KELLER MADE A BROAD OFFER

COMMON COUNCIL DECIDED NOT TO ACCEPT IT.

Said He Can Name the Man Who Paid Money to Secure the Passage of the Last Gas Franchise Ordinance, and Men the Money Was Intended For—New Consumers' Company Ordinance Passed on Third Reading—Meeting of Select Council.

The ordinance granting a franchise to the Consumers' Gas company was passed on third reading last night by common council, after Mr. Keller had vainly endeavored to postpone action until next week. It will now go to select council.

When the measure was called up on third reading by Mr. Gurrell, Mr. Keller wanted to know what provision there was in it that would enable the city to find out what the gross receipts of the company will be. That is essential to ascertain the amount of tax they will have to pay. The friends of the ordinance admitted that it is a bit hazy on that point, but supposed the power to ascertain the amount of the gross receipts was implied.

Mr. Keller then referred to the scandal in connection with the gas ordinance passed by the last council, an ordinance of which the present one, he said, is a copy. He called attention to the fact that no one has disclosed who the members of the Consumers' Gas company are, and that in view of this fact and the rumors concerning the passage of the former ordinance, no member could afford to vote for the present measure until the charges concerning the other are cleared up.

To this Chairman Robathan replied that he did not think it seemly for a member of council to reflect on the body by referring to rumors that might have no foundation in fact.

A BROAD OFFER.

"Postpone this matter for a week," said Mr. Keller, "and I'll give you facts and figures about the passage of the ordinance of which this is a copy. I will give you the name of the man who paid the money, the men who received the money, men who held the money, and where the money is under seal tonight."

"Name the place where it is!" cried a member.

"In the Traders' National bank," answered Mr. Keller.

This bold statement fairly amazed the members, and several of them were on their feet in a moment. Mr. Keller explained that he did not refer to any members of common council.

Mr. Calpin wanted to know if Mr. Keller had the information he referred to in his possession three weeks ago, and Mr. Keller replied that practically he had. Mr. Calpin thought it should have been given to the council before. Mr. Roche moved that action be postponed for a week, to enable Mr. Keller to make good his statement, but when the motion was put it was lost by the following vote:

Yeas—T. J. Snowden, W. W. Evans, T. J. Roche, O. B. Partridge, W. H. Knoepfel, Fred Sykes, T. S. Fuller, Luther Keller—8.

Nays—M. J. Clark, T. W. Thomas, J. J. Evans, David Evans, John J. Henry, James Casterline, J. J. Haggerty, Edward Searing, A. L. Lewis, John McGreevy, P. F. Calpin, John J. Ruane, Fred Phillips, Charles Rosar, Daniel Galvin, William Gurrell, William Lewis, John J. McHale, Charles Graf, M. J. Barrett, M. Norton, E. E. Robathan—22.

ORDINANCE PASSED.

The ordinance then came up on passage and Mr. Keller said the company might possibly construct the plant, but they did not intend to operate it and that it was a blackmailing scheme. Notwithstanding, the ordinance passed by the following vote:

Yeas—M. J. Clark, T. W. Thomas, J. J. Evans, John J. Henry, O. B. Partridge, James Casterline, J. J. Haggerty, Edward Searing, A. L. Lewis, John McGreevy, P. F. Calpin, John J. Ruane, Fred Phillips, Charles Rosar, Daniel Galvin, William Gurrell, William Lewis, John J. McHale, Charles Graf, M. J. Barrett, M. Norton, E. E. Robathan—22.

Nays—David Evans, T. J. Snowden, W. W. Evans, T. J. Roche, W. H. Knoepfel, T. S. Fuller, Luther Keller—7.

Fred Sykes was excused from voting.

City Solicitor Watson sent an opinion to common council in a reply to a query from the commoners who wanted to know if it were possible to adopt some method for the payment of contractors who undertake municipal improvements. Mr. Watson informed the members that councils had no power save that conferred in the ordinance, and the only way a change could be effected would be for the city to assume the cost in the first instance. The opinion was filed.

The resolution removing the lunch wagon from the Amsden property at Washington and Lackawanna avenues was concurred in, Mr. Keller making the motion.

NOT PROPERLY ADDRESSED.

When the resolutions directing the receipt of options for property at North Main avenue and Throop street for a fire house was read it was promptly tabled. Mr. Keller made the motion because the report was directed to select council. Mr. Calpin said select council was acting as though common council had no existence and he thought it time to let them know that there was such a body as common council and Mr. Robathan promptly decided that the measure should take a sleep.

Mr. Thomas wanted two basins in the First ward. Mr. Henry wanted crosswalks in the Second ward. Mr. Searing wanted the right for property holders in the Fourth ward to construct a private sewer and the requests were granted, the resolutions being adopted.

Mr. Ruane introduced a resolution looking towards the reimbursing of Annie and Catharine McGuire for damages sustained by the opening of Wyoming avenue. At Mr. Ruane's request it was referred to the city solicitor. Mr. Partridge wants a sewer basin at Olive street and Quincy avenue. Mr. Phillips wanted the ordinance for sprinkling the streets by the railway company. Mr. Galvin wants a hydrant at Hemlock street and Crown avenue. Mr. Sykes wanted a hydrant at Washington avenue and New York street moved to the sidewalk and also a settlement with Muldoon and Bowie for work done on the Roaring Brook and Linden street bridges. The resolutions were adopted.

Mr. Barrett wants the street car company obliged to fix its tracks on the South Side. Council agreed promptly that it was necessary to pass such a measure.

ACCEPTING WEST PARK.

Mr. Norton introduced two ordinances. One was for the acceptance of West Park, the property of John T. Porter and G. F. Reynolds, trustees. This was referred as was another providing for the corralling of animals, horses, cattle, sheep, goats, hogs or mules, running at large on the uninclosed lands in portions of the Twenty-first ward.

The following ordinances passed on third reading: Flagstone sidewalks and gutters on both sides of Brick avenue, on West Market street to William street; for flagstone sidewalks on both sides of Margaret avenue; for the construction of a retaining wall on Yard street; providing for the purchase of $5,000 worth of hose for fire purposes; providing for laying flagstone sidewalks on Division street, from Hyde Park avenue to Sixteenth street; for a retaining wall on Third avenue. for the opening of Irving avenue from Mulberry street to Vine street; for the opening of Vine street from Buenzli court to Prescott avenue; for a lateral sewer to drain both sides of Ridge Row between the main sewer and Prescott avenue, both sides of Prescott avenue between the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad and Linden street, and the south side of Linder street, between Schultz court and Prescott avenue.

SELECT COUNCIL.

In select council last night Councilman O'Boyle wanted to know what it costs to have the prisoners work in the park. He understood that a number of men are employed to guard the prisoners, and if this money was used in hiring citizens of the city, more and better work might be accomplished.

Mr. Vaughan explained that the convicts are only employed to do the work that there is no appropriation for and and that everyone knows that neither the convicts nor the overseers cost the city anything. The overseers are paid by the county. Still Mr. O'Boyle was not satisfied and succeeded in getting the following resolution passed:

That the director of public works is directed to furnish to councils a statement showing the number of prisoners employed each day at Nay Aug and Connell park since Monday, April 1, 1902, the name of each prisoner employed and the number of days he worked; the number of foremen employed each day to supervise the work of said prisoners, and the compensation per day of said foreman, and the total sum paid said foreman; also to report whether the service rendered by same prisoners is of any expense to the city.

Mr. O'Boyle also succeeded in having the following resolution adopted:

Whereas, It appears that some persons or corporations have been making a roadbed for a railroad crossing some of the streets and avenues in the Twelfth ward of this city and that the same appears to be done without any legal authority; therefore, be it

Resolved, By the select council of the city of Scranton, that the president of this body appoint a special committee of three members of this council to ascertain the facts and report in writing to this council at its next regular meeting.

REPORTED FAVORABLY.

The streets and bridges committee reported favorably a resolution directing the city recorder and city solicitor to secure options on the land to be taken for the opening of Sanderson avenue from East Market street to the Lackawanna river. This was approved.

In response to a resolution recently adopted by councils, directing the recorder to get an option on the plot of land bounded by Jefferson avenue, Ridge Row and the approach to the Roaring Brook bridge, the intention being to make it a park, a communication was received from the recorder containing a proposition from F. E. Platt, one of the executors of the estate which owns the property. It set forth that the city can have it for $60,000 and an option for six months at that price will be given. The offer was received and filed.

The following new resolutions were introduced and adopted: Directing the department of public works to remove the electric light now located at Delaware and Hudson railroad and New street to northeast corner of Wyoming avenue and New street; directing that copies of the laws of the general assembly of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, passed at the session of 1901, in all fifty-nine copies, be purchased for the use of members, and that the expense thereof be charged to account of general printing and stationery, year 1902; directing the director of public safety to have the hydrants now supplied by the Spring Brook Water company connected with the water mains of the Scranton Gas and Water company.

The ordinances introduced were: For the laying of flagstone sidewalks and setting curbstones on Gibson street, from Clay avenue to Harrison avenue; fixing the number of newspapers in which official advertising shall be done; providing for the repairs of building occupied by Engine company, No. 2; providing for repairs of building occupied by Engine company, No. 3; providing for the construction and repairing of the crematory building; providing for the laying of flagstone sidewalks and setting curbstones on Myrtle street, from Quincy avenue to Harrison avenue.

On third reading ordinances were passed for the purchase and erection of street signs, a sum not greater than $2,000 to be expended for this purpose; for the finishing of the fourth floor of the city hall and the installing of an elevator; directing the recorder and director of public safety to enter into a contract with the Consolidated Telephone company to place a switchboard in the city hall and establish ten telephones for the police department at points specified in the ordinance; for the purchase of land on New street near Wyoming avenue for a store house and storage yard for the department of public works, the same not to cost more than $4,500; for the payment of judgments against the city to the amount of $100,000.

When the ordinance authorizing the director of public work to purchase a street sweeper at a cost not to exceed $260 and a street sprinkler at a cost not to exceed $275 came up on third reading Mr. Quinnan raised the point that the ordinance offends against the second class city act which provides that no contract can be awarded for a sum greater than $250 unless bids are asked for. After some discussion the matter was referred to the judiciary committee and the city solicitor with instructions to report at the next meeting.

The ordinance for the purchase of additional land for Nay Aug park was reported favorably from committee as was also an ordinance accepting the streets of Lincoln Park as part of the city plot. Later this passed on first and second reading. An ordinance providing for a bridge over the Roaring Brook in the Tenth ward was reported favorably from committee and passed on first and second readings.