

CITY FATHERS BUSY

Active Session of Common Council Last Night.

POLICE SALARIES ARE RAISED

Second Class Theatre Licenses Are Advanced \$120 Per Annum—City Books to be Experted—Many Matters of Improvement.

The Astoria common council met in regular session last night at 7:30 o'clock at the city hall, Mayor Herman Wise presiding, Judge Anderson at the record desk; Chief of Police Gammal, City Attorney Charles Abercrombie, Street Superintendent Keaney, and all nine councilmen in the semicircle.

After the reading and approval of the minutes of the previous session the council settled down to the dispatch of current business, disposing of the following matters in sequence:

Mayor Herman Wise read his special message touching the fuel shortage now confronting the city in the following figures and terms, to-wit: "Astoria, Ore., Jan. 21, 1907.

"Gentlemen of the Council—Fuel, like water, is a prime necessity, when therefor organized greed levies tribute by extorting unreasonable prices from the people for such necessary products, it then becomes the duty of government, organized by the people, for the benefit of all the people, to take such steps as will prevent a repetition of so intolerable a condition of affairs.

"The mine owners claim that the car shortage is the cause of the scarcity of coal, while the railroad people throw the blame back upon the owners and operators of coal mines, who, they say, limit the production and distribution of coal, so as to extort the highest possible price for this necessary article.

"Though the workers in the mines receive small pay, although boys of from twelve to fourteen years of age are permitted to work long hours for a mere pittance, in the dark, unhealthy mines, coal screenings are sold to us today at \$19.00 per ton, and real live lumps of coal are as scarce as strawberries at Christmas.

"If a foreign enemy sent ships of war and levied tribute upon the people of this Coast, the federal government would be called upon to furnish protection to the people.

"Supplies and ammunition would be corralled at home if possible, abroad if necessary, and they would be rushed to the endangered points, and if the railroads claimed a car shortage in such an emergency, the government would, if necessary, seize the means of transportation and rush guns and shells and power to the forts; why should the people receive less consideration when a domestic enemy attempts to levy like tribute? A civilized foe would, at least, spare the sick and the needy, but the 'vultures of modern commerce' hold up the poor and the sick, as well as the affluent.

"I hold it to be the duty of local government, as being closest to the people, to take such steps for the protection of its citizens, as may seem advisable in the premises.

"First—I would suggest that the city purchase a very liberal supply of fuel for its own use in the early spring, and if the county and school officials, or as many private individuals as use quantities of coal wish to join the city, a whole cargo can be secured at very reasonable rates.

"Second—I suggest that this honorable body petition the Congress of the United States, on behalf of the people of this Northwestern country, to

thoroughly investigate the coal hold up, and to remove the tariff on coal, so as to make a like robbery of the many by the few impossible, when winter shall again chill us with its icy breath.

"Thus, may the government of the people, by and for the people, be vindicated, and thus may we discharge one of the duties we owe to those who trusted and voted for us.

(Signed.) HERMAN WISE, Mayor.

Mr. Hanson commended the message and moved that the auditor transmit a certified copy of same to both houses of Congress; this was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

The committee on public property returned the petition of J. P. Batts, for relief from certain street assessments upon property heretofore assessed to Mrs. T. O'Brien, with the recommendation that the same be granted, provided all subsequent assessments are paid, was re-referred to the committee on ways and means and the city attorney.

The committee on ways and means reported back to the council, with the recommendation that the same be adopted, the following official report, all of which have been published in these columns during the immediate past, to-wit: Of Police Chief Gammal of licenses received for during the fourth quarter of 1906; the statement of Police Judge and Auditor Anderson for the month of December, and bi-quarterly report for the last quarter of 1906, together with his annual report for the year 1906; and the report of City Treasurer Dealey for the last quarter of 1906; and each and all were promptly adopted by the council.

The committee on health and police reported favorably upon the application for licenses filed by J. O. Tiburt, Carlson Brothers, and M. Francisovich and the council adopted the report and ordered the licenses to issue in due course.

During the course of the session the following bills were returned from the various committees, and were approved and ordered paid by warrant, by the council: Astoria Budget, \$5.10; Prael-Egnier Company, \$9.00; Morning Astorian, \$41.90; J. H. O'Neil, \$1, Sherman Transfer Company, \$2.50; John Coro, 50 cents; Prael-Egnier Company, \$1.50; Emil and I. W. Peterson, \$5.95; L. A. Carter, \$5.00; Prael-Egnier Company, \$26.00; John Corno, \$6.50; E. Hauke & Company, 25 cents; Sherman Transfer Company, \$7.75; A. V. Allen, 16 cents; City L. & B. Company, \$77.09; F. and S. Hardware Company, \$6.20; Reliance Elec, \$5.75; Foster's Express, \$1.50; E. Hauke & Company, \$6.70; C. M. Cutbirth, \$2.60; C. W. Holmes, \$12.35; A. V. Allen, \$2.20; Andrew Asp & Company, \$47.80; Foard & Stokes Hardware Company, \$1.30; B. F. Allen, \$2.25; Fisher Bros. Company, \$7.25; Birch & Jacobson, \$125.80; H. Zapp, \$47.85; Andrew Asp, \$16.63; Troy Laundry, 70 cents; Steel & Ewart, \$1.75; A. Dunbar & Company, \$41.68; C. G. Palmberg, \$35.85; Reliance Elec, \$7.90; City Lumber & Box Company, \$2.12.

The communication from the Water Commission in relation to the city caring for the surplus water on Fourteenth street, heretofore sent into committee, was returned with the suggestion that the same be filed as the matter had been duly attended to and the suggestion was adopted.

The matter of the street sign heretofore prayed for by the management of the Astoria theatre was returned from the committee on streets and public ways, with the recommendation that the matter be sent to the committee on ways and means and to the city attorney for an opinion, and the same was done.

In the matter of the bids for the improvement of Columbia avenue from the west line of Bond street to a point 102 feet south of the south line of Taylor avenue, the committee on streets and public ways reported in favor of the bid of August Hilstrom, in the sum of \$745 and the council made the award to Hilstrom at that figure.

City Surveyor Tee reported back in the matter of the improvement of Columbia, Melbourne and Lincoln avenues, and other streets adjacent thereto, recommending that the matter be filed for the present, and the same was done forthwith.

The city surveyor also reported in the matter of the improvement of 11th street from the south line of Bond street, to the north line of Commercial street, in favor of the use of piling, at a cost of \$450, as against the use of bents, at \$496, and the report was approved and adopted by the council.

The report of the city surveyor in the matter of the improvement of the sewer on Thirty-seventh street, in which he recommended the filing of the matter for the time being, was so disposed of by the council.

The report of Police Chief Gammal for the year 1906, a carefully drawn and succinct report of all police details for that period, was read in open council and adopted and approved so far as the council was concerned, the report being directed to the Police Commission of the city. It is not possible to give the report in full in this issue, but its salient points will be given, day by day during the pending week. In substance the report dealt as follows with the police administration, including the recommendations deemed essential by Chief Gammal:

The annual report of Chief of Police Gammal for the year 1906 was filed today. It shows that during the year 1,117 arrests were made and there were 23 violent deaths reported to the department, one of them being murder and three being suicides. The report segregates the receipts and expenditures of the department and contains a vast amount of statistical information that is of value in the records of the city. The collections made by the department amounted to \$23,575, segregated as follows: Fines and forfeitures, \$15,575; sundry licenses, \$8,022. The expenses amounted to \$8,233.87, as follows: Salaries, \$7,521.50; feeding prisoners, \$373.96; sundries \$238.41, leaving a surplus of \$15,363.153, which has been turned over to the treasurer.

Chief Gammal estimates the cost of maintaining the department during the year 1907 at \$9,000 as some minor improvements to the city jail are needed and recommends the appropriation of that sum. The police force at the present time consists of nine members, including the chief. Six of them patrol the city until midnight and after that hour five men are on duty. The chief in his report calls attention to the necessity of having one more policeman, who shall be on duty at the station during the night to answer any emergency calls, assist the other officers in handling refractory prisoners and care for persons who are brought in ill or injured.

He also states that the police force is too small and urges the city government to make provision at an early date for the support of a police department more in keeping with the size of the city so that the residence section, in particular, may be better protected than is now possible. The report calls attention to the increased cost of living, the advance in rents and asks that the salaries of the police officers be raised. Two most important recommendations made by Chief Gammal are regarding the establishment of a rock pile and the procuring of a patrol wagon. He says:

"This city is at present run on a 'wide open' basis. This condition naturally attracts a large number of undesirable characters, both male and female, who habitually inhabit the restricted districts and become parasites on the community at large. In this respect I would state that the department has been duly active in endeavoring to rid the city of such persons. Nearly every day a vagrant is brought before the police court and duly convicted, but a term in jail, with free food and nothing to do but lie in bed, is hardly punishment for that class of humanity. It has been customary, therefore to suspend sentence on condition that the convicted person leave the city. This also does not answer in all cases as there appears to be lacking a sufficient punishment for the crime of living off the earnings of fallen women or procuring girls and women for houses of ill fame, and the former is the only means of support in most of these cases. I therefore recommend that a rock-pile or good substitute thereof be established, upon which vagrants and other persons convicted of abnormal crimes or misdemeanors can be lawfully employed during the term of sentence imposed by the court.

"During the summer months, especially during fishing season, I would



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(Continued on Page 7.)

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