

New Orleans Republican

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

CITY COUNCIL-OFFICIAL

REGULAR MEETING

CITY HALL, NEW ORLEANS, LA., Monday, April 26, 1870.

Mayor Flanders called the Council to order this evening at seven o'clock.

Present: B. F. Flanders, Mayor; Administrators West, Flanders, Shaw (Accounts), Delassie (Public Buildings), Emley (Commerce), Walton (Finance), and Bonzano (Assessments).

Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

Department Reports

Administrator Shaw presented the following report:

The undersigned, to whom was referred the bond of Warner Van Norden, as Treasurer of the Board of School Directors of the city of New Orleans, respectfully reports that the same is in due form, for a sufficient amount, and the sureties are sufficient, and recommends its acceptance.

Administrator of Public Accounts. He moved that the Council concur in the bond.

Administrator West seconded the motion, which was carried.

Mr. West, to whom was referred the petition of the Board of School Directors of the city of New Orleans, respectfully reports that the same is in due form, for a sufficient amount, and the sureties are sufficient, and recommends its acceptance.

Administrator of Public Accounts. He moved that the Council concur in the bond.

Administrator West seconded the motion, which was carried.

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Council, an ordinance was passed levying a tax for park purposes. By the charter no ordinance levying a tax could be passed, except at a regular meeting following a regular meeting, at which it had been read a first and second time. He moved a re-reading of the ordinance levying a tax of one-eighth of one per cent for park purposes.

The ordinance was reintroduced accordingly, read a first and second time, and laid over till the next regular meeting.

Mr. Shaw called the resolution appropriating fifty dollars a month for rent of City Notary's office, which was read a second time and laid over under the rule.

Petitions. A petition from the Orleans Railroad Company, for alteration in their roads, was received and referred to the Department of Improvements.

A communication from Thomas F. Fisher, with regard to bridge contracts, was referred to the Department of Improvements.

A petition of Thomas Schier, asking permission to erect a steam engine, was referred to the Administrator of Commerce.

An application from Postmaster C. W. Lowell for permission to put letter boxes on the lamp-posts, in furtherance of the system of free delivery, was referred to the Administrator of Police, reported favorably upon, and granted by the Council.

A petition of the St. Charles Street Railroad asking permission to remove their track was referred to the Department of Improvements.

Two communications with reference to the small-pox hospital nuisance were referred to the Administrator of Public Buildings.

A communication from Mr. Monaghan was laid on the table.

A petition from the Chattanooga Railroad was referred to the Department of Improvements.

The following communication was read:

OFFICE CITY ATTORNEY, New Orleans, April 26, 1870.

Hon. B. F. Flanders, Mayor, the Administrators and Council of the City of New Orleans:

GENTLEMEN—I have the honor to inform you that I hereby resign the office of City Attorney of the city of New Orleans. The law requires me to discharge the duties of the office until a successor is elected or appointed in its stead.

I trust that the Council will set promptly, as I desire to turn over the records and duties of the office to a successor on or before the first of the next month.

I have the honor to remain, Sir, your obedient servant, J. R. BECKWITH.

Administrator West moved that the communication be received.

Carried.

Administrator Bonzano said he should be very reluctant to lose the services of Mr. Beckwith, and he moved that the matter be referred to the Administrators of Commerce and Waterworks.

Carried.

Organization. Administrator West, moved to take up the ordinance laid over from the last regular meeting (after being read once by title), organizing the Department of Improvements. He said he did not propose that the city of New Orleans should be called upon to pay anything they could not afford to pay, and he proposed that whatever they paid for should get. He found by reference to the records that in the month of February, 1869, \$17,000 was spent in the Street Commissioner's office; in March \$18,442; in April \$18,570; in May \$24,000; and in February, of this year, over \$14,000, in March \$16,910, and in historical expenses, including extraordinary expenses in putting the grades to the Fair Grounds in order digging out the canal and making small improvements generally, to prepare for the coming sickly season, would amount, for the month of April, to the sum of \$12,500, or something like thirty-three and one-third per cent less than was spent in the month preceding without so much to show for it. The total labor expense in the entire department would be \$18,000 against \$17,000 spent in one department alone under the old regime. In the department of streets there was a saving of \$10,000 upon the cost of a month ago. In the department of wharves and landings a saving of \$5000, with a considerably increased area.

Section one of the ordinance was read as follows:

SECTION 1. Be it ordained by the Council of the city of New Orleans, That the Department of Improvements be hereby organized into the following bureaus:

1. A Bureau of Streets.

2. A Bureau of Wharves and Landings.

3. Bureau of City Drainage.

Mr. Shaw moved its adoption.

Carried.

Section 2. Be it ordained, etc., That the department proper shall consist of—

One superintendent, with an annual salary not to exceed \$2000.

One clerk, with an annual salary not to exceed \$1200.

One special agent, with an annual salary not to exceed \$1000.

One chief of labor, with an annual salary not to exceed \$1000.

One clerk of chief of labor, with an annual salary not to exceed \$1200.

One messenger, with an annual salary not to exceed \$500.

Adopted after an explanation from Mr. West, that there were two officers provided for in this section; namely, a chief of labor and his clerk, whom he did not at present need, but they were there in case of emergency.

Section 3. Be it ordained, etc., That the Bureau of Streets within the Department of Improvements, shall consist of one superintendent, with an annual salary not to exceed \$2000.

One chief clerk, at an annual salary not to exceed \$1200.

One district superintendent; First District, at an annual salary not to exceed \$1800.

One district superintendent; Second and Fifth Districts, at an annual salary not to exceed \$1800.

One district superintendent; Third District, at an annual salary not to exceed \$1800.

One district superintendent; Fourth District, at an annual salary not to exceed \$1800.

One district superintendent; Sixth District, at an annual salary not to exceed \$1800.

Five clerks and messengers to district superintendents, at an annual salary not to exceed \$500.

Fifteen ward superintendents, at an annual salary not to exceed \$1200.

Two messengers, office Bureau of Streets, at an annual salary not to exceed \$500.

Section 4. Be it ordained, etc., That the Bureau of Wharves and Landings, within the Department of Improvements, shall consist of—

One superintendent (mounted at his own expense), at an annual salary not to exceed \$3000.

One chief clerk, at an annual salary not to exceed \$1200.

One wharfinger for the First District, at an annual salary not to exceed \$1800.

One wharfinger for the Fourth District, at an annual salary not to exceed \$1800.

One wharfinger for the Third District, at an annual salary not to exceed \$1800.

One wharfinger for the Second District, at an annual salary not to exceed \$1800.

Four deputy wharfingers (one for each

four districts), at an annual salary not to exceed \$1000.

Four deputy wharfingers (one for each district), at an annual salary not to exceed \$1000.

Three wharfingers of nuisance wharves, at an annual salary not to exceed \$1000.

Three watchmen of nuisance boats, at an annual salary not to exceed \$800.

Mr. Emley moved to strike out the whole of this section, after the words, "one chief clerk, at an annual salary not to exceed \$1800."

The motion found no second.

Mr. West moved that the section be adopted.

Mr. Emley seconded the motion.

Section 5. Be it ordained, etc., That the Bureau of City Drainage, within the Department of Improvements, shall consist of one superintendent, with an annual salary not to exceed \$2000.

One chief clerk, at an annual salary not to exceed \$1200.

One draughtsman, at an annual salary not to exceed \$1200.

Section 6. Be it ordained, etc., That the wharfingers shall be ex-officio collectors of levee dues, and in that capacity shall discharge all the duties of collectors of levee dues, and be solely responsible for the collection and payment of the same to the Administrator of Finance; and that no deputy wharfinger shall in any manner assist or interfere with the wharfingers in the discharge of this duty.

The Mayor in putting the question for the adoption of this section remarked that he thought it very objectionable that the deputy wharfingers (as had been intimidated in debate) should be the only check upon the wharfingers. The section was adopted.

Section 7. Be it ordained, etc., That the salaries of all officers appointed to duties in the Department of Improvements, and in other bureaus within the same, shall be paid monthly, upon pay rolls to be prepared by the Administrator thereof.

Adopted.

Section 8. Be it ordained, etc., That the various officers and clerks organized by this ordinance shall be subject to such ordinances as may be enacted, and in cases where ordinances do not now, nor shall not hereafter exist, the Administrator of the Department shall be responsible for the discharge of their duties under his directions.

Mr. West explained that this section merely gave the Administrator control over the hours of the clerks.

Section nine was read as follows:

SECTION 9. Be it ordained, etc., That the Administrator of Improvements is hereby charged with the duty of organizing and maintaining a general superintendence of all matters relating to the streets, sidewalks, pavements and wharves, and the construction, cleaning and repair of the same; the construction and repair of bridges, and the drainage of the city. All such employees shall be paid monthly upon pay-rolls to be prepared by the Administrator thereof.

Mr. West stated that this section was intended merely to control the physical force of the Fair Grounds in order digging out the canal and making small improvements generally, to prepare for the coming sickly season, would amount, for the month of April, to the sum of \$12,500, or something like thirty-three and one-third per cent less than was spent in the month preceding without so much to show for it. The total labor expense in the entire department would be \$18,000 against \$17,000 spent in one department alone under the old regime. In the department of streets there was a saving of \$10,000 upon the cost of a month ago. In the department of wharves and landings a saving of \$5000, with a considerably increased area.

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