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MUCH TALK BUT NO LIGHT

City Council Cannot Agree on Light Proposition--Reports of Various Officers

The council meeting last night was productive of much talk and not a little exhibition of authority on the part of President Sattler in the chair, he giving the members a taste of how vigorous a real, live ruler can be when he starts out by calling Councilmen Steimker and Falter down vigorously several times.

The members were all present when President Sattler rapped for order and Dr. Elster, the young, bright and energetic city clerk read over the minutes of the previous meeting, his silvery tones pealing forth throughout the vast hall with the mellow cadence of a cow bell.

H. H. Ashton, the owner of the building where the council chamber is now situated, had in a communication ordering the city to vacate the room it now occupies as a store room adjoining the council chamber and also notifying them that the rental for the council chamber would be raised from fifty dollars per year to seventy-five dollars per year, payable quarterly, commencing January 1, 1909.

This communication seemed to jolt the members somewhat as they sat up and rubbed their eyes. His cold brutal methods did not appeal to them in the least.

The finance committee reported the following claims which they recommended paid.

- Neb. Light Co., light \$ 3.00
F. G. Fricke & Co, mdse. 50
Ben Rainey, salary 50 00
Jos. Fitzgerald, salary 50 00
Jas Donnelly, salary 4 50
Olive Jones, salary 25 00
Public Library, expense 1 45
Roy Taylor, street work 7 88
C. G. Fricke, poll tax 3 00
Platts. Tel. Co. rent 1 50
M. Archer, salary 30 00
Phil Harrison, street work 11 03
Neb. Light Co., light 1 50

The committee also recommended the following claims to go to the claims committee:

- H. L. Asemissen & Son, mdse. \$ 3 90
Plattsmouth Journal, printing 19 20
Wm. Wehrlein, livery 2 00
John Waterman, lumber 4 60

On motion the report was adopted and the clerk instructed to draw warrants for the several amounts.

Chief of Police Fitzgerald reported eight arrests during December and the report went to the police committee for investigation.

The city clerk was there with a report showing that he had collected \$117.74 during December with the treasurer's receipt attached. He stated in answer to an inquiry from the president, that the county commissioners would meet today and he would then take up the matter of securing the \$700 now in their hands belonging to the city with them, as they had stated their willingness to pay whenever demanded.

The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$5232.34 in the treasury, the report going to the finance committee.

The fire department failed to send in the list of new officers as provided, for confirmation, consequently nothing was doing in the fire department line.

Police Judge Archer filed his report which is the same as heretofore printed in the Journal, showing 7 arrests of whom 5 paid fines and two sentences were suspended. The sum of thirty dollars was collected in fines and costs. The report went to the police committee.

The claims committee reported adversely upon the claim of Aug. Pein, as foreman of one of the hose carts. Pein asked for \$6.25, the quarterly salary. The report was signed by Councilmen Schluntz and Bookmeyer. Mendenhall stated that he had not signed the report for the reason that he understood that Pein had only been absent about two months and

still retains his residence here. He wanted the council to pass upon the question. Councilman Neuman stated that Pein was in the room and he would like to have him state how long he had been away. No response was given so Councilman Steimker got the floor and moved the adoption of the report. A roll call showed Schluntz, Falter, Steimker, Bookmeyer, Neuman, Vorndran voting aye and Sattler, Weber, Schulhof and Mendenhall voting no.

At this point Councilman Steimker rose to his feet and started to make some remarks anent the councilmen who voted against the motion but President Sattler promptly choked him off with a vehemence rather unexpected, and embarrassing to the Third Ward statesman.

Then came the piece de resistance of the evening. The gas and lighting committee reported in favor of making a contract with the Nebraska Lighting Company for thirty boulevard gas lamps 45 c. p. to be distributed on the principal streets. This was the signal for everyone to get busy and many throats were cleader in the council while everyone waited the signal for the fray. Jos. A. Bortenlanger of Glenwood was in the audience and was figgiting about in his chair watching for the electricity to strike. The report submitted by the light committee was signed by Falter, Weber and Schulhof. A minority report recommending power and electric lights but quitting at that was submitted signed by Bookmeyer and Vorndran.

President of the Council Sattler was the first to jump into the arena. He was evidently primed for the occasion and was quite excited and violent in his remarks. He thought a motion which Falter had made to adopt the majority report, out of order. He did not believe the people wanted gas. He spoke of the joint meetings of the light committee and the committee of the Commercial Club and of the proposition to light the city with 6 arc lights and 82 incandescents which had been bid on by Bortenlanger. He believed that the light committee ought to draw an ordinance covering these lights at \$1,500 per year and submit it to the Nebraska Lighting Company. If they did not care to make the contract at that price, let Bortenlanger have it. He spoke of the city asking for bids and of the bid of the Nebraska Company being for \$2,180 while Bortenlanger offered the same for \$1,500. It made no difference to him who got the contract whether a Plattsmouth company or some outside company. He did not think it called for to adopt the report. His speech was a strong pro-Bortenlanger appeal.

Councilman Vorndran also got into the limelight on the Bortenlanger side. The people of the suburbs did not want gas as they could not get light out there. He favored the scheme to offer \$1,500 for the lights and let anyone who wanted to furnish them. He thought all should have lights who paid taxes. The Fifth ward had no benefits from anything, as it was out of the water district and also out of the gas-light district. He wanted the council to do something for everyone.

Councilman Steimker then obtained the floor and made a strong speech in favor of the majority report. Councilman Steimker viewed the matter from the standpoint of one who was familiar with the financial condition of the city. He mentioned the fact that the council had been talking light for a long time, the light committee, the committee from the Commercial Club and the citizens had all taken a turn at it, and still no conclusion had been arrived at. In his opinion if these D-caucuses had been cut out and the committee allowed to have its way, we would have had light. The financial condition of the city precluded extensive lighting. He adverted upon the Bortenlanger franchise taking pronounced grounds against it. He wanted the city protected. He spoke of the tax in the treasury for lights, and then took the president of the council to task for advocating arc lights. Where would these lights be located and what would the cost be? Such expense was not warranted by the financial conditions existing and the citizens did not want a heavy expense laid upon them at this time. He inquired as to what was the best light arc, incandescent or boulevard gas--no parties agreed. He spoke of the difference in cost and the relative amount of light. He himself was not ashamed to advocate the

boulevard gas lamp on the principal streets and avenues as they were cheaper and gave the service. He was opposed to any light unless it carried with it power and daylight service. The city had gotten along without light for several years past and could continue to do so than to increase the taxation. He severely condemned the idea of getting light from the Iowa cornfields as Bortenlanger had tried to sell them. If a plant was to be built, he enquired where was the bulldier? Bortenlanger was merely looking to make this city the tail to the Glenwood kite and he opposed that. If we couldn't agree let it drop. Let a new council settle it. He was against excessive taxes. Councilman Steimker's address was the soundest and best of the evening.

Councilman Neuman thought that as the committee had been out for six months on this project, they should have put in figures in their report as to the adoption of the report in that form meant the committee would have power to make a contract at any price it wanted. He wanted the price right and did not care where the light come from. If all things were equal he would favor the Nebraska Light Company. He objected to lighting the business section and no other. It was not right to tax the people to pay for light for the business section.

At this point Falter sought to withdraw his motion to adopt the majority report but his second objected.

Councilman Weber then made a strong talk for the report. He stated the committee had met and met. The people wanted light of some kind. The committee had considered proposition after proposition and all were too high as the financial conditions did not warrant the heavy expense. The committee thought best to get some light on main avenues as the city covered too much territory to permit lighting all at present. He spoke of the taxation of the Fifth ward and called attention to the fact that the Second ward could be divided and make two fifth wards. He did not believe in lighting the outskirts of the city but wanted the main inlets lighted up and believed it best to start as the committee had.

Falter wanted the ordinance which accompanied the report read.

President Sattler took exceptions to Steimker's reference to Iowa cornfields. Bortenlanger wanted to come here and build a plant. He would contract to furnish six arc lights and 82 incandescents for \$1,500 per year and provide power.

Councilman Schulhof referred to the fact that the Bortenlanger proposition had been presented to the committee and the Commercial Club and turned down flat. The committee had taken the average rate paid by other cities and picking out 18 gas lamps and 82 incandescents had asked the local company to accept the rate. It had done so then Bortenlanger had appeared again, and this was the situation now.

A Colloquy between Sattler, Bookmeyer and Schulhof developed nothing which could throw light on the situation.

Sattler again had some remarks to make on the \$1,500 deal but they were merely what he had said before.

The clerk then read the ordinance which provided in brief for power for the city whenever 25 h. p. was subscribed for and for the installation of 30 boulevard gas lamps for \$840 per year, the lamps to be on the principal streets of the city.

Vorndran moved to lay the report on the table and Steimker moved to amend by referring to the judiciary committee. On the vote on the amendment it carried by a vote of 7 to 3 those voting aye being Schluntz, Falter, Weber, Steimker, Neuman, Schulhof, Mendenhall, Nay--Sattler, Bookmeyer, Vorndran.

Neuman inquired what had been done with the Wescott bond and it was agreed that the judiciary committee which didn't have much to do, should go after the city attorney and make him sue on the bond.

President Sattler called attention to the robberies of last Saturday evening and suggested the police committee look up the police whereabouts on that night.

A franchise for the Plattsmouth Telephone Company similar to that of the Nebraska Telephone Company which passed at the last meeting, was read and on motion the rules were suspended and it passed unanimously.

President Sattler wanted the streets committee to see the county commissioners about building a road to the ferry in the spring. This was ordered done.

The city attorney was ordered to appeal the Whelan case to the supreme court.

A squabble ensued over sidewalks which finally ended in the efficient young city clerk being instructed to make a list of all sidewalks ordered the last two years and not built for the information of the council. Then Steimker moved to adjourn and everybody went home happy and sore.



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BURGLARS VISIT HERE SATURDAY

Enter Number Of Stores But Secure Only Trifling Sums

An enterprising burglar or burglars last Saturday night made the round of the business district and entered a number of different places of business but secured little booty for their pains. They entered the office of John Waterman, the lumber dealer, making their way in through a broken pane of glass in the office door and leaving by way of the rear door which they unlocked from the inside. They secured nothing here. It was evident that the entrance was affected by a small boy and it is hard to say whether or not he had accomplices. The burglars broke out a pane of glass which was just large enough to admit a very small boy and the general idea is that this boy when he was in, unlocked the door and admitted the others. From Waterman's they went to Soennichsen's grocery store apparently, and broke out a window light in the rear of the store, using the same tactics they had employed at Waterman's. Here they secured about three dollars in change which Mr. Soennichsen had left in the register. As the register was left unlocked, the burglars did it no damage. Soennichsen's window is secured by heavy bars across it on the inside and it is plain the party entering must have been small to have gotten between the bars. They went out of this store by the rear door. They next seemed to have entered the Journal office although why they did so is a mystery, as a newspaper office is the last place in the world to look for money. However, it is probable they know of the unparalleled prosperity which has followed the Journal and thought there might be a mint stored here. It is more probable that they saw the big, warm fire in the stove and wanted to join it as they had drawn up chairs about the fire, and opened the stove doors to give it draft. When R. A. Bates, the proprietor, came in yesterday morning he found the stove without fire, they having burned the coal out. They did not seem to disturb anything here as the only

missing article was a sack of popcorn which had been left on the desk and which was gone.

Kunsmann & Range's market was the next one on the list, they breaking in the door, pushing the catch for the lock off. A large collie or shepherd dog chained in the back room had no terrors for them and they unloosened him and let him out. The dog was recently brought here from Rock Springs, Wyo., by E. M. Oliver and was a stranger hence he made no resistance to the invaders. They secured some three or four dollars here. They left this place by the rear door.

An attempt was also apparently made to get into the store of E. A. Wurl but it failed. A window light had been broken out of the cellar but no entrance had been effected or no trace of the burglars could be discovered. Asemissen & Sons also had a broken window but so far as they could see nothing had been taken and they are inclined to believe that no one entered the place.

Night Watchman John Cory insists that he made his rounds regularly and that none of the buildings had been entered up to five o'clock which would indicate that the burglaries had been committed after that time. This seems hard to believe owing to the number of places visited and the fact that the burglars must have set down in the Journal office for a rest, as the chairs and fireless stove indicated someone had spent some time enjoying the warmth. How they could have affected all the entrances and not alarm some one seems much of a mystery.

There is no clue to the burglars and public opinion is very much divided as to whether the job was done by home talent or professionals. The total amount of money secured was in the neighborhood of seven dollars and they did not touch the stuff in several places they visited indicating they did not suffer from hunger. Every possible effort is being made by the local authorities to get some clue but there is small probability of anything coming of it.

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