

CITY OF RENSSELAER,
IN
COMMON COUNCIL,
Tuesday evening January 6th, 1925.
Regular meeting.

The council convened at 9:00 o'clock P. M. and was called to order by President Clarence A. McNalley,

The roll being called the following answered to their names.

President McNalley,	Alderman Boos,
Alderman Cavanaugh,	" Waugh,
" Kemmy,	" Allen,
" Whalen,	

READING OF MINUTES.

Alderman Whalen moved that the minutes be adopted as printed subject to correction,

Carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR,
HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND CITY
OFFICERS.

The Clerk reported that the Mayor had approved of all resolutions passed at the last meeting of the Board.
Report was received..

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

Rensselaer, N. Y. Jan 6th, 1925.

Hon., President and Board of Aldermen,
Rensselaer, N. Y.

Gentlemen:-

As Mayor, I would respectfully submit to you my annual message, trusting that it will be received in spirit of mutual regard toward a policy of constructive legislation for the City of Rensselaer. Gentlemen, we are now confronted with the third and last year of our present term of office, as allotted us by the people. Before we can begin another, we must first fo before the electorate of the City and render an account of our stewardship. It would be well, therefore, to examine our record in office, in order that we may know h how well we have kept the faith.

DEPARTMENT OF LAW

Under the able direction of our efficient Corporation Counsel this department has become a vital factor in the administration of the affairs of the City. He has so co-ordinated his office with the other offices that a much higher standard of efficiency has resulted.

When he assumed his duties the city was deluged with claims for damages and resultant law suits; today the city has not one case pending in the courts, nor is there a claim which has not been disposed of along the strict lines of justice. We have, therefore, a clean slate in this department.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The diligence and care with which the Finances of the City have been guarded speak for the high calibre of our esteemed City Treasurer, and all of us surely are appreciative of the kindly assistance rendered us many times by our busy City Clerk.

TAX DEPARTMENT

This department has been well managed by the present incumbent, and I think you will agree with me that the duties of the office are at times anything but pleasant. When he assumed office he was to have an adequate tax map and a thorough appraisal of the property value in the city. Instead he inherited a building code suitable for the City Albany, and told to do business in Rensselaer where people were seldom if ever restricted as to building operations. The appraisal is still incomplete and of little value in it's present shape, and the much heralded tax map is practically worthless as far as his work is concerned.

From the records of this department I find that during the past year permits were issued for building construction, aggregating \$398,727.00, or an increase of \$144,792.00 over the year previous.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

It is in this department that our administration has been especially active during the past year, and judging from the amount of work and the quality thereof as performed during the past season, we have something which we can all be proud of.

During the past year, contracts were awarded for the improvement of the following streets, aggregating \$182,000.00 and the work actually completed: East street, third Avenue, Herrick Street, Aiken Avenue, Broadway, Fifth Street, Fowler Avenue, Chestnut Street and South Street. On all these streets except the first three and the last boulevard lights were ordered installed. In addition to this work sewer contracts aggregating \$18,500.00 were awarded, and sewers laid in the following streets: Thomas, John, Eighth, Birch, Ninth, Tenth, Manor Drive, Lincoln Terrace and the much needed and long promised work, the Washington Avenue Sewer. All these improvements were in the service of the people the same year they were ordered by your honorable body, as they were hurried to completion on the earliest date, and at a minimum cost. An idea of the economy of this work can be had by considering this point; 50,822 square yards of street were improved at a cost per square yard of \$2.30

In addition to this work many improvements were made in the city by the men employed in the street Department, notably the resurfacing of Ninth Street and Second Street, the opening of Eighth Street from Birch Street southerly, the grading of John Street from Fifth to Sixth Street, and the placing of the old wooden bridges at John and Sixth Streets, Willow Street, and South Street by concrete structures, and the maintenance and care of 25 miles of sewers, 10 miles of dirt street 180,000 square yards of pavement classified as follows;

Concrete	15,000	Square Yards,
Bituminous Macadam	4,500	" "
Grich on Concrete	76,000	" "
Dressed Granite on Concrete	17,500.	" "
Redressed Granite on Concrete	21,500	" "
Granite on Sand	13,500	" "
Old Granite Resurfaced	23,000	" "
Asphalt Block on Concrete	8,972	" "

STREET CLEANING

That the purchase of the new Austin Western Motor Pickup Sweeper was a most profitable investment is self evident to anyone who followed the progress of this work during the past season, although we always kept our streets clean neverthe less we did about twice as much for ~~xxx~~ about twice as much for about one third the cost with this wonderful machine as compared with the old method.

RECOMMENDATIONS

CITY PLANING

We are living in a district which gives promise for future development. Our Neighboring cities are all making great preparations a reality we will find ourselves living in an inland seaport. the heart of a great metropolis, surpassing in wealth and influence even the dream of man.

Although we cannot afford to spend large sums of money as our neighbors are doing in preparation for the future, ~~just~~ yet, I feel that some official action should at least be taken to prepare Rensselaer for the future. I would recommend, therefore, that a City Planing Board be created to determine along what lines our City is to grow, and to fix them if possible; thus avoiding the haphazard or hit and miss way of doing things, and substituting a more sceintific way.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

Through the efforts of our good Governor, Alfred E. Smith, the development of electricial energy at Visher's Ferry has become a matter of importance to all municipalities of the State. Through Superintendent Frederick Stewart Greene, the Fovernor proposes the sale, by the ~~xxx~~ State of New York, of this converted energy to the cities of the State at reduced rates. As a firm believer in the proposition that the people should own, operate and control our natural resources, I would recommend that an investigation be made into the merits of the proposal to ascertain the possible advantages to the citizens of this City.

Gentlemen, there is another matter which I desire to discuss with you at this point. You are well aware that we have just completed the construction of several first class streets. From now on we will be

concerned with the maintenance of these thoroughfares. I would ask, therefore, that your Honorable Body take some action to prohibit if possible the tearing up of streets, and all the other pavements as well by the several Public Utility Corporations who believe they find it necessary in order to maintain their service lines. Even if these companies in question are acting within their franchise rights in failing to notify the Department of Public Works when excavations are made I sincerely believe that enough pressure can be brought to bear to force them, if possible, to notify the City Engineer, so that the work of removal and replacement may be done under the proper supervision at least.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

I believe that some action should be taken, to improve the condition of the Lower Police Station. I would recommend, therefore, that the City Engineer be directed by this Board to prepare the necessary plans and specifications, and have approved by the State Prison Department, calling for the elimination of the antiquated cell arrangement and the substitution of a modern steel cage with necessary accessories. Also the much needed repairs to the exterior of the building.

STREETS

In view of the wonderful success of East Street Improvement, I would ask that this Board take some action to extend this class of improvement to Washington Street from Columbia to Huyck's Square, Partition Street from Broadway to Third Street, and Third Street from Partition Street to Catherine Street.

I would also recommend the improvement of Forbes Avenue from Broadway to Washington Avenue, so that through traffic may be shunted along Broadway northerly over Forbes Avenue to Washington Avenue, thus eliminating the danger at Fowler and Third, Catherine and Third, and Catherine and Second, and the steep grade on Washington Avenue.

I would also recommend the replacment of the short piece of bituminous macadam road leading from Columbia Street Easterly to the concrete roadway by concrete.

SEWERS.

The proper treatment of this caption would require many pages as much of our sewer system is absolute, not having been designed with a view of the future, and much of it having been improperly constructed. I am afraid that this phrase of the subject will have to be passed along to posterity, as there is nothing that I can see that we can do in the near future except to direct the City Engineer to prepare a Sewer Map during the Winter months as requested by the State Board of Health, so that the problem may be intelligently studied.

However, I would recommend that something be done to remedy the defective condition of the sewer in First Street from McNaughton Avenue to Fowler Avenue, and in Fowler Avenue from First Street to Broadway, as to abviate their backing up in the streets. Also the defective condition of the sewer in Fourth Street from Dale northerly to Washington Avenue should receive attention, this sewer being so small that when the slightest rainstorm occurs it is inadequate to function properly. This should be relaid to avoid further damage to adjoining property.

Owing to the ever increasing number of catch basins in the city and the necessity for keeping them clean, I think it would be advisable to investigate the merits of a power cleaner, whereby every basin in the City could be cleaned weekly instead of bi-annually as at present, and for less money.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

I believe that something should be done to counteract the matter of insufficient water pressure, for fire purposes, in the highland district of the City. Just what would be the solution of the difficulty, I am unable to say at this time, but if public necessity justifies it, I would recommend the purchase of a pumper to take care of these highland districts.

PUBLIC WELFARE.

There is no doubt, that in the near future, that section of the city known as the Rifle Range will be a thing of the past, Under the Law, I am told that, when the time comes the land must revert to the City. As the range is being used less and less each year, and as there are certain sections of it not being used at all, I would recommend that some action be taken to seek at least a portion of it for a public park, in which could be located a modern playground for the children.

CONCLUSION

In closing I would say that I wish to thank the members of this Board for the fine spirit of co-operation and courtesy shown me at all times, and I would take this opportunity to publicly congratulate each and every one of you for the effort you have made to make Rensselaer a better City to live in.

Very respectfully submitted.

Harvey C. Younghans, Mayor,

Was received and ordered filed.

Charity Commissioner Conrad Merkle reported having expended for the month of December 1925, the sum of \$384.30 for the relief of the poor. Report was received and ordered filed.

To the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Rensselaer.

The undersigned, the Corporation Counsel, of the City of Rensselaer, submit the following report for the office during the year 1924.

Meetings of the Common Council attended during the year	25
Meetings of the Board of Education attended during the year	3
Number of Law Suits against the City, pending January 1, 1924.	3
Number of Law Suits pending against the City, January 1, 1925	1
Claims presented against the City for the year 1924,	8
Claims disposed of during the year 1924	8
Expenses and costs disposing of claims and law suits	\$200.

January 8, 1924, attended hearing before State Tax Commission in regard to Special Franchise rate on Corporation. The Tax Commission retained the rate of 75% to which it was raised in January 1923.

prepared answers in certiorari proceedings of the Bayer Company and Grasselli Chemical Co. The latter is settled.

Attended hearing before the Equalization Board of Troy and secured a rate of 85% for the City of Rensselaer, This rate reduced the State and County Tax for the City of Rensselaer 51¢ a thousand on last year's rate. Last year the tax was reduced \$2.75 a thousand, making a total for two years of \$3.24 per thousand

Prepared contracts for coal supplies to city buildings and schools, contract for collection of garbage and the purchase of hose and contracts for the improvement of Broadway, East St., South St., Aiken Ave, and Fifth St.

Prepared bond issue in the sum of \$214,000 for improvements to the City Streets. These bonds were sold at a premium.

Prepared ordinances for the regulation of Soft Drink Establishments and prepared ordinances covering traffic.

Very truly yours.

John J. Scully,
Corporation Counsel.

Was received and ordered filed.

Rensselaer, N. Y. Jan 6th, 1925.

Hon., Mayor and Board of Aldermen,
City of Rensselaer, N. Y.
Gentlemen:-

I beg leave to report to you the completion of the 1924 Improvement Program. I have attached hereto statement showing the cost of the work and it's distribution.

Respectfully submitted.

Alfred J. Kaufman, City Engineer.

S T A T E M E N T

Cost - 1924 Improvement

East Street, Herrick Street, Third Avenue	\$20684.06	
Sewer Contract, Forbes Avenue	10510.37	
Sewer Contract No, 2,	7909.03	
Broadway	54070.57	
Fowler Avenue, Fifth Street, Chestnut Street	43546.16	
Aiken Avenue	25276.62	
South Street	40367.22	
	<hr/>	
Cost of Construction		\$200,367.05
Inspectors and Helpers	8991.08	8,991.08
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Total Cost of Work		\$209,358.11
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Due Contractors on above Work.		

John Doyle Plbg Co., Forbes Avenue Sewer	\$	87.12
John Doyle Plbg Co, sewer contract No 2		1316.62

P. W. Mulderry, Fifth, Chestnut and Fowler	3561.84
Belmar Construction Co, Aiken Avenue	170.87
W. F. Campion Broadway	9282.19
TOTAL - - - - -	<u>\$14518.64</u>

Report was received and ordered filed.

Rensselaer, N. Y. Jan 6th, 1925.

Hon., Mayor and Board of Aldermen,
City of Rensselaer, N. Y.

Gentlemen:-

I beg leave to submit report covering assessment for curbing and sidewalk, 1924 Improvement, for Aiken Avenue, Broadway, Fowler Avenue, Fifth Street and Chestnut Street.

Respectfully submitted,
A. J. Kaufman, City Engineer.

Was received and ordered filed.

Miss Bessie Lyons, Sealer of Weights and Measures filed report for office for the year ending 1924.

Report was received and ordered filed.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS,
REMONSTRANCES AND CONNUN-
CATIONS.

Albany, N. Y. Jan 2nd, 1925.

Mr John G. Salt, City Clerk,
Rensselaer, N. Y.

Dear Sir:- Acknowledging receipt of your letter of December 19th, giving notice that at a meeting of the Board of Aldermen of the City of Rensselaer, held on Tuesday evening, December 16th, the United Traction Company was directed to remove poles from Broadway and Aiken Avenue, please be advised the poles have been removed from Aiken Avenue and on the east side of Broadway.

However, it is necessary that we have poles on the west side of Broadway to carry the necessary feeders for the operation of the trolley cars on the Third Street line.

We appreciate the efforts to improve the appearance of the sidewalk and we are endeavoring to make arrangements with the Telephone Company and the Eastern New York Utilities Corporation to have a joint pole contract which will permit us to remove a number of the poles now owned by this company for supporting our feed wires. On the completion of the arrangement we will notify the Board of Aldermen and submit for their approval plans showing the number of poles that can be removed, and if the same is satisfactory the work will be commenced immediately on receipt of approval.

Very truly yours,
E. Murphy, Gen'l Manager.

Was received and ordered filed.

The Clerk reported that the Officials of the Capital District Transportation Company had filed with him the several delays caused by the blocking of Second Avenue by railroad.

Was received and ordered filed.

PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS.

Bill No,		
12318,	N. Y. Telephone Co, service & tolls City Depts	88.78
12319,	C. L. R. Barnhart printing for engineer & Clerk	12.00
12320,	J. G. Salt expenses of office	19.60
12321,	J. W. Wickens supplies to city depts	43.60
12322,	Hickey & Connolly supplies to city depts	20.00
12323,	Andrew E. Keefe premium of city officials Bonds	20.00
12324,	Orrin Potter rent of store for primaries & election	30.00
12325,	Walter S. Pratt repairs to Hill Hook & Ladder truck	159.64
12326,	Wm, P, Clifford supplies to Fire Autos	50.66
12327,	Sarah J. McArdle washing bedding for fire houses	6.00
12328,	Lewis E. Lawes mattress for fire dept	10.76
12329,	Thos, W. Phelan professional service to fireman	6.00
12330,	C. W. Riley rubber coats to fire dept	135.00
12331,	William Rabe watching at fire on Chestnut St,	5.00
12332,	American LaFrance Fire Engine Co, N.P. handle	3.26

12333, Wm, P. Clifford supplies to Police Motorcycles	16.36
12334, C. L. R. Barnhart printing tax bills	38.00
12335, C. L. R. Barnhart printing tax cards	4.00
12336, John A. Knox provisions delivered to Veterans	28.00
12337, E. P. Scheibly provisions delivered to poor	56.00
12338, W. Yates Lansing coal delivered to Veterans	14.70
12339, Memorial Hospital care of city poor	52.00
12340, Memorial Hospital care of city poor	50.00
12341, E. J. B. Murray rent for Veteran relief	10.00
12342, Greenberg & Kramer provisions delivered to Veterans	26.00
12343, Morgan Spring Water Co, water to city depts	15.70
12344, James Picken provisions delivered to poor	16.00
12345, James A. Halleran expenses of police	1.50
12346, The Gould Company repairs to White Truck	5.00
12347, Walter S. Pratt repairs to White Truck	37.96
12348, Walter S. Pratt repairs to Chev truck	117.97
12349, P. Shufelt & Son repairs to Chemical No, 4,	33.96
12350, The Standard Oil, Co, road oil street dept	150.00
12351, Henry E. Unger supplies Chemical No, 3,	3.90
12352, The White Co, repairs to White Truck	10.22
12353, James Coogan kerosene street dept	12.80
12354, Wm, P. Clifford supplies street dept	101.71
12355, Mrs Harry Greenhalgh auto hire Chief of Police	11.50
12356, Mrs Julia Linderman supplies to street dept	14.91

Alderman Whalen moved that all bills be referred to the Auditing Committee.

Carried.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

The Auditing Committee reported the following bills correct.

Bill No.	
12283, C. L. R. Barnhart printing for city offices	10.25
12284, O. S. Pulman Co, supplies to City Clerk	4.75
12285, J. C. Raney supplies to City Depts	7.80
12286, Morgan Spring Water Co, water to city depts	17.70
12287, N. Y. Telephone Co, service & tolls city depts	92.38
12288, Lang Stamp Works supplies to Chief of Police	1.05
12289, The P. M. Frank Disinfecting Co, soap & holder	4.00
12290, Andrew E. Keefe policy on motor cycle	69.00
12291, Eastern N. Y. Utilities Corporation Gas & Electricity	30.40
12292, Division Laboratories Albany N.Y. Vaccine to Health dept	1.50
12293, A. B. Husted & Co, Vaccine to Health officer	4.80
12294, Eastern N. Y. Utilities Corp, Street lighting	871.86
12295, Wilbur Wilkinson taking down tree on Broadway	25.00
12296, Eastern N.Y. Utilities Corp gas & electricity Fire H.	85.10
12297, Sarah J. McArdle washing bedding for fire houses	4.00
12298, R. G. Stewart Drug Co, supplies to city depts	47.00
12299, William B. McGee fire Extinguisher to fire dept	18.00
12300, Henry Kalveage picking up hose Chestnut street fire	2.00
12301, Eastern N.Y. Utilities Corp electricity Store house	.90
12302, J. C. Raney provisions delivered to poor	80.00
12303, James Guilfoil provisions delivered to poor	77.00
12304, James Lithgow provisions delivered to poor	10.00
12305, James Lithgow provisions delivered to poor	8.00
12306, S. A. Dunn gravel to street dept	402.30
12307, Daniel A. Flanigan repairs at Chemical No, 3,	8.00
12308, Albany Welding Boiler & Mch Shop repairs street dept	9.05
12309, Albany Welding Boiler & Mch Shop repairs street dept	24.80
12310, Blakeslee Lumber Co, door for Chemical No, 4,	4.34
12311, Wilbur Wilkinson removing trees on Broadway	75.00
12312, Albany Lumber & Planing Mill Co, Lumber Chemical No, 4,	1.50
12313, Milton A. VanHeusen repairs to steel tape	1.00
12314, John Knapp removing trees Broadway & Third Street	50.00
12315, Vincent DeGuilio paving for street dept	32.20
12316, A. E. Bonacker sand to street dept	45.75
12317, A. E. Bonacker sand to street dept	43.75

STREET PAYROLL.

Frank Boose \$61.10 C. Hutchinson \$74.10 Wm, Monroe \$76.05 John Farrell \$ 58.50 Peter Hart \$74.10 Matthew Hart \$96.00

IMPROVEMENT.

Raymond Gray \$50.00 Charles Maloy \$72.00 William Doran \$72.00
Thomas McCaffrey \$48.00

Alderman Whalen moved that the report of the Auditing Committee be received and bills allowed and ordered paid also the Street Payroll Ayes, McNalley, Cavanaugh, Kemmy, Whalen, Boos, Waugh & Allen - - 7 Adopted.

The President declared resolution duly adopted.

RESOLUTIONS.

By Alderman Whalen,

Resolved that curbing and sidewalk assessment measurements, as submitted by the City Engineer, covering 1924 improvement, be and the same is hereby approved, and the City Clerk is directed to hand same to the Commissioner of Assessment and Taxation for assessment. Ayes, McNalley, Cavanaugh, Kemmy, Whalen, Boos, Waugh & Allen - - 7 Adopted.

The President declared resolution duly adopted.

By Alderman Whalen,

Resolved that the City Treasurer be and is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to pay to John Doyle Plumbing Company, Albany, N. Y. the sum of \$1316.62 for Sewer Contract No. 2, this being his final estimate for said improvement, the same having been approved by the City Engineer. Ayes, McNalley, Cavanaugh, Kemmy, Whalen, Boos, Waugh & Allen - - 7

The President declared resolution duly adopted. Adopted.

By Alderman Whalen,

Resolved that the City Treasurer be and is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to pay to William F. Campion, Albany, N. Y. the sum of \$9282.19 for Broadway Improvement, this being his final estimate for said improvement, the same having been approved by the City Engineer. Ayes, McNalley, Cavanaugh, Kemmy, Whalen, Boos, Waugh & Allen - - 7

The President declared resolution duly adopted. Adopted.

By Alderman Waugh,

Resolved that the City Treasurer be and is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to pay to John Doyle Plumbing Company, Albany, N. Y. the sum of \$87.12 for Forbes Avenue Sewer Improvement, this being their final estimate for said improvement, the same having been approved by the City Engineer. Ayes, McNalley, Cavanaugh, Kemmy, Whalen, Boos, Waugh & Allen - - 7

The President declared resolution duly adopted. Adopted.

By Alderman Waugh,

Resolved that the City Treasurer be and is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to pay to P. W. Mulderry, 5 St. Joseph's Terrace, Albany, N. Y. the sum of \$3661.84 for Fowler Avenue, Fifth and Chestnut Street Improvement, this being his final estimate for said improvement the same having been approved by the City Engineer. Ayes, McNalley, Cavanaugh, Kemmy, ~~Whalen~~, Boos, Waugh & Allen - - 7

No Whalen
The President declared resolution duly adopted. Adopted.

By Alderman Allen,

Resolved that the City Treasurer be and is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to pay to Belmar Construction Company, Troy, N. Y. the sum of \$170.87 for Aiken Avenue Improvement, this being their final estimate for said improvement, the same having been approved by the City Engineer. Ayes, McNalley, Cavanaugh, Kemmy, ~~Whalen~~, Boos, Waugh & Allen - - 7

Over Whalen
The President declared resolution duly adopted. Adopted.

By Alderman Kemmy,

Resolved that the City Treasurer is hereby directed to pay to the State Retirement Fund, the sum of \$156.09 for the Month of December 1924. Ayes, McNalley, Cavanaugh, Kemmy, Whalen, Boos, Waugh & Allen - - 7

The President declared resolution duly adopted. Adopted.

The President declared resolution duly adopted.

By Alderman Kemmy,

Resolved that the Board of Public Safety be and it hereby is empowered and directed to purchase six green curtains for the Hart Hose Chemical No. 3,

The cost not to exceed the sum of \$40.00

The same to be charged to the Fire Building Fund.

Ayes, McNalley, Cavanaugh, Kemmy, Whalen, Boos, Waugh & Allen - - 7
Adopted.

The President declared resolution duly adopted.

By Alderman Allen,

Resolved that the Albany Southern Railroad be and it hereby is directed to install an electric light in front of 180 Rensselaer, Avenue and another at 61 Cambridge Avenue,

The work to be under the supervision of the Supt of Fire Alarm.
Ayes, McNalley, Cavanaugh, Kemmy, Whalen, Boos, Waugh & Allen - - 7
Adopted.

The President declared resolution duly adopted.

Alderman Whalen moved that a committee of three be appointed to investigate the light and power system as recommended by the Governor.
Carried.

The President appointed Aldermen Whalen, Allen and Boos as such committee.

Alderman Whalen moved to adjourn,
Alderman Cavanaugh seconded.

Carried.

I hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of proceedings of a meeting of the Board of Aldermen of the City of Rensselaer, N. Y. held Tuesday evening Jan 6th, 1925.

J. G. Saut
City Clerk.