The Pittsburgh Gazette

CITY AND SUBURBAN.

ALLEGHENY COUNCILS.

Report of the Common Improvement Adopted—Cemetery Bill to be Included in the Grounds.

A regular meeting of Allegheny City Councils was held Thursday evening, November 14, 1867.

SELECT BRANCH.

Members present—Messrs. Brown, Drum, English, Gang, Hall, Hillerich, Irwin, Motherel, Myler, McCormick, Pace, J. C. Patterson, A. D. Smith, W. Smith, Thomas and President McBrier.

The minutes of previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Irwin presented a petition from the Hutchinson Oil Refining Company, asking permission to construct a switch from the railroad to their grounds. Referred to Committee on Streets, with power to act.

Mr. Myler, a petition for a water pipe from the corner of Fayette and Manhattan to Page street. Referred to the Water Committee.

Mr. J. C. Patterson, a petition for a water pipe on Locust street. Referred to Water Committee.

Mr. Motherel, a petition from property holders on Franklin street, asking permission to pave the same. Referred to the Committee on Streets.

Mr. Brown presented a petition from the citizens residing on and near Lime alley, asking for the opening of an alley to enable them to reach their property. Referred to Street Committee.

Mr. Myler presented the profile, showing the grade of Tamarat street, as submitted to Street Committee by the City Engineer. Adopted.

Mr. English presented the report of the Park Improvement Commission, published in yesterday's GAZETTE, accompanied by the following resolutions:

Resolved, By the Select and Common Councils of the City of Allegheny, That the report of the Park Commission be and the same is hereby accepted and ordered to be filed.

Resolved, That the plan and specifications of Messrs. Mifsh & Grant & Co., submitted by the Park Commission with their said report for the making of Public Parks in the City of Allegheny, on the Common Grounds and Seminary Hill, be and they are hereby approved.

The report was received and the resolutions adopted.

Mr. Thomas presented the report of the Water Committee, recommending the laying of water pipes on First Alley and Buena Vista street, accompanied by a resolution authorizing the same to be done.

Mr. A. D. Smith was opposed to laying any more water pipe this season. He thought they could get along without it.

Mr. Brown said the Committee had not recommended the laying of water pipes wherever it could be dispensed with. That in many instance where they had recommended the resources will pay from 15 to 20 per cent. on the investment.

Mr. Hall said he did not like to object to laying water pipe, but he did not like to vote for it, when there was no money in the Treasury.

Mr. Brown said that if the Finance Committee had issued bonds, as they were instructed to do by Councils, there would have been money in the treasury sufficient to defray the expenses.

Mr. Hall thought the Finance Committee had done what they were directed to do by Councils.

Mr. Myler thought they had better lay the lateral pipes wherever they had laid the main ones.

The resolution was adopted.

A resolution authorizing the transfer of thirty thousand dollars to appropriation No. 11 (water,) was referred to the Finance Committee.

Mr. A. D. Smith submitted the report of the City Controller, showing the expenditures for the month, accompanied by a resolution authorizing the payment of the bills.

No. 2, Engines and Firemen	$33,99
" 4, Printing	210,31
" 6, Streets and Bridges	1,350,26
" 9, Contingent Fund	455,15
" 11, Water Works	16,336,83
" 12, Police	1,291,33
Total bills for October	$20,099,38
Previously paid	199,245,81
Warrants outstanding	449,54
Total to date	$219,894,73

The report was received and the resolutions adopted.

Mr. Smith offered a resolution authorizing the Finance Committee to borrow $24,000, which was received.

Mr. Myler presented the report of the Committee on Streets, accompanied by an ordinance authorizing the opening of Rebecca street. The report was received.

The resolution authorizing the opening of Rebecca street was then taken up and after considerable discussion was adopted.

Mr. Smith presented the report of the Finance Committee, in which they report adversely to the semi-monthly payment of city employees. The report also contained a resolution prohibiting committees and officers from contracting debts without the authority of Councils. The report was received and the resolution adopted.

Mr. Motherel presented a resolution authorizing the payment of the bill of Smith and Orr, contractors for paving Franklin street, amounting to $623 34, and authorizing the same to the wharf improvement fund. Adopted.

Mr. Myler offered a resolution that the Committee on Engines be instructed to purchase a hose carriage for Sligo Chester Hose Company. Referred to Committee on Engines.

Mr. Drum offered a resolution expostulating Messrs. McIntyre, McNaugher & Co., from paving the sidewalk on Ridge street and Grant avenue, provided the time is not extended beyond Jan. 1st, 1868. Adopted.

G. C. introduced in all action of S. C. requiring the same.

On motion Councils adjourned.

COMMON COUNCIL.

Members present: Messrs. Dunham, Donnan, Dill, Hanna, Horn, Kirkpatrick, Megraw, Means, Moul, McDonald, McNeil, Reed, Smith, Sproule, Weakley, Wiadny and Riddle, President.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Smith presented a communication from the Firemen's Association of the city, notifying the Councils that the Association had perfected an organization, selected officers, and asked Councils to appoint a similar Committee from the Association to perfect rules for the government of the department.

Mr. Hanna stated that as the city paid the firemen for their services, the Councils should have the exclusive government of the Department, and moved that the communications be referred to the Committee on Engines.

Mr. Smith hoped the motion would not prevail. The gentlemen composing the Association were interested men and knew what was required from the Department. The city did pay the firemen, but the pittance was so small that it could not be considered. The speaker concluded by saying that the request of the Association would be granted.

Mr. Reed, chairman of the Committee on Engines, said that he had been informed that at least one company of the city had refused to act with the Association.

Mr. Dill thought the entire matter should be referred to the committee which was appointed to govern the department.

Mr. Megraw said that the firemen should have a proper head. It was a matter of importance that a Chief Engineer should be selected, and the sooner it was done the better. If the men who formed the organization were not competent, the Committee would find it out and notify Councils of the fact. For his part, he was satisfied that the matter was all proper and right, and assuming a good shape.

Mr. Hanna denied that the "matter was all right." The fire department cost Allegheny City a "good bit" of money in a year, and he thought if any change was made it should be unanimous among the firemen themselves. He hoped the subject would be referred to the appropriate committee.

Mr. Megraw said that every company had joined the Association except one, which had stiffened its neck for a trifle. This disagreement should not have any effect, and Councils should recognize the Association.

Mr. Dill had been of the opinion that the Association was an independent organization, and only desired Councils to recognize it. He did not know the parties who constituted it, and hoped Councils would refer the matter to the proper Committee, who could make the proper inquiries.

Mr. Smith said that five of the companies of the city had organized the Association, and all they desired was that Councils should recognize them and give them an official existence. The speaker said that he had been handed the communication five minutes before presenting it, and was not aware of its contents at that time.

A vote was taken on Mr. Hanna's amendment, when it was declared lost.

The yeas and nays were then called on the passage of the resolution, which resulted in nine yeas to six nays—Messrs. Dill, Hanna, Means, Reed and President Riddle voting in the negative.

A petition for the opening of Montgomery alley was read and referred to the Committee on Surveys.

A petition for a change of the grade of Jefferson street was read and referred to the Committee on Streets.

A petition for the continuation of water pipes on Western avenue to Beaver street, in the Fifth ward, was read and accepted.

Mr. McDonald, from the Committee on Gas, presented a report recommending the erection of a number of public gas lamps in various parts of the city. The report was accepted, and the recommendations adopted.

Mr. Moul presented the report of the Committee on Surveys, recommending the widening of Pitt alley. The report was received.

The report of the Committee on Markets, covering the reports of the Clerk of Markets and Weighmasters for the month of October, was read and ordered to be filed.

Mr. Reed, from the Committee on Engines, presented a report, with resolutions, recommending the purchase of the Hope hose carriage and harness, at a cost not to exceed one thousand dollars, recommending that the cost incurred in the suits growing out of the difficulty between the city and the Fire Company be paid, and that a lot be purchased for the Sixth ward hose company at a cost of $600.

Mr. Megraw objected to the city investing money in the hose carriage of the Hope Company.

Mr. Hanna stated that the Hope was the *only* fire company in the city, and it should be paid back the amount it had expended for its hose carriage, in order to put it on a proper footing with the other companies.

Mr. Smith said he thought it out of place for a member of Council to say that the Hope was the only fire company in the city. He was acquainted with the members of the Company, and knew that they would not desire to stigmatize the other companies of the city by repudiating them as firemen.

Mr. Hanna explained. He did not intend to say that the Hope was the only fire company in the city, but the best.

Mr. Smith said the explanation was satisfactory.

The report was then accepted and the resolutions adopted.

The report of the Commissioners on Common Ground Improvement, which had been adopted in Select Council, was called up and read.

Mr. McNeil stated that he was satisfied that $200,000 would not pay ten per cent. on the amount required to carry out the proposed improvement.

Mr. Blagle moved as an amendment that so much of the report as provided for the improvement of Seminary Hill be stricken out.

Mr. M'Neil said that the only redeeming feature in the report was the improvement of the hill.

The chairmen agreed with Mr. M'Neil that the hill should be improved.

The yeas and nays were called on the adopting of the report as read, resulting in its passage. Yeas, thirteen; nays, four—Messrs. Dunham, Dill, Horn and Means voting in the negative.

Mr. Drennan offered a resolution, granting the Firemen's Association the privilege of holding their meetings in the Common Council Chamber. Adopted by a vote of eight yeas to seven nays.

Mr. Smith offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the City Engineer be instructed to submit to Councils a profile of Federal street, from the St. Clair street bridge to Water alley, with a report upon the practicability of so raising the grade of said street so as to have the same conform to Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad pass under the street.

Mr. Smith, in presenting the resolution, said the matter was one of great importance, and while he did not intend to press it, he desired to instruct the Council in order that it might be acted upon at some future meeting.

Mr. Megraw said it was possible that the next proposal that would be received from the Railroad Company would be to remove the track from the Common grounds to the hill, and tunnel through the city.

Mr. Dill also spoke against the resolution.

A vote was then taken, when the resolution was declared lost.

Mr. Smith offered a resolution permitting McIntyre, McNaugher & Co. to postpone laying the sidewalk on J. H. English's property on Sandusky street, until May, 1868. Laid on the table.

Mr. Dunham presented a resolution instructing the Superintendent of Water Works to repair the hydrant on Jackson street, which had been moved for the purpose of laying water pipe.

Mr. McNeil moved as an amendment that all the streets in the city in a similar condition be included. The resolution, as amended, was adopted.

Council then adjourned.

—The election on the question of the Convention is quietly progressing in Florida. There is no doubt but that it will be carried by a large majority, as the whites are indifferent. A dispatch from Tallahassee says the election is going on quietly; very few votes against the Convention; whites generally declining to vote.

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CITY CONVENTION'S OFFICE,

PITTSBURGH, OCTOBER 24th, 1867.

NOTICE.—In the "Gazette" of Quarter session, Sec. 15, Section 7, 1867, will be found the "Notice of Contest." All persons interested will take notice that the assessment of carriages and beasts is so filed by the undersigned, and that on the 15th day of the assessment shall be held within thirty days from this date, it will be my duty to correct the same according to law.

Call upon property assessed "Grant and Chatham Call," property assessed for payment of carriages.

J. F. BLAGLE,

City Solicitor.

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We will give holders of JUNE AND JULY SEVEN-THIRTIES the interest at 7 3-10 cent. to JANUARY 1st, and give them in exchange

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interest IN GOLD 6 per cent. from that date.

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FINANCE AND TRADE.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH GAZETTE, THURSDAY, November 14, 1867.

Gold opened firm at 140¼ declined to 140¼, and closed dull at 140¼@140⅝. Some people express the opinion that gold will go much higher between this and the meeting of Congress; but part with their gold or coupons at or near 140, thereby showing they have no confidence in their own prediction, neither can they explain why gold should advance any more than by an excessive issue of legal tender notes to redeem maturing bonds. It should be borne in mind that the Government has been struggling for more than two years to bring down the premium on gold and give the legal tender money a value approaching gold. In this effort it has paralyzed trade, manufacturing interests have suffered enormously, wages have declined without any adequate reduction in the prices of provisions and living, and none but speculators in property have been enriched. Inflation at the present state of affairs would rob the middle and laboring classes of all their earnings of the last seven years, and throw back the whole of the National burden on that class who is least able to make sacrifices. If the northwest is clamorous for more money (promises to pay) and is pressing its members of Congress to shape the financial policy of the Government so as to secure an extension, the manufacturing districts have equal interest in securing a speedy return to specie payment and dissolving of the expenses we now incur in our foreign importation.

Stocks were firm in the morning but declined with the rise of gold. There is a growing demand for bonds by parties for temporary investment, for want of other securities; also, long-term mortgage bonds are inquired for at a decline.

The stock market is higher and excited, especially New York Central and Northwestern Guaranteed, Erie, the express stocks and good mining shares. Money is exceedingly tight and most anything is offered for money by parties to sustain their credit.

Closing New York quotations, received by Ph. R. Mertz, were as follows:

Gold, 140¼@140⅝, 12(?)¼; 5-20s, 1862, 109¼; 1864, 108¼; 1865, 109¾; Consols, 1867, 109-10; 10-40s, 1867, 109¼.

Cleveland & Pittsburgh R. R.	62¾
Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne	87
Western Union Telegraph	31½
Erie R. R. common	49¾
Pittsburgh Fort Wayne & Chicago R. R.	87¾
Northwestern Earlies common	48¾
Northwestern—preferred	49¾
New York Central	91¾
Ohio and Mississippi Certificates	24¾
Cumberland Southern	41¾
Gold	140¼
Quicksilver	12
Cincinnati	16¾

—A war has been going on for some time between the Express Companies and the merchants in New York for consolidation and cheaper rates. A conference was held between the parties on Monday, but the matter finally separated without arriving at a satisfactory settlement. It is understood that the war is to be pushed with vigor.

—The London *Daily News* publishes a letter relating to the five twenties held in Europe, and concludes the following remarks:

"Another difficulty, is the present effect of the enormous currency of so considerable a portion of the 5-20s. Holders have been induced to buy them in the belief that they would be the highest form of Government security, and for the same importance during the last three years the American to be able to pay back the indebtedness to Europe in bonds; but the mistake is that the 5-20s. have these returned to her for gold, at times and in amounts which she may not be able, without incovenience, to meet. The least fear of Europe repudiating her above enough to excite her gold market. To get rid of this disturbing element I would suggest that the government, with the assent of the holders, issue a new series of bonds of sterling £ per cent. bonds, interest and principal payable in London to be exchange for existing £ 5-20 bonds at the rate of a £ 5 to the dollar. These bonds might be for forty years to run, and be redeemable by annual drawings or otherwise, as was thought most desirable. I have no doubt that such a loan would be readily taken in London so large an amount, as it is supposed the English investors have of American debts held in Europe. The American government would not be losing by this, for these sterling bonds in Washington to its own advantage, and would soon find their way to Europe. Once placed on this side, and not negotiable in New York, bonds would be no more to be sent to that market for gold in exchange for stocks, as the bonds of any foreign State. Article would become £1,000,000,000 of sterling £ per cent. bonds, interest and principal payable in London, to be exchanged