the old Fire House on Laurel Avenue is being removed and expressed the hope that the owner of the property, will make it as attractive as possible when it is all cleared up.

Mr. Sherburne, from the Ordinance and Judiciary Committee reported that the Committee is hoping to secure the necessary data to permit early beginning of a revision and coding of the Town Ordinances; some of these are quite antiquated and there is much disparity in penalties provided; Judge Wilson has agreed to make note of desirable changes in the Town laws that experience may suggest and submit them to the Committee. Mr. Sherburne also reported that alterations and furnishing of the Police Judges room in the Fire Department Building is about completed and that these quarters are now admirably adapted for their purpose.

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The Mayor reported to the Council that in reply to his representations for needed additional fire hydrants on Philadelphia Avenue the Suburban Sanitary Commission had agreed to their necessity and the work of installation is already in progress.

Addressing the Council briefly at this point the Mayor stated that he been informed upon reliable authority that propaganda was being circulated among the residents of the Prince George County section of the Town that the Mayor is opposed to any public improvements in that section; this the Mayor stated is so ridiculous in the light of the accomplishments in that section during the past three years of his administration, as to need no comment, and was scarcely worthy of denial. The Mayor stated that in all his 28 years of official connection with the Town government, in the discussion or consideration of municipal improvements, he could recall no mention of the county line in deciding where such improvements should go; as

far as the municipality is concerned no County line exists; anybody stating to the contrary does so with some ulterior motive and without respect for the facts. At the conclusion of the Mayor's remarks Mr. W. A. Mellen admitted responsibility for the propaganda referred to by the Mayor which he stated was based upon the fact that a sidewalk authorized several years ago for lower Flower Avenue has not been constructed, and that the contractor for sidewalks now under construction, had informed him the walk was not to be constructed this year. The Mayor stated in reply to Mr. Mellen, that funds available for special improvements this year are limited and that the walk to which he refers was eliminated because it is not urgently needed and can wait and not because it happened to be in the Prince George County section of the Town.

Commenting upon the matter of expenditures for special improvement work, Mr. Remsen stated that the Street Committee ^{is} ~~was~~ guided largely by the advice of the Mayor whose long service and experience as Treasurer of the Town has fitted him probably better than any other official or citizen in the knowledge of Town finances and of expenditures within the bounds of financial safety. The Committee will likely continue to accept this advice in preference to that of individuals without official responsibility who are interested in the development of specified sections. Mr. Remsen suggested that future misunderstandings with respect to location of desired special improvement work might be avoided if requests and inquiries relating thereto were submitted in writing instead of being presented verbally.

There being no further business presented the Council, at 9:40 o'clock P.M. adjourned.

Approved:

Bened Davis

Mayor

Bryan Davis

Clerk

Monday Evening, September 16, 1929

[voidably detained.]

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

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

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

Balance last report		\$ 22950.55	Rubbish collection	43.20		<u>TAX SALE REDEMPTIONS:</u>	
<u>RECEIPTS:</u>			Street lighting	385.85		Balance last report	79.25
From general taxes	3036.27		Volunteer Fire Dept.	100.00		Receipts during month	453.69
building permits	26.50		Police Headquarters	33.10			532.94
electric "	18.00		Justices' Court Room	151.75		Disbursements during month	453.69
excavation "	2.00	46.50	Salaries, CLK and Treasr.	150.00		Balance on hand	79.25
miscellaneous	104.01	3186.78	Supt. Public Work	187.50			
		26137.33	Electrical Inspector	25.00		<u>SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT FUND:</u>	
<u>DISBURSEMENTS:</u>			Building Inspector	25.00		Balance last report	33995.95
Street work: labor	563.40		Justice of Peace	50.00		Receipts during month	1434.98
material	917.68		Chief Police Officer	100.00	537.50		35430.93
machinery and tools	116.50	1597.58	Miscellaneous	30.60	3288.69	Disbursements: cement walks	2400.00
General Expenses: telephone	7.20		Balance on hand		22848.69	Balance on hand	33030.93
printing and advertis.	140.87		<u>SPECIAL DEPOSITS:</u>				
postage	22.21		Balance last report		740.00		
rentals	25.00	195.28	Receipts during month		10.00		
Garbage collection		213.83	Balance on hand		750.00		

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

The Clerk laid before the Council communications as follows which were disposed of as indicated:

From Mr. C. Huff, Electrical Inspector, reporting on the death of Mrs. Louise E. Fraser, 215 Chestnut Ave, who was found dead lying over a vacuum cleaner which she had been operating. Mr. Huff reported the house and fixture wiring in good condition, but the enamel had been worn from the handle of the cleaner and the bare metal exposed; the cleaner was grounded; Mrs. Fraser's body was found lying against the radiator and in contact with the handle of the cleaner the direct contact thus formed closing a circuit through her body which was undoubtedly a factor in her death. Mr. Huff emphasized the importance of having all household electrical appliances kept in good order for, while generally shocks from house current are not serious, conditions may be such under certain circumstances as to yield serious results. Report filed.

From Mr. Guy Clinton, 124 Willow Ave., stating that at the request of Mr. Thomas Manley, 45 Poplar Ave., he inspected the latter's property with re-

spect to certain trees removed by the contractor laying cement sidewalks. Mr. Clinton concluded that the trees were firmly rooted in ground owned by Mr. Manley; that the cutting of roots and earth necessary to lay the walk would not have endangered the stability of the trees and that Mr. Manley suffered loss entitling him to compensation therefor. Referred to the Street Committee.

From Mr. C.C. Pulver, Manager, Washington Sanitarium, requesting permission to erect a nice, neat sign at Carroll and Ethan Allen Avenues pointing the way to the Sanitarium. Permission granted on recommendation of the Police, Fire and Lights Committee and motion of Mr. Ware.

From Dr. Uwellyn Jordan suggesting the advisability of an organization of Maryland Mayors along the line of "The League of Mayors for the State of Virginia." Referred to the Civic Improvement Committee.

Mr. C.G. Gardner, 25 Woodland Avenue, addressed the Council relative to repairs needed on the sidewalk near his home which, he stated, had been promised for some time but no action so far taken. Referred to the Street Committee.

Dr. Uwellyn Jordan read to the Council correspondence with the B. and O. Railway officials relative to improvement of the bank along their right of way through the Town in which it was stated that the banks would be sloped and treated to insure plant growth, and gullies filled. Dr. Jordan also referred to the annual Fall Clean-up and his willingness to contribute \$25.00 in prizes therefor; to the advisability of removing the store house on the North Takoma Parkway; suggested the closing of Buffalo Avenue and its inclusion in the Park adjoining, and called attention to the authorized construction of a public incineration in the District of Columbia which might possibly be available for disposition of Town rubbish and garbage. Dr. Jordan suggested also that the accumulated correspondence of the Town might be preserved by binding.

Mrs. J. A. Robertson, 54 Flower Ave., called attention to the need of parking signs on the narrow part of Flower Avenue, before Carroll and Jackson Avenues, to prevent parking on both sides of the street. Referred to Police, Fire and Lights Committee.

Mr. Hanger, from the Wildwood section inquired if street repairs are contemplated for that section. The Mayor stated that general street repairs come under the jurisdiction of the Street Committee and that the Committee will doubtless endeavor to keep all unimproved streets in as good a state of repairs as available funds will permit.

[motion.

Mr. Rogers, from the Finance Committee, submitted bills examined and approved for payment by the Committee and payment was directed on his

Mr. Rogers also moved that the Mayor be authorized to procure available vault space for storage of such valuable Town records as in his judgment

should be so safe guarded. The motion was carried.

Mr. Iverson, from the Health Committee, reported that several complaints relating to location of chicken houses, had been brought to the Committee's attention during the month, had been investigated and amicable adjustments made. The Committee has also investigated complaints relative to the condition of the stream crossing lower Cockrille Avenue. This appears to be a menace to health and if possible the stream should be covered. The Committee again recommends that the pond on the Hodges farm be filled and that the Committee be authorized to cooperate with Mr. Hodges in having this done and in ridding that section of a possible health detriment. The recommendation was approved on motion of Mr. Ware.

Mr. Remsen, from the Street Committee, reported completion of the sidewalk construction program covering the present season; the Committee compliments the contractor, Mr. Taylor, on the manner in which the work was carried on and for the excellent quality of the work.

Mr. Remsen stated that the Committee is endeavoring to formulate a policy with respect to surface drainage waters and finds the matter intricate and involved, necessitating study and investigation which the Committee is pursuing as rapidly as possible. He quoted a number of legal decisions applicable to the situation here involved, but is unable to make a definite report at this time. The Committee can only report progress in this matter.

Mr. Remsen stated that his Committee would endeavor to make at an early date the proposed survey for repair of cement sidewalks which is likely to require some time. In regards to the complaint of Mr. Gardner, effort will be made to repair this walk within the present week.

Mr. Ware, from the Police, Fire and Lights Committee, stated that signs would be placed on Flower Ave, between Carroll and Jackson Aves, prohibiting parking of cars on the west side thereof on account of narrowness of the street as directed by the Council.

On recommendation of his Committee, Mr. Ware presented proposed new lights and changes, as follows: New lights on pole 7001, Carroll Ave, between Grant and Lee Aves; on pole 7140, Carroll and Ethan Allen Aves. Locate light on pole 7147 on pole 7148; move light on pole 7144 to pole 7145; move light on pole 7141 to pole 7142, all on Ethan Allen Ave. Recommendations approved on motion of Mr. Iverson. The Committee also recommended removal of trees on town property between poles 7140 and 7141, Ethan Allen Avenue and trimming of tree adjacent to pole 7153 on Ethan Allen Avenue. Recommendation approved on motion of Mr. Adams.

Mr. Adams, from the Civic Improvement Committee recommended that the fall clean-up campaign be held during the period from October 21 to November 3rd. Recommendation approved on motion of Mr. Iverson.

On suggestion of the Mayor and on recommendation of the Finance Committee, Mr. Rogers moved that the Treasurer be authorized and directed to remit \$15.00 to the Treasurer of the Montgomery County Civic Federation, to cover the Towns membership dues therein.

There being no further business the Council thereupon, at 9:45 o'clock p.m., adjourned.

Approved:

Bruce Davis Mayor

Bryan Davis Clerk

Monday Evening, October 21, 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 correction or amendment were approved as read.

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

Balance last report	22848.64	Garbage collection	214.20	<u>SPECIAL DEPOSITS:</u>	
<u>RECEIPTS:</u>		Rubbish "	43.20	Balance, last report	750.00
From general taxes	1746.29	Val. Fire Dept.	100.00	Receipts for month	20.00
Building permits	20.00	Police Department	62.00		770.00
Electric "	28.00	J. of P. Courtroom	299.70	Refunds during month	10.00
Excavation "	3.00 51.00	Salaries: Clerk and Treas	150.00	Balance on hand	760.00
Miscel. Fines	61.50 1858.79	Supt. Public Work	187.50	<u>SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT FUND:</u>	
	24707.43	Electrical Inspector	25.00	Balance, last report	33030.93
<u>DISBURSEMENTS:</u>		Building "	25.00	<u>RECEIPTS:</u>	
Street work: labor	340.20	Justice of Peace	50.00	From outstanding accts:	1606.78
material	110.90	Chief Police Officer	150.00 587.50	County Commrs.	20,000.00 21606.78
machinery and tools	67.80	Miscellaneous	70.70 2016.15		54637.71
miscellaneous	90.00 608.90	Balance on hand	22691.28	<u>DISBURSEMENTS:</u>	
General expenses: telephone	4.95	<u>TAX SALE REDEMPTIONS:</u>		Cement Sidewalks	1462.00
rentals	25.00 29.95	Balance last report	79.25	Balance on hand	53175.71

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

The Mayor announced that on the invitation of Dr. Llewellyn Jordan there was present this evening Mr. Marton L. Wallerstein, Executive Secretary of the Virginia League of Municipalities and that the regular order of business would be temporarily suspended for a brief address by that gentleman. After an introduction by Dr. Jordan, Mr. Wallerstein addressed the Council most interestingly on the functions, duties and accomplishments of the Virginia League of Municipalities and