

GRAVITY SEWER SYSTEM.

The Council Sets \$170,000 Aside With Which to Complete It.

Chances Against It Being Finished This Year Are Very Few—Costs of Delay—Work to be Fished.

There was a joint meeting of the members of the City Council and board of public works held in the council chamber last night. Mayor Hawkin and City Engineer Young were also present. President McDermott occupied the chair.

The meeting was called for a special purpose—to discuss ways and means being about the completion of the gravity sewer as soon as possible.

Mr. McDermott, as chairman of the board of public works stated that the work would not be anywhere near completion by December 1st, the time specified by the contract.

He seemed to be of the opinion that the contractors would increase their force sufficiently to accomplish the desired end within the time, and it was most important that some cause of action be taken on without delay. As in the present status of affairs Mr. McDermott said that the supplemental contract was signed on June 5. The contractors began work on June 16, since which they had completed the section immediately south of Main and Fifth streets. Work was then on the main line from Main to Fifth North street on July 9, and on July 15 excavation began, and from that time to the present 3,500 feet of trench had been opened, eight feet of trench had been dug, and 1,000 feet of earth removed.

To complete the 8,000 feet remaining 100 days, or equivalent an average of sixteen feet per day. To finish the trenching of the balance, 2,000 feet, would require ten days more.

There is no reason why the work is failing to be done, when, at the same rate of progress would take 27 days, and the ten days to complete 1,000 feet past forty days would make but two weeks additional time.

As to excavating, it was started on August 5th and 3,500 feet completed in 100 days, equal to 35 feet per day. Of the past number there is a difference of 100 feet, which would take fifty-five days. The total length of the line is 10,000 feet, which required 100 days, equal to forty-four feet per day, and at the same rate it would require 33 days to complete the sewer. Mr. McDermott declared further that the contractors had been behind all the time, excepting with the exception of the first month.

It was within the purview of the city to take the work in its own hands and complete it at the expense of the contractors, but it did not do so, as the city had to provide plant and machinery and make preliminary arrangements, could not make as good time as the contractors could from this on, provided the latter would give up work given while the work at the city authorities were that they should.

City Engineer Young was asked for a statement of expenditures up to date, and he said that the contractors had spent \$100,000 in the remainder of the system. In response thereto he presented the following:

Wells, etc., \$10,000; labor and materials, \$10,000; engineering and supervision, \$10,000; tools, \$10,000; materials, \$10,000; labor, \$10,000; interest, \$10,000; total cost of completing the sewer, \$100,000.

Total cost of completing the sewer, \$100,000.

Interest, \$10,000.

Tools, \$10,000.

Interest, \$10