

CITY COUNCIL.

The City Council met at the regular hour Tuesday, February 24, and an interesting session was held.

Mayor Scott presided. The following members responded to roll call: Parsons, Anderson, Armstrong, Hall, Wolstenholm, Heath, Pembroke, Karriek, Spafford, Pickard, Noble and Pendleton.

Petition of Joseph Warburton, asking that Tenth East Street south be put in a passable condition. Committee on streets.

R. K. Thomas and twenty-seven other merchants asked that a stone crossing be put down from the northwest corner of Commercial Street across First South Street. Committee on streets.

Hoyt Sherman, Jr., et al., asked that an electric light be placed at the intersection of First South and Thirteenth East streets. Committee on improvements.

The pawnbrokers of the city asking that the ordinance pending before the Council, relating to pawnbrokers be amended by striking out the words "any member of the police force of the said city of Salt Lake," and inserting in lieu thereof the words "upon the written order of the chief of police." Committee on municipal laws.

E. H. Kahler et al., of the Nineteenth Ward, represented that for the last two months there had been no water in the ditch from which it was customary to receive their supply. They asked for prompt relief. Referred to the watermaster.

J. F. Updegraff asked to be allowed to pile building material in front of 41 and 43 south West Temple Street for 30 days. Granted under the usual restrictions.

Harry F. Duke asked for the privilege of piling building material in front of Lot 8, Plat B, Block 34. Granted.

H. Pembroke applied for permission to pile building material on Commercial Street. Granted.

Jabez Birkenhead asked to be appointed deputy watermaster. Committee on waterworks.

A NEW POLICEMAN.

Mayor Scott reported that he had appointed Jens P. Jensen as policeman instead of Michael Cantlou, removed. Committee on police.

TENTH SOUTH STREET BRIDGE COMPLETED.

City Engineer Doremus reported that the bridge across the canal at the intersection of Tenth South and First East streets was completed. He also recommended that such grading be done as is necessary to bring the street up to a level with the bridge. Adopted.

FRUIT AND FISH VENDORS MUST GO.

The committee on license reported adversely on the claims of the right of licensed fish and fruit vendors to sell their wares on the streets. Adopted.

VARIETY THEATRE LIQUOR LICENSE AGAIN.

The committee on license reported favorably on the petition of C. S. Ford for a liquor license at 31 South, Franklin Avenue.

Mr. Hall—I cannot see how we can consistently grant this request in the

face of all that has occurred in relation to the matter. I move that it be laid over for one week.

Mayor Scott—If I understand correctly, this is only a renewal of the old application to sell liquor at the Variety Theatre, is it not?

Councilman Karriek—Under a new name, yes.

Mr. Heath—Under the rules the matter must lay over by request of two members. I second Mr. Hall's motion.

The matter was laid over.

FLYNN'S PLAT APPROVED.

The committee on streets recommended that the plat of Flynn's Subdivision be approved. Adopted.

THE STREET COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The committee on streets recommended as follows: That the prison force be divided, one half working in the morning and the other in the afternoon, so that all teams would put in full time, and lessen the expenses of the guards; that the report of the street supervisor for the year ending December 31 be published in full. Adopted.

THE OLD FORT SQUARE.

The committee on public grounds to whom was referred the proposition of James H. Bacon to purchase the Old Fort Square reported as follows:

"Your committee on public grounds, to whom was referred the petition of James H. Bacon, relative to the purchase from the city of Pioneer or Sixth Ward square for the sum of \$150,000, when 200 miles of railroad shall have been completed west from the city, extending into the State of Nevada, the time for the building being limited to two years, recommended that the petition be granted, but that the title to and possession of said block remain in and with the city until the 200 miles of road are built and the road operated for the entire distance; that no extensions of the time within which work shall be commenced and completed be granted; that the petitioner bind himself to hold the city harmless against all costs in case the right of the city to convey said property should be contested in the courts or otherwise. And we recommend that in case this report is adopted and the petition granted that the city attorney prepare the necessary papers and submit them to this council at the next regular meeting."

Mr. Pickard—I move that further action in the matter be deferred for one week.

Mr. Hall (promptly)—I second the motion.

Mr. Pembroke—I am at a loss to understand why the matter should be delayed. It seems to me, the greater importance a matter is, the longer it is delayed by this Council. (Hearty applause from the spectators.) A week ago tonight this petition was virtually granted but I withdrew my motion out of deference to Mr. Pickard. I insist that the matter be given immediate attention.

Mr. Hall—I want time to consider this question, as I do not believe in too hasty action, on such an important matter.

Mr. Pembroke—Mr. Pickard owns private property near the square in question, and I understand that that is the chief objection he has to the

block being used for depot purposes. Such a fact alone ought not to be allowed to check a public benefit. The city is running no risk whatever; the risk is all on the other side. I am surprised that any member of this Council should act as an obstructionist.

Mr. Hall—A few months ago this same petitioner asked to lease the Old Fort Square, at a nominal rental for a term of years. The committee who had the matter in hand reported that the city did not have power to lease it. If the city has no authority to lease the property, it certainly cannot sell it. I have it from unquestioned authority that the agitators and promoters of this railway scheme are the attempted perpetrators of a sharp trick. I want them to understand that I will not be a party to their misdoings. These fellows understand full well that the city cannot convey this property to them, or anyone else for the matter of that; but they have the audacity to ask the Council to agree to do so, and with them, represent to the moneyed men of the East that they can get \$300,000 worth of property in this city for \$150,000. That would be obtaining money under false pretenses. I repeat, I shall not become a party to such an infamous transaction.

Gentlemen, if you cannot comprehend the situation now, you will do so when the votes are taken from the ballot box at the next election. I am called an obstructionist for the course I take. I care not for that. It has been urged that the property is in a locality where poor people live, and therefore not suitable for park purposes. That is a wrong premise for argument. If there are poor people there as alleged, then it goes without saying that a park should be established there in preference to any other locality.

Another argument used in favor of disposing of this property is that it is done to bridge over a financial crisis. That is short sighted policy. If this thing is permitted, there will be those who will want to bridge over a financial crisis every month in the year. In large cities of the East, railroad corporations have to pay dearly for their right of way into municipalities. It cost the New York Central \$11,000,000 to get into New York.

Mr. Pembroke—I do not think it is right for Mr. Hall or any other member of this Council to traduce the character of a business man like Mr. Bacon.

Mr. Bacon was permitted to take the floor in his own behalf. He said: It is the first time that any man has had the brazen-faced audacity to accuse me of being guilty of a crooked trick. What he has said is unqualifiedly false. (Sneeringly) Seeing that Mr. Hall has been to New York—

Mr. Hall—I object to being insulted by a man who has been allowed to speak by courtesy of this Council.

Councilman Pickard (warmly)—Mr. Bacon has insulted and continues to insult me and my friends, and I object to him saying another word.

City Attorney Merritt (indignantly)—Mr. Mayor, I ask for the appointment of a committee to frame a rule that will prevent any person who is not a member of the Council from addressing this body. The spectacle that has been presented here tonight is without pre-