

CITY COUNCIL.

A Busy Meeting of the City Legislators Last Night.

SEVERAL EXCITING INCIDENTS

Served to Entertain the Numerous Spectators Present.

MAYOR BUTTS' MESSAGE READ

And Adopted by Council—The Gunboat "Wheeling" Committee Asks for a Re-appropriation of \$900—Defeated After an Exciting Contest—The Council Standing Committees Rearranged in Accordance With the Rules of Council—Many Recommendations Made in Mayor Butts' Message—Other Matters Considered.

The new city council met in regular session last night. It was the first business session of the new legislative body, and in point of attendance, was a good one. A number of important pieces of legislation were considered, and although the wheels of legislation moved rather sluggishly at times through inexperience, fairly satisfactory progress was made in both branches, and the present council will soon be working smoothly. Through a wrong interpretation of rules of council, the council standing committees were organized without the first branch being given proper representation, and for this reason the committee on committees re-arranged the committees. An effort was made to re-appropriate the \$900 for the gunboat "Wheeling," but the resolution was voted down in the second branch. Mayor Butts presented his message to council in which a number of recommendations are made.

The roll calls in the two branches resulted as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Department, Appropriation, Balance. Rows include Board of Public Works, Fire Department, Health Department, Markets, Police, City Prison, etc.

When the minutes of the second branch were read, Mr. Hahn desired to have the portion of the minutes relating to the committee on committees laid aside, but this was not considered the proper course by President Chew, and the minutes were approved as read.

The bond of City Receiver Alex Forgy in the sum of \$25,000, with the Fidelity & Deposit Co. of Maryland, of Baltimore, as surety, was presented to council. Mr. Gartley objected to the approval of the bond at this time and approved the bond referred to the city solicitor for investigation of the standing of the surety company. The motion to not approve the bond, carried, 12 to 7. Later, the city solicitor approved the bond and it was passed upon favorably by council.

The bond of L. J. Davis, clerk of the Second ward market, in the sum of \$3,000, with E. J. Bannan & Co. of Wheeling as sureties, was presented and approved.

The bond of Dr. S. L. Jepson, city health officer; S. G. Smith, surety, in the sum of \$1,000, was approved. The mayor was authorized to take the acknowledgements of principal and surety.

The bond of Joseph W. Brumelle, clerk of the Fifth ward market, in the sum of \$3,000, with John C. Ribbadaffer, O. T. Crawford and C. H. Myrtle as sureties, was approved.

Fred. G. Remple, city weighmaster, gave bond in the sum of \$1,000, with John S. Naylor as surety; approved. The bond of the water works trustee Messrs. H. J. Jones, August Weidensch and C. F. Ulrich, in the sum of \$30,000, was approved.

A supplemental appropriation ordinance appropriating \$2,500 for the general contingent fund in addition to the ordinance of December 22, was read. It was passed unanimously in the second branch.

The committee on elections reported bills aggregating \$261.48, which were ordered paid. There were also resolutions for the payment of election officials at the rate of \$2, and fifty cents for meals, with \$2 for the messengers who secured the ballot boxes and returned them to the city clerk. The report was adopted.

The gunboat, "Wheeling" committee reported having purchased glass ware from the Central glass works for \$300, china ware from the Wheeling pottery \$200, and silver ware \$400; total, \$900. The committee asked for an appropriation of \$900. Mr. Hahn hoped every member would vote for the appropriation; the credit of the city is at stake. Mr. Kaiser would rather see the \$900 used for the improvement of streets and alleys, or for other home uses. The vote resulted in 11 ayes and 11 noes, as follows:

Mr. Hahn, Mr. Fair, Mr. Hahn, Mr. Kindelberger, Mr. Knokke, Mr. McDonald, Mr. Travis, Mr. Useton, Mr. Weidensch and Mr. Chew.

Noes—Ahl, Bradbury, Gartley, Hoe, Kaiser, McFadden, Meehan, Megrall, Meyer, Hall and Watson.

presented a bill for damages of \$200, which was referred to the committee on claims.

A resolution authorizing the old council committee on investigation of the gas office to continue its investigation, was presented by Dr. Taylor, a member of the committee. Mr. Useton's motion to lay the resolution on the table passed unanimously.

At this point the second branch notified the first branch it was ready to adjourn, but the reply was that the committee on committees was about ready to report the re-arrangement of the standing committees of council. It is a substitute report for the one made last Tuesday night. The committee offered a resolution for the changes, which was adopted. The committees as re-arranged, are as follows:

Accounts—Higgins, (R.); Horkheimer, (R.); and Gartley, (D.); Higgins, chairman.

Cemeteries—Haller, (R.); McDonald, (R.); Stroebel, (D.); Williams, (R.); Bucey, (R.); Hoe, (D.); Haller, chairman.

Claims—Stroebel, (D.); Hazlett, (R.); Berry, (R.); Bachmann, (R.); Fair, (R.); Schmidt, (D.); Higgins, (R.); Knokke, (R.); Higgins, chairman.

Contracts—Weidensch, (D.); Arndt, (R.); Travis, (R.); Useton, (R.); McClure, (R.); Schmidt, (D.); Arndt, chairman.

Elections—Otto, (R.); Meyers, (R.); Fair, (R.); Zwicker, (R.); Nesbitt, (R.); Ebeling, (R.); McKelvey, (R.); and Hahn, (R.); Hahn, chairman.

Equalization and appeals—Connelly, (R.); Meyers, (R.); Haller, (R.); McFadden, (R.); Stroebel, (D.); Zwicker, (R.); McKelvey, (R.); Hahn, (R.); Hahn, chairman.

Fire—Otto, (R.); McClure, (R.); McDonald, (R.); Baird, (R.); Gartley, (D.); Zwicker, (R.); Nesbitt, (R.); and Hahn, (R.); McClure, chairman.

Fire—Otto, (R.); McClure, (R.); McDonald, (R.); Baird, (R.); Gartley, (D.); Zwicker, (R.); Nesbitt, (R.); and Hahn, (R.); McClure, chairman.

Health—Watson, (D.); List, (R.); Schmidt, (D.); McKelvey, (R.); Meyer, (R.); Beckett, (R.); Bucey, (R.); Williams, (R.); List, chairman.

Lights—Haller, (R.); Stroebel, (D.); Otto, (R.); Baird, (R.); Useton, (R.); Hoe, (D.); Travis, (R.); Bucey, (R.); Travis, chairman.

Ordinances—Watson, (D.); List, (R.); Hazlett, (R.); Fair, (R.); Weisgerber, (D.); Bachmann, (R.); Baird, (R.); and Williams, (R.); Baird, chairman.

Petitions and remonstrances—Bachmann, (R.); McClure, (R.); Kindelberger, (R.); Williams, (R.); Ahl, (D.); Hazlett, (R.); Bradbury, (R.); Paul, (D.); Hazlett, chairman.

Salaries—List, (R.); Weisgerber, (D.); Hazlett, (R.); McKelvey, (R.); Watson, (D.); McFadden, (R.); McFadden, chairman.

Seals—Hazlett, (R.); Ahl, (D.); Haller, (R.); Kaiser, (D.); List, (R.); Megrall, (R.); Miller, (R.); Weidensch, (D.); Ahl, chairman.

Streets, alleys and grades—Hazlett, (R.); Meehan, (D.); Otto, (R.); Knokke, (R.); Schmidt, (D.); McFadden, (R.); Megrall, (R.); McClure, (R.); Megrall, chairman.

Police—Arndt, (R.); Horkheimer, (R.); Nesbitt, (R.); Chew, (R.); Davison, (R.); Zwicker, (R.); Ebeling, (R.); Bradbury, (R.); Davison, chairman.

Railroads—Connelly, (R.); Horkheimer, (R.); McClure, (R.); Schmidt, (D.); Nesbitt, (R.); Ebeling, (R.); Higgins, (R.); Hahn, (R.); Connelly, chairman.

and as a snare, becoming inmates of disreputable houses. I recommend that some means be taken to stop this disreputable practice. There should be an ordinance of some character drawn to stop it; if kept up at its present rate, it will result only in the destruction of young girls, and it is a standing disgrace in a community of Christians and law-abiding citizens, to allow it to go on.

General Improvements. I recommend that the board of public works be instructed to repair North Main street, Sixteenth street, South Main street, Virginia street, and such other streets as are in need of repair; the above named streets are in urgent need of it, and if necessary, the board of public works should keep a few competent men for this particular work. It would be well that council should not injure the board by taking part of its contingent fund as it has in the past, then the board will have ample funds to keep our public thoroughfares in good order.

Wharves. I recommend that the committee on wharves be instructed to have two more roadways paved down to the river, so teams can get up and down with comparative ease, and that the lower end of the wharf be cleaned off. At present there is a lot of old rubbish, wagons and carts there, that are an eyesore to our citizens. If the river is cleaned up, and if cleaned up properly, would make a much-needed improvement.

These are as I view them, the most urgent needs of our city, and I most earnestly request your honorable bodies to take these matters into serious consideration. J. R. BUTTS, Mayor.

AUGUSTA COUNTY CASE.

A Correspondent Who Contents that the Alleged Surveys are Incorrect. To the Editor of the Intelligencer.

SIR:—In behalf of honesty and fair play, as well as good people, I wish to reply to the communication of Daily Reader in your issue of the 9th inst. I will not reflect personally on the character of any one in Mannington, further than the facts will warrant, but will confine myself to a simple statement of the condition of things as they actually exist. As to the whole question hinges on the constitutional provision, that no new county shall be formed with a less area than four hundred square miles, and that no county from which any part is taken, shall be left with less than four hundred square miles. I wish to say that I don't think that the advocates of the proposed new county are sincere in the claim that there is now over six hundred square miles in Marion county, for no person since the days of Merrill has been authorized to make such a survey. It is very improbable that any person would make a private survey at a cost of several hundred dollars, and be so infatuated as to believe that the new county have presented a map purporting to have been made by B. F. Charlton, surveyor of Marion county, which signifies that B. F. Charlton was the county surveyor. Now B. F. Charlton never was the county surveyor of Marion county, and further, Mr. Charlton will not testify that he made such a survey, from any other person. Neither will any person with any regard for truth, swear that there are six hundred or more square miles in Marion county.

There is no dispute as to any line of Marion county. We do not lap over Monongalia, Harrison, West or Taylor counties, any part of the state, or of Marion and adjoining counties, and it will show to any unbiased mind that Marion county does not have already as much as four hundred square miles, or else every county in the state is under-estimated in area from one-third to one-half.

Most of us have been taught that to measure length by width gives the area. Then in order for Marion county to have six hundred square miles, it must be forty miles long and fifteen broad; but what are the facts? The Baltimore & Ohio railroad enters the county at the southeast corner and goes through to the northwest corner, in a very crooked course, following the natural strata of water, at one point on the Tygart's Valley river, which course is almost due north and south for six or eight miles, and yet its extreme length in the county is about forty-four miles. Its greatest width is from the county line north of Hoodsboro, to Bothersville, on the south, about seventeen miles, and a half, over roads which are by no means straight. Therefore, the average width will not exceed thirteen miles and the extreme length not over thirty miles. Now I am a resident of Marion county, and live near the line which is proposed to be the dividing line between the new and the old counties, and am not opposed to the formation of a new county, neither do I ask for its formation, but if our legislature must violate the constitution in order to gratify the selfish ambition of the people of Mannington, I, for one, object, because, if our representatives in the house and senate endorse the proposed plan, it should become known (which it certainly will), that Marion county has been reduced to about one-half the constitutional size, and both the new and old counties are Democratic, then will the Republicans of this state realize that West Virginia is one more in the Democratic column, and that it is made so purely by the willful carelessness of our present Republican legislature in twenty-four years. I ask further, to assert that it is due to the treachery of some of the good Republicans, also, of Mannington district, that Marion county is to-day ruled by Democratic officials, two of whom, both natives of Mannington district, ordered the destruction of our court house.

FAIR PLAY. Farmington, W. Va., Feb. 9, 1897.

Did You Ever Try Electric Bitters as a remedy for your troubles? If not, get a bottle now and get relief. This medicine has been found to be peculiarly adapted to the relief and cure of all Female Complaints, exerting a wonderful direct influence in giving strength and tone to the organs. If you have Loss of Appetite, Constipation, Headache, Fainting Spells, or are Nervous, Sleepless, Excitable, Melancholy or troubled with Dizzy Spells, Electric Bitters is the medicine you need. Health and Strength are guaranteed by its use. Fifty cents and \$1.00 at Logan Drug Company's Drug Store.

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Lock-Up. In connection with this, I recommend the construction of four additional cells, in another room, to be used only for female prisoners, as it is now both sexes are in the same room, and the disgraceful exhibitions drunken men make of themselves, and the language they use, I think, demands this improvement at once.

Cremeratory. I am informed by the keeper of the crematory that this department is sadly in need of repairs. I recommend that this request be given prompt attention, as it is absolutely necessary that this department be kept in good running order.

Peddlers. In this case, I have observed enough myself, to know that there is a needed remedy wanted here, foreigners, principally women, not citizens, running from door to door, selling cheap articles, that to a great extent many of our citizens sell, and in this way injure them. I recommend that on the above, or similar cases, a pretty stiff license be imposed.

Young Girls Out Late at Night. It would be a great good if some remedy could be applied to this evil, young girls between the ages of twelve and sixteen, running around late at night, frequenting places of evil, going with young men here and there,

ALL'S WELL NOW.

The Election Squabble in Filton Settled Last Night.

THE OLD OFFICIALS RETIRED

With as Much Grace as They Could Summon, and the New Ones Walked Into Office—A Conciliatory Tie Between Messrs. Stahnke and Felsheim Settled by the Throwing of Dice—Three Aces by Felsheim Beat Stahnke's Three Sixes. The Details.

The municipal muddle at Filton was straightened out last night in an amicable manner, and the legislative cogs will run smoothly from now on. The old council secured a quorum, and opened the ballot box, and declared the election of those designated as the "new body."

The "new" council did not meet at the same time, as was first intended. The members received legal advice yesterday, and decided to wait last night to see if the old council would get a quorum. Notices had been posted around the town calling a meeting of the lately elected council for last night, and were signed by Mayor Roth and Recorder Wagner; notices were also posted warning the taxpayers to do no business with any but the old council, as no other council had been officially reported as elected. These notices were signed by Mayor Hamm and Recorder Stein.

The election took place on January 7. The night of that date, the election judges reported the names of those elected, but the law requires that the retiring council shall open the ballot box at a special session and officially declare those elected. Since election day, the old council has failed to get a quorum, and the new members fearing they were being tricked, made affidavits before notaries public and claimed to be the legal council.

The muddle has been a general topic of discussion around the hill and a strong feeling has grown up among many of the citizens as a result. Mayor Hamm and Recorder Stein were criticized for their action, but they were really obeying the strict letter of the law. "Mike" Stein and two other old councilmen have been sick for some time, and were not able to attend any meeting.

Early yesterday afternoon, a call was made for the meeting of the old council. Previous to the hour named, the pros and cons of the old and new, were discussed by many groups along the streets. Threats were made of legal suits, and injunctions to follow, if no quorum was secured. Wild rumors had been about that the ballot box had been trifled with, and suits for slander were also mentioned.

For the new council there was a tie between Albert Stahnke and Peter Felsheim, but these gentlemen avoided a recount in an up to date manner a few minutes before council met. They shook dice in the former's hands, as to which should withdraw, Stahnke couldn't do better than three "sixes," but Felsheim landed three "aces," and the councilman plan.

The council met in a room in the school house. When Mayor Hamm tapped his gavel, the room was filled with voters and coming voters, all anxious to see the fun. A solitary lamp guided the town fathers through their deliberations. Mayor Hamm, it is said, hated to be defeated, and his tenacity was shown in making no move without the law. Obeying his commands, a messenger was dispatched to Recorder Stein's for the tally book, ballot box, and the code of West Virginia. The genial George Kleeh was elected temporary recorder.

Nearly all the old councilmen were present, and after technicalities were smoothed over, it was decided to open the ballot box. The box was of the safety vault order, and messengers were sent into Kleeh's blacksmith shop for tools which were used in prying it open. Mayor Hamm invited the legislators to view the contents, in order to satisfy themselves that all was right in the contents appearing satisfactory. Mayor Hamm read out the names of those elected. The following was the result:

Mayor—E. Hamm, 39; H. Roth, 56. Recorder—A. C. Wagner, 51; M. Stein, 41. Council—Peter Felsheim, 34; George Busch, 64; M. Friesmuth, 64; Otto Schenk, 41; Joseph Yocke, 64.

There were only twenty candidates for council, and of these five were to be elected. Mr. Stahnke had the same number of votes as Mr. Felsheim, thirty-four, but his luck in dice was not as good.

The returns in full were never heretofore published, but last night's reading did not create any enthusiasm. It was rather a good natured assemblage, the room was warm, and the stogies plentiful. Mr. Felsheim was compelled to "set them up," for winning out.

Mayor Hamm announced that according to the code of West Virginia, the new members would take the oath of office within the next twenty days. When Mayor Roth is sworn in, the town keys and property will be presented to him with due credit by the retiring official.

The new council will meet shortly to elect a town sergeant, one of the lucrative offices in the gift of the council. The recorder of Filton averages \$35 a year, and the mayor's "pickings" amounts to a like princely sum. General satisfaction was expressed over the peaceful settlement of the election squabble, for it was thought that while there would be no recourse to arms, the town might have been plunged into costly legal troubles. Judge Jordan was out at Filton yesterday, and told Mr. Stein that the latter was acting according to the law. The town's attorney is Mr. H. M. Russell, but he was not brought into the case.

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