

Alderman McCraney's resignation refused – February 18, 1895

*Alderman McCraney was cleared of all wrongdoing in the recent awarding of the electric light contract. Weekly payroll for relief work in each ward was reviewed and approved. The City Engineer to meet with the Indian Agent to settle the right of way for the pipe line through the Indian Reserve on the Capilano River.*

This transcript was made in 2020 by Transcribimus volunteer YVR Mike

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[original handwritten minutes for Feb 18, 1895 - click here](#)

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Vancouver February 18th 1895

The Council met on Monday February 18th 1895 Present His Worship the Mayor. Aldermen Coupland, Shaw, Queen, Gallagher, McCraney, McPhaiden, Wm Brown, Thomas, Bethune and W.P. Brown.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted.

Communications

From F. S. Barnard offering to light the City at Cost price with interest at 7 per cent.

Referred to the Water & Light Committee

From C. Sweeny rendering an account for \$15.00 for solicitor's fees.

Moved by Alderman Bethune

Seconded by " Queen

That the amount be paid

Carried.

From John McLaren reporting on the Electric Lights.

Filed

From J. C. Vermilyea<sup>1</sup> asking for the refund of certain taxes.

Referred to the Finance Committee

From Otto Marstrand asking for a sidewalk on 5th Av.<sup>ii</sup>

Referred to the Board of Works

From L. J. Cady asking for a sidewalk on Carolina Street.<sup>iii</sup>

Referred to the Board of Works.

From the Board of Works referring back petition re change in the fire limits.

No action taken.

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From F. Harris et al asking for improvements on Lansdown Street.<sup>iv</sup>

Referred to the Board of Works

From McPhillips and Williams, asking for a settlement on the Reservoir Contract

Referred to the Water & Lights Committee

From S. C. Kirby asking for the reduction of the assessment on the Opera House.<sup>v</sup>

Filed.

From E. P. Davis asking for the privilege of leasing the north end of Thurlow Street.

Referred to the Board of Works

From E. P. McGarrigle et al asking for the improvement of Richards Street.

Referred to the Board of Works

From Robert Barker et al, asking for a sidewalk on Drake Street.

Referred to the Board of Works

From E. A. Marshall et al petitioning to have the postal rate for Mount Pleasant reduced to the original rate.<sup>vi</sup>

Moved by Alderman Bethune

Seconded by " W.P. Brown

That the City Clerk be instructed to forward the petition to the Post Master General with the request that the prayer of the petition be granted.

Carried.

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The following reports were received and read:-

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met on Monday February 18th 1895

Present the full Board.

Resolved

That Mr. Sutherland be notified to take proceedings for the collection of all poll taxes in arrears immediately.

Resolved.

That the City Solicitor be instructed to take the necessary steps for the collection of the monies owing for clearing in D.L. 185.

Resolved.

That the School Board's accounts be paid pending the completion of the Estimates.

Communications

From R.S. Whatmaugh & Co asking for a reduction on the License for peddling coal oil.

Referred to the license inspector with instructions to have them take out a yearly license.

From the Secretary of the Board of Works asking the Committee to fix the amount that would be appropriated to the Board of Works for the current year.

Laid over.

The following accounts were recommended for payment:-

News Advertiser Supplies \$17.65

Diplock & Co " 1.90

Clarke & Stuart " 1.80

Wm Ralph Repairs 1.00

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R.A. Anderson et al deputation \$82.00

sgd H. P. McCraney

Chairman

Moved by Alderman McCraney

Seconded by " Coupland

That the report be adopted.

Carried

Water & Light Committee

The Water and Light Committee met on Wednesday February 13th 1895.

Present Alderman Wm Brown, Coupland, Bethune and McCraney.

Messrs R.A. Anderson & Co's communication was then taken up. The Board do not see their way clear to making any allowance on account of Messrs Mcauley & Campbell's water rates.

A communication was received from the Hons. James Baker re payment of crew on resevoir.<sup>vii</sup>

Referred to the City Solicitor.

From C.L. Brown asking to have connection maed to water trough on Mount Pleasant.

It was resolved to have connection made as soon as the site is decided upon.

From A. Prefontain and John Obsen asking for water service on Coal Harbour South of Georgia Street.<sup>viii</sup>

Resolved to give them a water supply if the consumers pay for the pipe required.

From the City Solicitor giving opinion on the claim against Mr. Hartney for damage done to the water main on the north side of the narrows.<sup>ix</sup>

The City Engineer was instructred to confer

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with the City Solicitor as to the amount of damage done.

The City Engineer was instructed to communicate with the Indiant Agent; and if necessary meet him in Victoria to effect a settlement of the right-of way for the pipe line through the Indian Reserve on the Capilano River.

The City Engineer was instructed to prepare plans and call for tenders for lowering the grade of the mud tunnel.

The following acconts were recommended for payment:-

W. Hooper et al. Labor \$574.15

Creamer & Langley Supplies .70

Thurston & Sons " 6.35

F. Fillion " 6.00

Welsh Bros " 33.99

Van Ele Ry & L Co. Lights 1914.42

John Boyd & Co Supplies 1.11

Diplock & Co. " 3.00

[?W.G.] Warren " 7.40

Thos. Dunn & Co " 44.20

Clark & Stuart " 2.10

B. C. M. T. & T. Co " 1.88<sup>x</sup>

Gas Co. " 6.25

Vancouver Sash & Door Co. " 4.50

C. Nelson " .50

sgd Wm Brown

Chairman

Moved by Alderman Bethune

Seconded by " Gallagher

That the Report be adopted.

Carried.

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Board of Works

The Board of Works met on the 14th of  
February.

Present Alderman Shaw, Thomas, McPhaiden  
and W.P. Brown.

Correspondence.

From Fewster & Co complaining of the express stand as a nuisance at the corner of Hastings & Carrall Streets.

Referred to the Police Committee

From M. Archibald asking that the lane be graded on west side of Bute Street between Comox and Nelson Street.

Referred to the Chain Gang for attention.

From J. Rogers et al objecting to any change in the Fire Limits east of Carrall Street, as proposed.

Referred back to the full Board.

From J. B. McGarrigle et al, asking that the Richards Street be rocked between Georgia & Dunsmuir Streets.

Referred to Alderman Queen.

From Rasmussen Bros. complaining of an open drain in front of their store. Hastings Street.

Referred to the Health Br.

From J. L Pratt et al asking that one block of 3rd av west of South Granville Street be opened up.

Referred to Ward Fire Relief Gang

A number of petitions for various street improvements were read and laid over to be taken up when the estimates are considered.

Resolved.

That the plans for J. W. Thorne's store to be built at south west corner of Cordova and

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and Richards Street to be approved being found to comply with the requirements of the Fire Limit ByLaw.

Resolved.

That the one yard of crushed rock supplied to the C.P.R. Co. at the cement works for experimental purposes be not charged for.

Resolved.

That the Finance Committee be requested to state at their earliest convenience what money the Board of Works may expect this year for street improvements, sewer, and other works.

The following accounts were recommended for payment:-

Holt & Airey Labor \$4.00

W.L Tait Supplies 20.00

Evans, Colement & Evans " 4.00

W.H. Kendall " 1348.35

W.S. Cook Delivering Crushed Rock 514.60

Market Hardware Store Supplies 5.20

W.C. Marshall Express 1.50

News Advertiser Supplies 7.65

Diplock & Co " 8.25

Chas. Nelson " 1.95

A.H. Hatch " 16.50

Thos Dunn & Co " 53.66

Clarke & Stuart " 5.25

Wm. Ralph " .50

Curits & Newsom " 17.95

Creamer & Langley " .60



W.L. Tait " 46.75

Denton etal Labor 564.90

sgd HP Shaw

Chairman

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Moved by Alderman Shaw

Seconded by " Bethune

That the Report be adopted

Carried

Motions

Moved by Alderman Bethune

Seconded by " Queen

That Alderman McCraney's resignation  
be not accepted and that he be exonerated from  
all blame in connection with the awarding of the  
electric light contract.

Carried unanimously

Moved by Alderman Shaw

Seconded by " McPhaident

That the payroll for relief work  
be passed and paid as follows:-

Ward 1 \$100.75

" 2 151.10

" 3 110.50

" 4 148.50

" 5 109.90

Carried

Mr. B. Parsons asked that Trounce Alley be fixed up.

Referred to the Board of works with power to act.

The Council then adjourned

Henry Collins

Mayor

Thos. F. McGuigan

City Clerk

All notes following were researched and written by transcriber YVR Mike.

[i](#) There is a Walter Vermilyea who was an agent at the Vermilyea Block, but no J. C. Vermilyea listed in the directory. Found him - This is John Cronk Vermilyea, well known pioneer arriving on Lulu Island from Bellville, Ontario in 1883. He bought 200 acres of land for \$4000, and five years later, he sold it for \$18,000. He was a builder (and would have been through the fire of 1886). A year after this, he would "lose all his holdings during the financial crisis of 1896." Note researched and written by YVR Mike.

[ii](#) Otto Marstrand of Doering & Marstrand Brewery in Mt. Pleasant (5th Ave). A Dane with brewing experience opens Vancouver's first brewery; they sold Alexandra Lager Beer.

[iii](#) L.J. Cady was a 'showman'. What did he show? Apparently a Anaryythictus Ocelatus (sic) - Probably a Wolf Eel (Anarrhichthys ocellatus) - in 1893 the Vancouver Daily World noted he had plans to take it to Portland & San Francisco.

[iv](#) Lansdowne Street was the section of current 4th avenue, between Scotia & Yukon.

[v](#) I cannot find Kerly in the directory, (or Kirby) but I'm pretty confident that this is what is written.

[vi](#) E.A. Marshall was a letter carrier

[vii](#) Is that "Hon. James Baker"? Likely Lt-Col, Provincial Secretary, Minister of Mines, Education & Immigration (quite a mixed portfolio!).

[viii](#) Both Prefontain and Obsen lived on Stanley Park Road, and must have had the same water service needs.

[ix](#) I cannot find what damage Hartney caused. He seems to have had logging operations on the north shore, so something must have happened.

[x](#)B. C. M. T. & T. Co = British Columbia Mills Timber & Trading Company