

Knights of Labour want nine hour day - August 5, 1889

Request received from the Knights of Labour to reduce the workday of City labourers to 9 hours. agreed to call for tender for clearing, close cutting and burning of about 23 acres of land at Hastings for Exhibition grounds.

This transcript was made in 2015 by Transcribimus volunteers **Margaret Sutherland** and **Joy Marie Vasquez**

[original handwritten minutes here](#)

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Vancouver Aug 5, 1889

The Council met on Monday, August 5th 1889 at 8 P.M.

Present Aldermen Brighthouse, Brewer, Costello, Clark, McConnell, Mason, Oppenheimer, Salsbury and Whetham.

Moved by Alderman Clark, seconded by Alderman Mason. That Alderman Brewer be appointed Chairman in the absence of the Mayor. Carried.

The Minutes of last meeting were read and adopted.

Communications

From Wilhelm Seitz submitting a Resolution passed by a Public Meeting regarding the reception of the Governor General. Referred to the Finance Committee.

From Bell-Irving & Patterson offering to quote prices for bringing freight from England. Referred to the Board of Works.

From J. W. McFarland, Secretary of the Vancouver Water Works Co. acknowledging receipt of communication re extension of Water Service to Mount Pleasant and asking for further information. Referred to F. W. & L. Committee.

From John Irving, President of the Vancouver Water Works Co., informing Council that everything would be in proper condition in about ten days. Referred to F. W. & L. Committee.

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From J. F. Ross asking for the position of Sewerage Clerk. Referred to the Board of Works.

From the Knights of Labor et al asking the Corporation to reduce the hours of day labourers to 9 hours.
Referred to the Board of Works.

Finance No 21

The Finance Committee met on Saturday August 3rd and Monday August 5, 1889.

We beg to recommend:-

1. That the following accounts be paid:

Vancouver Transfer Co. Drayage \$1.00
J. Miller, Rent of P.O Box 2.00
The World P & P Co. 40.87
F. R. Graham, Chimney Sweeping 9.00
News Advertiser 3.75

2. That Messrs Shurtz & Tobin be paid \$50.00 for furnishing a Report on the cost and maintenance of an electric Light plant as recommended by the Fire, Water & Light Committee.

3. That the City Clerk be authorized to have Fire Hall No. 2 insured for \$1,500 for 5 years at the most favourable rates obtainable.

The Communications from the Bond on the subject of interest on the current account were laid before your committee but no decision was arrived at.

Sgd. W. F. Salsbury, Chairman

Moved by Alderman Oppenheimer, seconded by Alderman McConnell.

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That the Report of the Finance Committee be adopted. Carried.

F. W. & L. No 12

The Fire, Water & Light Committee met on Tuesday July 30th 1889.

Present Alderman Oppenheimer, Clark and Brighthouse.

We beg to recommend that Mr. Shurtz be employed to furnish this Board with a Report upon the feasibility of utilizing the water power of Capilano Creek. The cost of erection and maintenance of such plant of sufficient power to furnish 100 electric lights of 2,000 candle power each; also to report upon the cost of erection and maintenance of a plant by Steam Power of sufficient capacity to supply power for 100 lights of 2,000 candle power each; and that he be paid \$50.00 for such report.

We beg to report that we have made detailed arrangements with Mr. F. C. Storir for the erection of the Gamewell System of Fire Alarm in this City.

Sgd. I. Oppenheimer, Chairman

Moved by Alderman Clark, seconded by Alderman McConnell. That the report of the Fire, Water and Light Committee be adopted. Carried.

Works No 20

The Board of Works met on Monday August 5, 1889 at 3:30 P. M.

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Present Aldermen Brewer, Oppenheimer and Brighthouse.

We beg to recommend:-

1. That the following tenders be accepted:

- (a) Grading Westminster Avenue from Hastings Street to Bridge, D. B. Murray
- (b) Grading Westminster Avenue from the Bridge South D. J. McDonald
- (c) Robson Street grading, Boyd & Clandenning
- (d) Melville Street grading, D. B. Murray
- (e) Alberni Street grading, H. Connacher

2. In reference to Mr. Abbott's communication, your Board interpreted his former communication to mean that the road would be kept passable at all seasons of the year and we would therefore recommend that the Council look to him to make his agreement good.

3. That tenders be called for the erection of the Market building, such tenders to be received up to the 15th inst.

4. That tenders be called for the following works:

- (a) Grading Prior & Keefer Streets from Gore Av. To Dunlevy Av.
- (b) Sidewalking Granville Street from Robson to the Bridge.
- (c) Grading Hornby from Hastings to Dunsmuir.
- (d) Campbell Av grading from Powell to Hastings.
- (e) Sidewalking Burrard Street with Material from Pender.

5. That C. Mohun be authorized to call for samples of pipe for the Sewers.

6. That the following accounts be paid

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A. Balkwell, Excavations \$13.25
D. J. McDonald, Hastings St. West 402.75
Angus Fraser, Seymour St. 316.48
Thos. Clements et al 134.56
Wm. Thomas 5.00
Boyd & Clandenning, Westminster 1,701.00
Wm. Tierney, Excavations 202.50
Alfred Bunker, Excavations 401.55
S. Connor, Hack Hire 12.00
D.B. Murray, Campbell Av. 586.34
James Ironsides, Pound fence 107.00
Black & Wood, Excavations 15.00
Thos. Dunn & Co. Supplies 116.20
L. Burke et al, Park Road 538.55
J. McAllister, Blacksmithing 9.50
R. Rutherford, Sprinkling 152.75
H. Blyth et al Street Work 141.28
Van Water Works Co. 9.35

Sgd. S. Brighthouse, Chairman

Moved by Alderman Salsbury, seconded by Alderman Oppenheimer. That the Report of the Board of Works be adopted as read. Carried.

Report of Reading Room Committee

Your Committee appointed to meet a Committee of the Directors of the Library and Reading Room met in Messrs Gilmore and Clark's Store on Thursday August 1st 1889.

Present Aldermen Oppenheimer and Clark and Messrs Clemson, Hirschberg, Mowat, and Pollay.

The Directors stated that the annual cost of maintaining the library and reading room has been \$771.00 and

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That their resources are now exhausted and that unless the Council voted a monthly sum towards its maintenance they would be compelled to close it up for want of funds.

Your Committee therefore deem it of the utmost importance that the library and reading room be maintained and its usefulness increased and would recommend that the Council donate \$65.00 per month to assist the Maintenance of the library and reading room for the balance of the year and it is to be hoped that our citizens will respond liberally towards the support of the institution.

And we would further recommend that our successors will make provisions next year for its Maintenance and donate \$200.00 for the purchase of books.

We further recommend that it be continued under the present management and that they furnish the City with a certified inventory of all the property belonging to the institution, and a monthly report of their receipts and expenditures and number of daily visitors with the number of books lent out during the preceding month and that all of the property shall be owned by the City and under its control.

Sgd. I. Oppenheimer,
R. Clark,
H. Mason,

Referred to the Finance Committee

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Introduction of By-Laws

Alderman Whetham introduced a By-Law to amend the Health By-Law which was read a first time.

Under the head of inquiries Alderman Salsbury asked for a Statement showing the Shareholders of the City Wharf today and all transfers for the past six months.

Motions

Moved by Alderman Brighthouse, seconded by Alderman Oppenheimer. That tenders be called for the clearing, close cutting and burning of about 23 acres of land at Hastings for Exhibition grounds to be cut in lots of 3 acres each; also for grubbing per acre. Carried.

Consideration of By-Laws

Moved by Alderman Oppenheimer, seconded by Alderman Clark. That the By-Law to amend ByLaw No 49 be read a third time. Carried.

The By-Law was accordingly read and passed.

Moved by Alderman Clark, seconded by Alderman Brighthouse. That the By-Law to compel owners to build fences along the inner part of the sidewalk be read a second time. Carried.

The By-Law was then read after which the Council went into Committee of the Whole with Alderman Clark

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in the Chair.

In Committee the By-Law was read over clause by clause and amended after which it was moved by Alderman Salsbury seconded by Alderman Oppenheimer.

That the Committee rise and ask for leave to sit again. Carried.
The Chairman resumed the Chair.

Notices of Motion

Alderman McConnell gave notice that at next meeting of Council he would introduce a By-Law to amend Trade License By-Law.

Alderman Brewer gave notice that he would introduce a By-Law authorizing the purchase of the City Wharf.

The Council then adjourned.

D. Oppenheimer, Mayor

Thos. F. McGuigan, City Clerk