

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

with the Mayor that the County might well and appropriately undertake certain of these enterprises. The Mayor stated that the following had been practically agreed upon to be financed by the county without local or special assessment or taxation, namely:

1. Extension of the East and West Highway, now connecting Bethesda and Silver Spring, through Takoma Park, to form a continuous highway into Prince Georges County. Commissioner Shaw agreed with the Mayor and Council that Philadelphia Avenue appeared to be the most direct and logical route for this highway. The Mayor called attention to the fact that about one-half of this route is already excellently paved with concrete and asked Mr. Shaw if, in consideration thereof, an equal amount of paving could be laid in Takoma Avenue, thus permitting the entire completion of the paving thereof. The Commissioner thought it probable this could be done.

2. Construction of a new bridge across Sliquo Creek at Carroll Avenue. Commissioner Shaw stated that it was his plan to have the present bridge thoroughly examined and tested by a competent engineer and if found structurally sound and safe to have it strengthened and widened to the proper dimensions for adequate accommodation of the Carroll Avenue traffic. If examination develops the necessity thereof, the Commissioner stated he would favor a new bridge. The Mayor and Council agreed that the procedure suggested was logical and proper.

3. Completion of the development and improvement of Sliquo Park including adequate recreational and playground facilities. Commission Shaw invited attention to the work already done in the Montgomery County section of Sliquo Park in construction of a roadway, access to the park being the first requirement. It is the intention to proceed with this park development in accordance with the plans of the Park and Planning Commission as fast as funds are available.

4. Acquisition of the ground and property adjoining, on the Maryland side, the Fern Street underpass of the Baltimore and Ohio railway and the grading and construction of the necessary highways and approaches thereto. Commissioner Shaw stated that this project would be taken care of by the county in accordance with the plans jointly approved by District of Columbia and Maryland authorities.

5. An additional arterial highway from the Fern Street underpass, via Chestnut and Saratoga Avenues and Blair Road, providing another route to Baltimore. This highway, the Commissioner stated, is under consideration in the road building program.

6. Additional police protection through County police patrol. The Commissioner stated that some increase in the number of county police seems possible in which event consideration will be given to an improvement in patrolling the lower end of the county.

Commenting upon the ambitious program of school, park and road construction recommended by the Montgomery County Civic Federation and which, if carried into effect in full, will require an increase of $10\frac{1}{2}$ cents ^{per \$100} in the present county tax rate the Mayor took occasion to express to Commissioner Shaw and Dele-

Robey the hope that the County authorities will limit their improvement program to such county income as may be available from the existing tax rate. The Mayor stated that in his judgment, under existing conditions, any increase in taxes would be deplorable and indefensible. Mr. Shaw stated that the extensive program of improvements approved by the Civic Federation could not be executed on the income from the present tax rate.

On behalf of himself and the Council the Mayor expressed appreciation to Messrs. Shaw and Robey for attending the conference and for their fine spirit of cooperation. The conference thereupon, at 10:20 o'clock p.m. adjourned.

Approved:

Bruce Davis

Mayor

Bruce Davis

Clerk.

Tuesday Evening, January 13, 1931

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

The Mayor stated that he had called the meeting because of an erroneous impression in circulation that at the Conference between the Council and Commissioner Shaw on January 5th, the Mayor and Council had expressed themselves as favorable to the improvement program of the Montgomery County Civic Federation and the 10½ cents increase per \$100 in the County tax rate which it would require. To correct this impression the Mayor stated that he had prepared the following Resolution which he desired to lay before the Council for its consideration with recommendation for favorable action thereon:

The impression having gone forth that the Mayor and Council, in a recent informal discussion concerning proposed county improvements, had given their approval to a possible increase in the County tax rate, in order to correct such erroneous impression, be it

RESOLVED, that while the Mayor and Council are decidedly favorable to all those projects which tend to the progress and development of Montgomery County, including schools, roads and parks, and for the authorization of the necessary bond issues to carry them into effect, they are of the opinion that such improvements and such bond issues should be limited to the ability of the county to finance them within the present existing tax rate. In the judgment of the Mayor and Council the prevailing depression in industrial and agricultural pursuits does not justify an increase in county taxes at this time.

RESOLVED, that the delegates of the Town of Takoma Park to the Montgomery County Civic Federation be instructed to act in conformity with the above Resolution.

Mr. Adams moved that the Resolution be approved and the motion was adopted unanimously.

There being no further business the Council at 9:00 o'clock P.M., adjourned.

Approved:

Bruce Davis

Mayor.

Bruce Davis

Clerk.

Monday Evening, January 19, 1931

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 and of the special meetings of January 5 and 13 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	22160.00	Interest Account	825.00	<u>TAX SALE REDEMPTIONS:</u>	
<u>RECEIPTS:</u>		Volunteer Fire Department	100.00	Balance last report	79.88
From general taxes	2289.21	Police Department	6.10	Receipts for month	83.32
" building permits	27.00	Court Room	29.00		163.20
" electric "	9.00	Salaries: Clerk and Treasr.	166.67	Disbursements for month	68.03
" excavation "	22.00	Building Inspector	25.00	Balance	95.17
Miscellaneous	198.18	Supt. Public Work	200.00	<u>SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT FUND:</u>	
	24705.39	Electrical Inspector	25.00	Balance last report	22121.68
<u>DISBURSEMENTS:</u>		Chief Police Officer	100.00	Receipts: outstanding accts	2811.87
Street work: labor	365.95	Justice of the Peace	50.00	interest, bank deposits	620.00
material	35.40	Miscellaneous	5.47		3431.87
machinery and tools	124.04	Balance on hand	21834.88	Disbursements: Semi-annual interest	1710.00
General Expenses: telephone	5.35	<u>SPECIAL DEPOSITS:</u>		Balance on hand	23843.55
rentals	25.00	Balance last report	\$ 760.00		
Garbage collections	180.00	(No receipts nor disbursements)			
Trash "	54.30				
Street lighting	548.23				

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

The Clerk laid before the Council an invitation from the Takoma Park Citizens' Association to the Mayor and Council requesting their attendance at the February meeting of the Association on the evening of the 9th of that month. The invitation was accepted and the Mayor urged all members to attend if possible.

Dr. Llewellyn Jordan informed the Council regarding the decision of the District Commissioners to extend Piney Branch Road to Fern Street at a width of 90 feet; he stated also County Commissioner Shaw had ordered a number of copies of the Public Local Laws and that he (Dr. Jordan) had ordered a copy for the Town. Dr. Jordan spoke further of the desirability of extending Brashears Avenue through to Holly Avenue and of legislation for dividing the state gasoline tax with the municipalities.

Mr. Frank Pritchard called attention to recent meetings of nearby Civic Associations to further construction of a new High School for the Takoma-Silver Spring vicinity and suggested that Takoma Park should be represented at such meetings. The Mayor informed Mr. Pritchard that Takoma Park had been represented at the meeting referred to and that a committee would be appointed to represent the Town at future meetings.

The Clerk laid before the Council the following official copy of an Extract from the Minutes of the County Commissioners of Prince Georges Co., January 6, 1931

"ORDERED, that the County Treasurer be authorized and directed to accept the 1927 State and County taxes, amounting to \$73.46, for the property known as lots 55, 56, 57 and 58, block 24, Gilbert's Subdivision, Takoma Park, in payment for all taxes due; and that the assessment on said lots be declared in solvent for the years 1928, 1929, 1930 and 1931 as said lots are now owned by the Town of Takoma Park.

A TRUE COPY

Seal of Prince Georges County.

TEST:

JAMES S. HEAL

Clerk, County Commissioners of Prince Georges County, Maryland."

Mr. Wm. A. Mellen called the Council's attention to the pending road construction program in Prince Georges County and suggested the possibility of recommending Flower Avenue from Carroll Avenue as a state road and its extension for a distance of nine-tenths of a mile to the Sliquo Mill Road and connecting with the Ray road. The matter was referred to the Street Committee.

Mr. Rogers, from the Finance Committee, submitted bills examined and approved for payment amounting to \$200.66 and on his motion payment was directed.

Mr. Iverson, from the Health Committee, reported that efforts are still being made with the Sanitary Commission to secure sewage facilities for Hancock, Lee and Sheridan Avenues, and there are hopes that something definite will soon be determined. He reported also that in spite of some cleaning having been done in the rear of the Laurel Avenue stores the condition there is not satisfactory. The Committee is continuing its efforts to get this condition corrected. General health conditions throughout the Town were reported in their usual good shape.

Mr. Ware, from Committee on Police, Fire and Lights reported that the electric light meter at the band stand, Spring Park, will be removed until summer and the minimum monthly light bills discontinued. Mr. Ware, for the Committee, recommended that the temporary permit for taxi stand on Carroll Avenue granted by the Mayor to Mr. O.C. Keeler, be approved and that in lieu thereof Mr. Keeler be now granted a revokable permit for similar purpose. Approved on motion of Mr. Iverson. On recommendation of the Police, Fire and Lights Committee and on motion of Mr. Ware a stop sign was ordered on Flower Avenue, south of Carroll Avenue and Dr. J.W. Dudley newly elected Chief of the Fire Department, was appointed a Police Officer. On recommendation of the same Committee three additional street lights were authorized on Pepco poles No. 74935, Elm Ave, South of Heather Avenue, on pole No. 74928, Sliquo Ave, southwest of Flower Avenue, and on pole No. 74927, Sliquo Avenue, east of Flower Avenue and relocation of two lights now on poles 74924 (to pole 74834) and 74926 (to pole 74925).

The Mayor announced the appointment of Mr. J.R. Adams, Mr. E.J. Wilson and Mrs. Peter Remsen as a committee to represent the Mayor and Council in matters pertaining to additional high school facilities for Takoma Park, Silver Spring and vicinity. The Council thereupon at 9:40 o'clock p.m. adjourned.

Approved.

Bryan Davis Mayor

Bryan Davis

Clerk.

which the Sanitary Commission will sewer Hancock, Lee and Sheridan Avenues, the Town agreeing to pay a part of the cost of extra required excavation.

Mr. F. J. Hutchinson submitted a bill for \$22.00 for chickens destroyed by dogs. Referred to the Ordinance Committee to report on liability of Town therefor.

Mr. Rogers, from the Finance Committee, submitted bills examined by the Finance Committee and approved for payment, amounting to \$216.49, and on his motion payment thereof was directed.

Mr. Rogers, for the Finance Committee, recommended the reappointment of the Assessors of last year to assess the new property and such equilization as may be found advisable in the existing assessment, namely, Messrs. John D. Miller, Bernard Holmes and Fred D. B. Aushin. On motion of Mr. Remsen the recommendation was approved.

Mr. Iverson, from the Health Committee, submitted a letter from Commissioner J. Donald Clagett of the Sanitary Commission with reference to extending the sewer system in Lee, Hancock and Sheridan Avenues. Mr. Clagett, in his letter, stated that an excessive cut will be required in Lee Avenue which will cost in excess of \$1000.00 providing rock is not encountered. He stated that the Commission is willing to do this work providing the Town bears half the cost of the excess excavation; but to avoid any controversy after the work is done the Commission will name the flat figure of \$600.00 to be paid by the Town; and that upon payment of this amount the Commission will authorize the construction and begin work as promptly as possible, the Town to secure the right of way across lot 27 to Maple Avenue.

Mr. Iverson, because of the urgent need of sewerage for this section, strongly recommended acceptance of the Commission's proposition; he moved that this be done and that \$600.00 be appropriated for the Town's share of the excess excavation. The Mayor reviewed briefly the efforts to obtain sewerage facilities for this section of the Town, extending over a number of years and also urged that the Sanitary Commission's very fair offer be accepted. After thorough discussion in which all members of the Council participated, Mr. Iverson's motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Remsen, from the Street Committee, submitted a verbal report of routine street work during the past month. He laid before the Council a preliminary sketch of a proposed extension of Cockerille Avenue to Elm Avenue, contingent upon the ultimate securing of title by the Town of certain tax sale lots in block 16 necessary therefor. The matter was referred to the Street Committee for consideration at an appropriate future date.

Mr. Remsen called attention to the condition of the Town's motor street grading equipment with suggestion that steps be taken for its replacement. The Mayor called attention to the considerable outlay required for machinery of this type and the fact that no budget provision has been made for an expenditure of this nature. He suggested that the present equipment be overhauled and if possible be continued in commission for the present. This it was decided to do.

Mr. Ware, from the Police, Fire and Lights Committee, submitted for the Town records, a very interesting report by the retiring Fire Chief, Mr. J. R. King, from which the

following pertinent facts are presented: A total of 86 fire alarms were responded to during the calendar year 1930. A total of $28\frac{3}{4}$ miles were traveled to and from the fires, an average of $3\frac{1}{3}$ miles per alarm; aggregate property damage was \$7,500 an average of \$87.20 per fire; hours consumed in responding to alarms, $71\frac{1}{2}$ equivalent to 710 hours; had the volunteer firemen been compensated at rate of pay of District firemen they would have earned \$552.50 for actual fire fighting time consumed. Insurance premiums in territory protected by the Takoma Volunteer Fire Co are 14 cents per \$100 less than in unprotected territory, producing an estimated annual insurance premium saving to our people of \$11,200.

Commenting on the above report Mr. Ware thought it justified hearty local support of the Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Ware reported that the Fire Company had elected Mr. Oscar Scherger as Fire Marshall and recommended that he be given a similar appointment by the Town. The Mayor suggested that in order to do this it would be advisable to first create such an office, defining its duties, by Ordinance, and stated that without objection he would refer the matter to the Ordinance Committee for that purpose. There being no objection it was so ordered.

The Mayor laid before the Council a letter from the Takoma Park Chamber of Commerce stating that at its next meeting consideration will be given to an extension of bus service within the Town and requesting the Mayor and Council to be present. The Mayor stated that he would endeavor to attend and hoped that each member of the Council would endeavor to be present.

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

Approved:

Bruce Davis

Mayor

Bruce Davis

Clerk

Monday Evening, March 16, 1931

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

In the absence of the Clerk who was detained at his Treasurer's office in the receipt of taxes the Mayor stated that he would record the minutes of the meeting.

The minutes of the last regular meeting were read by the Mayor and in the absence of correction or objection, were approved.

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

Balance last report		20,897.90	Trash collection	43.20		<u>SPECIAL DEPOSITS:</u>	
<u>RECEIPTS:</u>			Street lighting	547.37		Balance on hand last report	\$ 770.00
From general taxes	4073.02		Volunteer Fire Dept	100.00		(No receipts nor disbursements)	
building permits	18.00		Police Department	4.15			
electric permits	8.00	26.00	Court Room	29.10		<u>TAX SALE REDEMPTIONS:</u>	
miscellaneous	1706.05	5805.07	Salaries: Clerk and Treasr	166.67		Balance on hand last report	81.38
		26702.97	Building Inspector	25.00		Receipts for month	45.82
<u>DISBURSEMENTS:</u>			Supt. Public Work	200.00		Disbursements for month	127.20
Street work: labor	365.40		Electrical Inspector	25.00		Balance	43.57
material	82.95		Chief Police Officer	100.00			83.63
machinery and tools	202.72		Justice of the Peace	50.00	566.67	<u>SPECIAL IMPROVEMENTS FUND:</u>	
miscellaneous	44.00	695.07	Miscellaneous	99.31	2295.77	Balance last report	26324.60
General Expenses: telephone	5.90		Balance on hand		24407.20	Receipts for month	2605.49
Rentals	25.00	30.90					28930.09
Garbage Collection	180.00						

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

The Finance Committee presented bills duly examined and approved for payment, amounting to \$ 339.55 and on motion of Mr. Rogers payment was directed.

Dr. Llewellyn Jordan addressed the Council on various matters, including the extension of Brashears Avenue, the Fern Street underpass and extension of Piney Branch Road. He also referred to the published letter of Mayor Davis to Senator Hilton in which the Mayor opposed a pending bill depriving incorporated towns of the right to make their own assessment for municipal purposes. Dr. Jordan expressed his disagreement with the Mayor on the merits of this bill.

Mr. F. J. Hutchinson inquired as to disposition of his bill presented at the last meeting for loss of chickens by dogs. The Mayor informed him that it had been referred to the Ordinance Committee for report as to the liability of the Town for such loss; and that the Committee had not yet reported.

Mr. George M. Cummings, 26 Manor Circle, invited attention to the condition of that street and requested repairs therefor. Referred to the Street Committee.

Mr. Iverson, from the Health Committee, referred to the usual custom of a general clean-up week in the Spring and Fall. Notwithstanding the monthly col-

lection of trash, the Health Committee believes that a semi-annual general collection is most beneficial. Mr. Iverson for the Committee, moved therefore that the week of April 6th be designated as "Clean-up Week" and that the Health Committee and the Civic Improvement be charged with the details in connection therewith. The motion was carried. Mr. Iverson called the Council's attention to complaints of the condition of certain lumber sheds on lot formerly occupied by the Sliqa Lumber Company on Lincoln Avenue. After discussion and an motion of Mr. Ware the matter was referred jointly to the Building Inspector and the Fire Marshal with instructions to examine and report on their condition and whether or not they constitute a fire hazard or a menace to life or property.

Mr. Remsen, from the Street Committee, submitted a detailed report of street work during the past month which included the receipt and distribution of several car loads of cinders and of a considerable quantity of slag, the latter as somewhat of an experiment, upon which the Committee will report later. Mr. Remsen reported repair of the traction road scraper and some scraping done although the ground has been found too hard generally for this work. If rains materialize dirt streets will be given early attention. On recommendation of the Street Committee employment of an engineer was authorized to establish grades and lines of certain streets, including Barashears, Jefferson and Cockerille Avenues.

Mr. Remsen reported that applications had been received from several sources for the construction of cement sidewalks, including that of the Columbia Brick and Coal Co. for a walk on Houston Avenue and that of Mr. J. A. Le Clerc for a walk on Cedar Avenue. Mr. Remsen suggested that the Clerk present at the next meeting any sidewalk applications that have been received and unacted upon in order that all of them may be included in one public hearing preparatory to taking up the sidewalk construction program for the next fiscal year. The Clerk was instructed to comply with this suggestion.

Mr. Ware, from the Committee on Police, Fire and Lights referred to the two fire sirens, one located at the Review and Herald building and the other at the fire house, and to the necessity of frequent tests to assure their proper condition. In order to assure these tests he recommended that the siren at the fire house be given its test at 7:00 o'clock a.m., and the one at the Review and Herald at 12 o'clock noon, thus serving the additional purpose of announcing those important hours of the day to the general community. On motion of Mr. Adams the recommendation was approved.

Mr. Ware addressed the Council briefly on the general difficulties, chiefly financial, confronting the Volunteer Fire Department and the necessity of securing a larger income in order to properly fulfill its obligations to the community. He expressed the opinion that ultimately the Department must derive its financial support from general taxation of the community it serves as is now the case in a number of adjacent county communities.

Mr. Adams, from the Civic Improvement Committee, reported to the Council that he had met, as the Council's representative, with the Committee from the

Takoma Park - Silver Spring - Woodside vicinities relative to the securing of a site and beginning of the construction of a High School for the district east of Rock Creek. Mr. Adams stated that a site and the construction of a unit of the proposed high school has been incorporated in the general school program of the county government and there is every evidence of its being carried forward to successful conclusion. In the meantime the Committee is gathering data as to center of population, increase of school attendance, etc., for consideration in future development of the project.

Mr. Adams called attention to the vacancy in the Town's delegation to the Montgomery County Civic Federation occasion^{ed} by the resignation of Mr. Lisle Morrison and moved that Councilman J.P. Ware be appointed to succeed him. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Adams suggested the advisability of appointing three alternate delegates to the Civic Federation to serve in absence of the principal delegates in accordance with the bylaws thereof and presented the following names for consideration therewith: Messrs. Chester C. Waters, Joseph C. Bruce and Town Clerk Bryan Davis. Mr. Rogers moved that the three gentlemen recommended by the Civic Improvement Committee, as mentioned, be appointed as Alternate Delegates of the Town of Takoma Park to the Montgomery County Civic Federation. The motion was unanimously adopted.

The Mayor read to the Council a letter he had written to the Montgomery County delegation in the Legislature protesting against the passage of a bill to deprive incorporated towns of the right to make their own assessments for purposes of municipal taxation and to require them instead to adopt the county assessments. The Mayor stated that a similar bill had been defeated during the last legislature by the concerted opposition of the incorporated municipalities of the state. Opposition was based upon the fact that local conditions frequently require a distribution of taxes upon a different basis than that provided by state law and the method of levying local taxes for purely local purposes can best be decided by the local authorities in accordance with their special needs. Mr. Remsen moved that the Council indorse and approve the action of the Mayor in opposing the proposed legislation; the motion was unanimously adopted.

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

Approved:

Bryan Davis

Mayor.

Bryan Davis

Clerk