

taining wires upon the public streets to be applied to mechanical purposes, from the central power station.

Mr. Roberts said this was asking too much, and he was not in favor of granting the request.

Messrs. Dooly and McCornick were in favor of granting the request.

Mr. Young thought the multiplication of wires in this town was unwise and dangerous, and he doubted the wisdom of this move.

Mr. Dooly held that this was granting no new franchise, but simply enlarging their rights.

Mr. Young had never voted for a franchise to any corporation except at the pleasure of the council.

After being amended so as to read: "During the pleasure of the council," the request was granted.

Two retail liquor licenses were granted.

In the report of City Attorney Richards on the petition of the Deseret Telegraph Company, asking for a refunding of the taxes assessed against them, the attorney gave the opinion that the tax was illegal and should be refunded. Adopted.

The report of the city attorney on the petition of Mr. Harmon suggested that a quit claim deed be given for the land in question. Received and adopted.

Attorney Richards reported verbally a bill for an ordinance protecting fire alarm boxes, and making it an offense to interfere with or obstruct the operation of the fire alarm system. Ordered printed.

Mayor Armstrong presented his second annual message as follows:

Gentlemen of the City Council—The provisions of city ordinances requiring the mayor to submit an annual message just previous to the City Council's and his own retirement from office is open to criticism that any recommendation he may feel called upon to urge will be considered inopportune; but to comply with the law, and to put my suggestions on record whether they may be afterwards heeded or not, I beg to transmit the reports of city officers for the year 1889, and at the same time to present to your honorable body, briefly, my views in relation to the chief subjects engaging the attention of the municipal mind, which may be received by you as my second annual message and my valedictory.

FINANCIAL.

The total receipts for 1889, from all sources, including sales of bonds of 1888 and local water taxes, were \$476,155.75, and the expenditures for all purposes \$479,484.42. The liabilities of the city January 1, 1890, consisted of the bonded debt, amounting, with accrued interest, to \$457,500, and there was a balance in the treasury of \$54,876.72. In possession of the treasury and still unexecuted and unsold are \$50,000 worth of bonds of 1888, which the Council may order to be sold at any time. The amount derived from the sale of city lands to January 1 was \$76,660.25. A complete report to date of land sales will be submitted to you. It shows:

Amount bid.....	\$307,870 00
Amount received.....	236,122 25
Deeds on hand and unde-	
livered.....	74,747 75

At this writing there is a balance in the treasury of \$225,905.24, which, if carefully expended will provide many

necessary and important improvements.

WATER.

The present snowfall in the mountains gives assurance of a greater supply of water the coming season than last, though for this reason no pains should be spared to increase the quantity of water flowing into the city, or to provide better facilities for supplying it to citizens. The city water commission have made their report, presenting you with the result of their experience and observation, and their recommendations, especially in regard to the immediate improvement of our greatest irrigating water-way, the Jordan and Salt Lake City canal, I heartily endorse. With this supply for the irrigation of lots, and with the mountain streams already acquired, and those which may be hereafter acquired for culinary use and additional irrigation, our city in ordinary seasons will be reasonably well provided—as well as possible, perhaps, without the expenditure of vast sums of money for driving wells and pumping, which is an undertaking so thoroughly experimental and expensive that in my opinion it should be resorted to only when it is demonstrated that all the natural gravity supply obtainable is insufficient. The practicability of storage reservoirs as a means of husbanding our mountain streams may be easily demonstrated by turning the surplus waters of early spring into the east-side reservoir, which, though at present only an excavation, may if necessary be cemented at no considerable cost. Such reservoirs constructed in safe places and made water-tight will prove extremely advantageous in holding back waters which otherwise drip away and run to waste. Efforts to secure our mountain streams should not be relaxed, in my opinion, as such supply is certainly the surest, safest and most wholesome of any yet contemplated.

STREET IMPROVEMENTS.

One of the greatest necessities of the city is the improvement of streets. With the funds at our command and the facilities provided, the work now under way on Main Street should be extended to every street within what is known as the fire limits. I am of the opinion that after the crushed rock has settled as it will upon a solid gravel bottom, a laying of native asphaltum, of which our Territory yields an abundance, should be placed over the surface, say about two inches thick, and we will have streets that will endure for many years to come. My observations during my recent trip to California teaches me that macadamized streets, while being much cheaper, are better for travel and equally as enduring as pavements. In this connection I hope the error incident to the beginning of waterworks extensions, namely, constructing a local improvement out of the general funds will not be repeated in our street making, as the complications arising from that mistake are still a source of annoyance to the Council and of discontent among those who are required to advance assessments for such extensions. With the equalities of paying for good streets at the general expense rather than any other improvement, for the reason that the streets are used by all citizens alike, it is nevertheless a fact that abutting property is materially benefited by the improvement, and in my opinion should be made to pay a large proportion of the expense.

The plan adopted by many cities of floating bonds to provide the money for such improvements, the bonds to be payable by benefited property owners in easy instalments and at a

low rate, is one that, so far as investigated, meets my approval. The necessary legislation for the adoption of this plan should be secured at once.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

The joint city and county building has been too long delayed. In my last message I called attention to the necessity of a new city hall. The necessity is daily increasing, and I am informed the county people are in a similar condition. The plans are now approved, excavation is begun, and I should be disappointed if the work is not being rapidly pushed forward. Immediate arrangements for better jail facilities should also be made, either by arrangement with the county or by the building of a new city prison.

PUBLIC PARKS AND SQUARES.

For the health and recreation of citizens, a more systematized effort for the improvement of Liberty park, Pioneer square, and of the natural parks in City Creek canyon, now dedicated for such purposes, ought to be made. Washington Square should be improved as a market ground, and suitable market buildings erected there for the convenience of citizens.

SEWERAGE.

Considering the attendant disadvantages, the sewer work is progressing satisfactorily. All the work of excavating for laterals and main sewer in the places where water is near the surface and necessitates pumping will in all probability be completed before the high water season. The city is to be congratulated in this, as the work would prove doubly expensive and perhaps could not be accomplished for another year had it been delayed until spring. The expense of the pumping plant in process of construction exceeds my anticipations, but I am confident that the work is being well done. The pump itself has not yet arrived, though under our contract it is long since due. I recommend the passage of an ordinance so soon as the system is ready, making it obligatory upon property owners on Main Street, at least, to connect immediately with the laterals.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING.

An important and agreeable advance in street lighting was recently made when the gas lamps were supplanted by the electric arc lamps. The satisfaction generally expressed by citizens at the additional light thus provided, added to the fact that the cost is no greater than the gas, impels the belief that the contract just executed to supply thirty additional arc lamps, making a total of 100 lamps at \$15 per month each, will be generally endorsed.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, I desire to thank the members of the Council and city officers for the uniform courtesy and respect they have shown me in my official capacity, and exercise a hope for the continued prosperity of the city and for the future happiness and success of the citizens.

Respectfully,
FRANCIS ARMSTRONG,
Mayor of Salt Lake City.

The report of work done on sewers by Engineer Brooks was laid over till next meeting.

The report of the city pound keeper showed fourteen sales of estrays, from which was realized \$36.70, but the expense was \$48.50. The difference was appropriated.