
CITY COMMISSION CANNOT GO BEYOND ACT IN HOME-BUILDING PROGRAM

Commissioner J. R. Gillespie, However, Says They Will Do All In Their Power For Soldiers

WAR TROPHIES FOR CITY

"Buying a car," said Chairman Edmeston, of the fire, water and light committee, last night, "is something like getting married; you are taking somewhat of a chance." He was speaking in support of his committee's recommendation to purchase from Sellers and Jones a six-cylinder McLaughlin for the fire chief at the price of \$2,180.

Some of the aldermen had suggested that the committee men had better not purchase the car until they had inspected it and compared it with others which had been offered. The council was assured that the chief knew the car and approved of it and the report was passed.

Houses for Returned Men

A resolution from the board of trade anent the building of houses for returned men under the housing act was spoken by C. H. Jackson, who stated that there was a necessity for houses for returned men and also for the widows of men who have fallen. Neither the board of trade nor the veterans had any cut-and-dried scheme all they asked for the housing commission to realize that such conditions do exist. J. R. Gillespie, of the commission, who was also present, stated that the commission could not go beyond the act, but that everything that could be done under the act for returned men would be done.

Alderman Birkett and Crawford moved that the housing commission be asked to meet a committee of the great war veterans to go further into the question. Alderman Birkett remarked that in conversation with President Millar, of the veterans, he had been informed that the president wanted the city to build houses for rent, not for sale.

Bands for Funerals

Another matter in connection with
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the war veterans arose when a letter was read from the association thanking the council for its grant of \$200 towards paying for the band for military funerals but informing it that the association could not take advantage of this, as they found that the band could not turn out with less than twenty pieces and the veterans do not feel like paying out extra money for funeral music. The band had promised to play free at any time that a funeral was arranged for a Sunday. With the letter was a bill for \$178.00 already expended but not paid.

Alderman Dennis said that he was in favor of them having the band at their military funerals, and Alderman Birkett suggested that the \$200 already voted be applied to pay the bill and that the chairman of finance be instructed to supply the band when needed.

Had Previous Arrangement

Alderman O'Brien threw a new light on the matter, and said that he had met President Millar, who discussed the band question with him. He had called up the leader and secretary of the band and had asked how many instruments were needed for funeral music and had been told that twenty were needed. He had then arranged with President Millar that the city would pay \$20 towards each funeral, the veterans' association assuming the rest. This he had understood was quite satisfactory, but apparently the proposal, when submitted, had not been approved by the association. Alderman Crawford said that he would not wonder if the presentation of the bill for \$178.00 had not had some influence on the decision, but it was evident that the finance committee had believed that all was satisfactory to the veterans until the receipt of this letter.

The question was referred back to the finance committee.

An application from the parks board for the ratification by the council of a lease of the nuisance ground to Nelson Angus, on certain conditions of providing a nursery for trees and shrubs, for the parks board, caused Alderman Gordon, of the works committee, to remark that this was the first time he had heard of this and he declined to act without consulting the engineer. Secretary Langford, of the parks board, who submitted the draft lease, said that the parks board could not close the deal without the consent of the council.

A motion by Aldermen Birkett and Crawford approved the lease, subject to a favorable report on it by the engineer.

Wants to Sell Land

G. R. Duncan presented an offer of the land to make a Kingsway-to-Arthur curve, thus avoiding the double crossing of the railway at the junction of Arthur street and Kingsway, at a figure of \$3,500, which he assured the aldermen, on his word as a real estate expert, was cheap. He alluded to the recent accident to D. W. King and said that any price was cheap to avoid the danger of such accidents with a double railway crossing. The proposal was sent on to the board of works.

On motion of Aldermen Smith and Dennis, a petition sent by the city of Hamilton, urging that the sale and manufacture of oleomargarine be permitted in the Dominion, was endorsed.

Captain Ellis wrote a letter of thanks for the rebate of taxes that had accumulated during the period that he was a prisoner in Germany.

Claims for War Trophies

A letter from Dr. R. J. Manion related to the distribution of war trophies. He stated that the government was gathering information as to the number of societies and cities that desired to have trophies, and suggested that Fort William take the matter in hand so as to get her claim in in time. The matter was, on motion, referred to the war memorials committee.

Alderman Looney, in reply to a query regarding the insurance of the civic employes under the compensa-

tion act, was informed that the heads of departments had not yet made their reports, and were getting information from outside as to what was required.

Inspector Crowded Out

Alderman Crawford, chairman of the property committee, made a suggestion to construct a new office on the opposite side of the east entrance to the city hall to that of the board of health, to accommodate the building inspector, who has been dispossessed by the income tax collector.

A motion to permit the property committee to do the work at a cost not to exceed \$200.00 was not pressed and the question was allowed to rest till next meeting, and, adjournment taking place then, a number of the aldermen went to the location of the proposed change and examined it for themselves.

The passing of the works committee report added ten dollars per month to the salary of Wm. Coulter, city timekeeper, who is now in receipt of \$100 per month.