

Monday Evening, October 20, 1930

The Council met at 8 o'clock. There were present the Mayor and Councilmen Adams, Iverson, Remsen, Rogers and Sherburne. Mr. Ware was absent because of illness.

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

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

Balance last report		24,420.63	Parks	1.10		<u>SPECIAL DEPOSITS:</u>	
RECEIPTS:			Garbage Collection	180.00		Balance last report	\$ 760.00
From general taxes		2327.94	Street lighting	397.59		(No receipts nor disbursements)	
" building permits	16.00		Volunteer Fire Dept.	100.00		<u>TAX SALE REDEMPTIONS:</u>	
" electric "	12.00		Playgrounds	500.00		Balance last report	79.88
" excavation "	7.00	35.00	Police Department	11.92		Receipts for month	55.95
Miscellaneous	9.50	2372.44	Courtroom	29.25		Disbursements for month	135.33
		26793.07	Salaries: Clk. and Treasr.	166.67		Balance on hand	54.70
DISBURSEMENTS:			Building Inspector	25.00			80.63
Street Work: labor	408.30		Supt. Public Work	200.00		<u>SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT FUND:</u>	
material	97.90		Electrical Inspector	25.00		Balance last report	20,375.59
machinery and tools	149.61	655.81	Chief Police Officer	100.00		Receipts for month	926.17
Genl. Expenses: Telephone	5.17		Justice of the Peace	50.00	566.67		21301.76
printing and advertising	5.20		Miscellaneous	104.00	2581.71	Disbursements: cement walks	956.00
rentals	25.00	35.37	Balance on hand		24211.36	Balance on hand	20345.76

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

The Clerk laid before the Council a petition of property owners requesting construction of a cement sidewalk on Hancock Avenue between Lee and Sherman Avenues which petition was referred to the Street Committee.

Dr. Llewellyn Jordan addressed the Council with reference to the vandal acts of a gang of boys of high school age and suggested that they be brought before the Mayor and warned of the probable future result of their continued depredations. Dr. Jordan spoke also of certain legislation relating to a division of the State gasoline tax between the State, County and incorporated Towns, which he is preparing for presentation to the next General Assembly.

Mr. Dann Faber requested that the unpaved portion of Takoma Avenue be oiled to eliminate the dust. Matter referred to the Street Committee.

Mr. Charles H. Davey, 223 Baltimore Avenue, requested the Council to consider the grading and opening of Baltimore Avenue through to Philadelphia Ave. which will afford a much more direct route for North Takoma people to the Maryland schools. Mr. Davey also requested repair of the low walk in front of his prop-<sup>erty</sup>

Mr. Lloyd Biddle, of Baltimore Ave, indorsed Mr. Davey's suggestion in respect to grading of Baltimore Avenue and urged, in addition the extension of



Brashears Avenue to Chestnut Avenue for the same purpose. These matters were referred to the Street Committee for consideration and report.

Mr. L. Martin Simpson, 6 Denwood Avenue, called attention to the dangerous situation arising from parking of cars on both sides of Denwood Avenue whenever there is a public gathering at the Fire Department Building; this he considered dangerous not only because it prevented traffic in both directions through Denwood Avenue but that it prevents the fire apparatus egress through that street. The matter was referred to the Police, Fire and Lights Committee.

Mr. Rogers, from the Finance Committee, reported bills examined and approved amounting to \$438.68 and on his motion payment of the bills was directed.

Mr. Iverson, from the Health Committee, reported completion of a trunk sewer through part of the tract east of Flower Avenue; the Committee is still urging construction of sewers on Lee, Hancock and Sheridan Avenues; the Committee is also persisting in getting all houses on sewer lines connected therewith.

Mr. Remsen, from the Street Committee, recommended that additional sidewalks be laid as follows: On Manor Circle, abutting the property of Dr. J. W. Dudley, a distance of about 154 feet at an estimated cost of \$230.00; On Poplar Avenue, along Spring Park, town property, a distance of about 300 feet at a cost of about \$400.00; about 300 feet on Ethan Allen Avenue, relaid walk below grade at a cost of about \$400.00. Recommendation approved. The Committee recommended also the relaying of about 30 feet of sidewalk in front of 223 Baltimore Avenue which recommendation was approved.

Mr. Remsen stated that the Street Committee would endeavor to construct an ash path along the line of Baltimore Avenue for the benefit of children going to school.

Mr. Adams, from the Civic Improvement Committee referred to complaints against the structure erected by Mr. G. E. Roe on his property at 211 Willow Ave., which Mr. Roe apparently intends to use as a chicken house. After discussion the feeling of the Council appeared to be that the permit for the building was properly granted and that its subsequent use for any purpose contrary to the Town Ordinances would be a matter for determination by the local police court.

Mr. Adams, for his Committee, took occasion to commend the Superintendent of Public Work for having painted the Spring house at Spring Park, thus greatly improving its appearance, and for the general neat appearance maintained at the park.

Under civic improvement matters the Mayor took occasion to refer to a conference held by himself, some members of the Council and certain officials and members of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission on the ground site of the proposed underpass of the B. and O. Railway tracks at Ferry Street, during which conference the plans prepared by Mr. Irving Root, Chief Engineer of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, for treatment of the Maryland entrance to the underpass, were given careful consideration. Mr. Root's plan, said the Mayor, impressed all present as most excellently adapted to meet the situation and the necessary change of street grades, at the same time presenting an imposing highway connection between Maryland and the District of Columbia. The Mayor stated that he



had prepared a Resolution approving Mr. Roof's plan and had submitted it to the Civic Improvement Committee for the Committee's consideration. The Committee thereupon presented the Resolution, unanimously approved for adoption as follows:

*WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States has appropriated for and directed the elimination of the existing grade crossing at Chestnut Street in the District of Columbia; and*  
*WHEREAS, The construction of the underpass contemplated for this purpose, involving the extension of Piney Branch Road to Fern Street, directly concerns the intersecting streets of Chestnut, Baltimore and Takoma Avenues within the Town of Takoma Park, Maryland, which streets will be required to conform to the new grades necessitated by the underpass; and*  
*WHEREAS, The said Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, by its Chief Engineer, has submitted a plan for the treatment of the Takoma Park, Maryland, intersection of said underpass, said plan providing for proper and adequate street grades and parking capable of landscaping and beautification as a main thoroughfare between Maryland and the District of Columbia and involving acquisition of the triangular ground lying between the streets of the District of Columbia and of Maryland which will be affected by said underpass, part of said triangular ground lying within the District of Columbia and part in Maryland; and*  
*WHEREAS, the plans of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission provide for the acquisition of the ground in Maryland necessary for said street adjustments and parks by Montgomery County and of the land required in the District of Columbia by the District authorities, the whole constituting an imposing treatment of a difficult engineering problem;*  
*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Takoma Park, Maryland, that the plan submitted by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission for treatment of the streets and Parks adjacent to the proposed Fern Street railroad underpass, be and the same is hereby heartily commended and approved; and that the authorities of the District of Columbia be urged to adopt the general features of said plan for street grades, elevations and parks for that portion of the proposed improvement lying within the District of Columbia and coming under the jurisdiction of the District authorities.*

On motion of Mr. Adams the Resolution was adopted, unanimously.

The Mayor stated that he had received an official population bulletin of the State of Maryland from the Census Bureau which gives the total population of Takoma Park as 6415, of which 5437 is in Montgomery County and 978 in Prince Georges County. This is an increase of more than 100 per cent during the past 10 years. In the list of Maryland cities Takoma Park now stands eighth in population.

There being no further business the Council, at 10:05 o'clock p.m., adjourned.

Approved:

*Bruce Davis*

Mayor

*Bruce Davis*

Clerk



Monday Evening, November 17, 1930

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 were approved.

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

Balance, last report		24211.36	Garbage collection	180.00	<u>SPECIAL DEPOSITS:</u>	
<u>RECEIPTS:</u>			Trash	44.60	Balance last report	760.00
From general taxes	2772.72		Street lighting	523.00	(No receipts or disbursements.)	
" building permits	32.00		Val. Fire Dept	100.00	<u>TAX SALE REDEMPTIONS:</u>	
electric permits	8.00		Police Department	23.29	Balance last report	80.63
excavation permits	5.00	45.00	Court room	29.00	<u>SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT FUND:</u>	
Miscellaneous	67.00	2884.72	Salaries: Clerk and Treasr.	166.66	Balance last report:	20345.76
		27096.08	Building Inspector	25.00	Receipts for month	1997.99
<u>DISBURSEMENTS:</u>			Supt. Public Work	200.00		22343.75
Street work: labor	472.30		Electric Inspector	25.00	Disbursements, Cement Walks	1980.00
material	208.70		Chief Police Officer	100.00	Balance on hand	20363.75
machinery and tools	266.84	947.84	Justice of the Peace	50.00		
Flower Ave bridge	1398.74		Miscellaneous	265.00		
Genl. Expenses: Telephone	5.55		Balance on hand	22987.40		
Rentals	25.00	30.55				

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

The Clerk laid before the Council a petition from residents on Boyd Avenue, Extended, asking to continue improvement of Boyd Avenue from end of existing pavement to Jackson Avenue. Referred to the Street Committee for consideration and report.

Dr. Uewellyn Jordan addressed the Council and commended the Police Department for protection extended to property owners on Halloween Night. He also commented on the provisions of the Crampton bill as it relates to the Maryland park extensions, expressing the hope that the present 10 cents park tax would be retained exclusively for park maintenance. Dr. Jordan also commented on the Root plan for treating approaches to the proposed Fern Street underpass and stated that he understands this plan has the approval of the District authorities.

Mr. Eugene Rowley, referring to the early completion of the Flower Avenue Bridge across Sliquo Creek, referred to the possibility of Capital Traction busses establishing a route along Sliquo and Flower Avenues providing the paving of Flower Avenue to the bridge is completed and urged that this be done as soon as possible.

Mr. W.A. Mellen address the Council along similar lines. The Mayor stated that the matter would be considered by the Street Committee.



Mr. Rogers, from the Finance Committee, submitted bills examined and approved for payment amounting to \$287.20 and on his motion payment thereof was directed.

Mr. Rogers, from the Finance Committee, submitted statement of the cost of construction of cement sidewalks recently completed as \$3500 which is to be assessed against 2500 lineal feet of abutting benefited property in accordance with assessment prepared by the Town Clerk and Treasurer and submitted the following Ordinance for consideration:

*Ordinance No. 513.*

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

*Section 1. That the special assessment, prepared by the Town Treasurer and submitted and approved by the Finance Committee, covering the cost of sidewalk construction duly ordered by the Mayor and Council in accordance with law and as set forth in Ordinance No. 512, passed and approved September 8, 1930, be and the same is hereby adopted and approved.*

*Section 2. The special assessment hereby adopted and approved shall be due and payable December 1, 1930; Provided that, if so desired, said assessment may be paid in five equal annual installments, the first due December 1, 1930 and payable on or before March 1, 1931 and each subsequent annual payment due on each succeeding December 1st and payable on or before each succeeding March 1st until paid in full. Interest at 6% will be charged on each installment from date of maturity to date of payment. Payments of one-fifth of said assessment or excess thereof may be paid at any time within the payment period.*

Mr. Rogers moved that the Ordinance be adopted and on an aye and nay vote the motion prevailed as follows: voting aye the Mayor and Councilmen Adams, Iverson, Remsen, Rogers, Sherburne and Ware. Voting nay, none.

Mr. Iverson, from the Health Committee referred to complaints concerning condition of the Beale estate houses corner Sycamore and Ethan Allen Avenues and stated that a thorough examination as to structural safety and sanitary conditions will be made as soon as practicable. Mr. Iverson stated that his Committee is still endeavoring to have sewers installed in Sheridan, Lee and Hancock Avenues. General health conditions throughout the Town continue excellent.

Mr. Remsen, from the Street Committee, reported completion of the sidewalk work authorized for this season. He reported that the contractor for the Flower Avenue bridge across Sliqa Branch will complete that structure during the present week which will be the finish of all pending construction work. The Committee has been considering the possibility of completing the Flower Avenue roadway between the existing pavement and the new bridge but is unable to submit a definite report this evening. The recent rains have enabled the scraping of the dirt roadways and a number of them have been put in good condition.

Mr. Remsen reported that the Committee is hoping at an early date to confer with the Montgomery County authorities with respect to the extension of the east and west highway through Takoma Park and also with reference to a new bridge across Sliqa Branch on the line of Carroll Avenue. These projects will have to be authorized by the forthcoming legislature.

Mr. Ware, from the Committee on Police, Fire and Lights reported that all the new higher watt lights have been installed with a very appreciable improvement in street lighting. He called attention also to the dangerous congestion of Denwood Avenue through parking of cars on both sides thereof especially when something is going on in



the Fire Department building. The street thus becomes practically closed to the fire apparatus in case of alarms. To avoid this the Committee recommends that on occasions involving any considerable attendance at the fire department building, that Denwood Avenue from Carroll Avenue to Holt Place be closed to any parking of vehicles and that temporary signs be placed on such occasions to this effect; and that similar signs be placed on the easterly side of Denwood Avenue from Holt Place to Park Avenue on such occasions. The Committee recommended further that a white line be painted in the center of the curved portion of Elm Avenue beginning at Ash Avenue and that parking opposite said line be prohibited. The Committee also recommended the permanent appointment as police officers for special duty, of O.W. Scherger, Assistant Chief of the Fire Department, and Mr. Harper, the latter to serve at the Bliss Electrical School. All the above recommendations were approved.

Mr. Adams, from the Civic Improvement Committee, stated that the completion of the sidewalk on the Paplar Avenue side of Spring Park had added very much to the appearance of the Park. That with the aid of the Superintendent of Public Work it is expected to grade and fill the depressions and to drain the swampy ground as well as to trim out the trees and underbrush. Commending the interest and efforts of the Civic Improvement Committee to improve Spring Park the Mayor stated that the possibilities of this reservation as a spot of interest and beauty were very great. He urged neighborhood interest in development and beautification of Spring Park and of the Park at Elm and Prince Georges Avenue. The more attractive these parks are made the more value attaches to the surrounding properties.

As a matter of information to those interested Mr. Adams stated that the newly paved Cool Spring road is now open to traffic and reduces to about ten minutes the time required to go from Takoma to the University at College Park. *Adjourned 9:10*

There being no further business the Council, at 9:10 o'clock p.m., adjourned.

Approved:

*Bryan Davis*

Mayor.

*Bryan Davis*

Clerk



Monday Evening, December 15, 1930

The Council met at 8 o'clock. There were present the Mayor and Councilmen Adams, Iverson, Rogers, Sherburne and Ware. The Mayor stated that Mr. Remsen's absence was due to the death of his mother, in which sad circumstance the deep sympathy of the Mayor and Council was extended.

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

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

Balance last report		\$ 22,987.40	postage	22.21					
<u>RECEIPTS:</u>			rentals	25.00	51.96			<u>SPECIAL DEPOSITS:</u>	
From general taxes	3207.37		Garbage collection		183.00			Balance last report	\$ 760.00
building permits	11.00		Trash collection		55.20			(No receipts nor disbursements)	
electric permits	18.00		Street lighting		539.53			<u>TAX SALE REDEMPTIONS:</u>	
excavation permits	6.00	35.00	Vol. Fire Department		100.00			Balance last report	80.63
Miscellaneous		25.25	Police Department		5.39			Disbursements	.75
		26 255.02	Court Room		30.25			Balance	79.88
<u>DISBURSEMENTS:</u>			Salaries: Clerk and Treas	166.67				<u>SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT FUND:</u>	
Street work: labor	372.20		Building Inspector	25.00				Balance last report	20363.75
material	144.91		Supt. Public Work	200.00				Receipts for month	1788.93
machinery and tools	132.25		Electrical Inspector	25.00					22152.68
miscellaneous	485.75	1135.11	Chief Police Officer	100.00				Disbursements	31.00
Flower Ave. bridge		1427.91	Justice of the Peace	50.00	566.67	4095.02		Balance	22121.68
Genil. Expenses: telephone	4.75								
						Balance on hand	\$ 22160.00		

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

Under "Communications and Petitions" Dr. Llewellyn Jordan gave to the Council the current status of the Fern Street underpass and the extension and widening of Piney Branch Road; he suggested also the improvement of Takoma Avenue and the extension of Brashears Avenue to Chestnut Avenue or beyond, and referred to necessary legislation required in connection with adjustment of the Maryland streets and entrance to the Fern Street underpass, which matters were referred to the appropriate committees.

Dr. E.M. Finch, speaking for certain residents of Boyd Avenue, requested that action be taken to prevent the use of that street as a public playground, a practice that is obviously dangerous to those playing and to motorists using the street, as well as ruthlessly destructive of parkings, lawns and shrubbery. Referred to the Ordinance Committee for investigation and report as to the feasibility and advisability of preventing the use of the public streets for play purposes.

D.R. Phillips, 6807 Eastern Avenue, by letter, renewed complaint as to the continued accumulation of trash and debris on the property in rear of the Laurel Avenue stores, which created bad health conditions and established a serious fire menace. After an extended discussion the Mayor stated that he would endeavor to get in



early personal touch with Mr. Thornton, owner of the property, who, he felt sure, would be willing to cooperate with the Town authorities, in keeping his property in reasonably clean and healthful condition.

Mr. Rogers, from the Finance Committee, submitted bills examined and approved for payment, amounting to \$160.83 and on his motion payment thereof was directed.

Mr. Iverson, from the Health Committee stated that, as directed, the Committee has inspected the houses at Carroll, Sycamore and Ethan Allen Avenues, and found them provided with water and sewage facilities but in a poor state of repair; in this however, the Town authorities apparently have no jurisdiction. He reported a continuation of effort to secure sewer lines for Lee and Hancock Avenues but so far without success.

Mr. Iverson stated that the two men collecting the garbage have requested an increase in wages from \$90.00 per month, the amount now paid to each of them and referred to the good service they are rendering. After discussion and warning from the Mayor that the budget should be adhered to as strictly as possible, the matter was referred back to the Health Committee to take up with the Finance Committee.

Mr. Remsen, from the Street Committee, submitted a detailed report of street work during the past month. He reported completion of filling and grading of the approaches to the new Slijo bridge at the foot of Flower Avenue and the opening of the bridge to traffic. The Mayor took occasion to commend the Street Committee on the final completion of this work and the excellent job it appeared to be and on the elimination of the old and unsafe structure.

Mr. Remsen, for the Committee, suggested the advisability of arranging an early conference with County Commissioner Lacy Shaw to consider work proposed to be done within the Town by the County. The Mayor stated that he would so arrange at the earliest possible date and will notify all members.

Mr. Adams, from the Civic Improvement Committee, submitted a report of the Municipal Playground Conference by Mr. Ralph E. Gould, its Treasurer, showing funds collected to date amounting to \$3553.27; disbursements of \$3477.98, leaving a balance on hand of \$75.29. There are no outstanding bills and there is a fund of \$100 available for playground equipment when needed.

The Mayor called attention to his efforts with the Prince Georges County authorities to eliminate from state and county assessments and taxes lots 55, 56, 57 and 58, block 16, Gilberts Subdivision, which have been acquired by the Town through tax sale and converted into the park at Prince Georges and Elm Avenues. He stated that the Prince Georges County Commissioners had signified a willingness to eliminate the property from assessment and taxation provided the Town makes payment of the \$927 state and county taxes amounting to \$72.93. The Mayor recommended that this be done. Mr. Adams moved that the Mayor's recommendation be approved and the payment authorized. The motion was adopted, all members favoring.



Mr. Ware, from the Police, Fire and Lights Committee, stated that all traffic signs ordered have been located and placed and that the situation at the Elm Avenue curve has been much improved since parking has been prohibited thereon.

Mr. Sherburne, citing the experience recently of two little school children molested on their way home, suggested that means be devised for a regular police patrol throughout the town to afford better police protection. The matter was discussed at length and finally referred to the Police, Fire and Lights and the Finance Committee for joint consideration and report.

The Mayor laid before the Council the resignation of Mr. Lisle Morrison as Delegate of the Town of Takoma Park to the Montgomery County Civic Federation, tendered by Mr. Morrison because of his inability to attend the Federation meetings with regularity. On motion of Mr. Adams the resignation was accepted regretfully. Mr. Iverson moved that the Mayor and the Chairman of the Civic Improvement Committee be authorized to fill the vacancy occasioned by Mr. Morrison's resignation, which motion was unanimously approved.

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

Approved:

Bruce Davis

Mayor

Bruce Davis

Clerk

Monday Evening January 5, 1931.

Upon call of the Mayor a special meeting of the Council was held this date at the Mayor's office for the purpose of conferring informally with County Commissioner Lacy Shaw concerning the public improvement work contemplated by the County authorities which will affect the Town of Takoma Park. There were present Mayor Davis, Commissioner Shaw, Mr. Robey, member of the House of Delegates, Councilmen Iverson, Rogers, Remsen, Sherburne and Ware, and Superintendent of Public Work Fischer. Corporation Counsel J. Bond Smith, who had intended to be present was detained through illness.

Opening the meeting Mayor Davis stated that there were several projects in which the Town is vitally interested which are of more than local interest and necessity and which if undertaken by the Town unaided would constitute a too-heavy drain upon its limited income. In consideration of its considerable contribution to the county income, the County authorities, through their local representative, County Commissioner Shaw, had agreed through conference