

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL HELD WITHIN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ON MONDAY THE 6<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 1910 AT 8 O'CLOCK, P.M.**

His Worship Mayor May presiding and all the Aldermen present.  
There was also present some 200 or more Ratepayers.

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> May and of the adjourned Regular Meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> June last were read and on motion adopted.

Communications were received and disposed of as follows:

From C.R.L. Hickman, asking permission to cut and carry away grass from Victoria Park; and from N.V. Livery and Transfer Co. offering \$50 for the grass in Victoria Park for the Season.  
Referred to Board of Works.

From Allan B. Stevenson, pointing out the desirability of having a lane provided in Block 215, D.L. 545. Referred to Committee of the Whole for consideration.

From Alex Law, Secretary, Board of City School Trustees, advising that at a recent Meeting of the Board, it was decided to dedicate 24' of the North side of Lonsdale Ave School Site for Street purposes, if the adjoining owners gave 42' off their property; also that 17' be taken off the East side of the site for the purpose of widening Lonsdale Avenue, on the condition that the owners of the property to the South of the School Site give a like 17' for the same purpose.  
Referred to Committee of the Whole for consideration.

From Honeyman & Curtis requesting to be furnished with grades already asked of the City Engineer for Building to be erected on Lonsdale Avenue by Irwin & Billings Co. Ltd.

Alderman Schultz moved that the City Engineer be instructed to establish the grades desired, in accordance with the Engineer's report of 1907, and submit same to the Council for approval at next meeting. The motion was seconded by Alderman Fowler and agreed to.

Alderman McRae and Alderman McNeish dissenting.

From R.M.A. Renwick, Deputy Commissioner of Lands, Victoria, advising that it is not the practice of the Department in dealing with the reversionary interest of the Province in Indian Reserves to make the same over to the Department of Indian Affairs; but that when Council obtains the consent of the Dominion Government, and of the Indians to the surrender of the Lands and the Council so advised the Chief Commissioner he would be prepared to discuss the question of the reversionary interest of the Province in the right of way for the Province in the right of way for Street purposes, through the Squamish Indian Reserve. Filed for future reference.

From City Engineer Clement, Vancouver to the effect following:

City Engineer's Office  
Vancouver, B.C. June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1910

To His Worship, the Mayor and  
Members of the Council of the City  
of North Vancouver.

Gentlemen:

While discussing the North Vancouver grade problem with one of your Members, Mr. S.D. Schultz, on Saturday afternoon, he asked me to outline in a letter to him how far I am adhering strictly to the benching system in establishing grades in the City of Vancouver and where I am departing from same, and my reasons for doing so.

I have written to Mr. Dchultz and am enclosing a copy of the letter herewith, so that all of your members may be in possession of the same reports and information. As a much better idea can be obtained of the effect of adopting any particular system of Street Grading by viewing the finished work on the ground, I shall, if your members and your Engineer are sufficiently interested, be very pleased to show and explain to you how the problem is being worked out in this City.

Yours Respectfully,  
Signed: W.A. Clement

City Engineer's Office  
Vancouver, B.C. June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1910.

S.D. Schultz, Esq.  
615 Pender  
Vancouver

Dear Sir:

In compliance with your request during our conversation on Saturday, concerning the grade qu3estion in North Vancouver, and the last clause in my report, in which I recommended the adoption of the benching system in grading streets, but pointed out, that it was not impossible to grade fairly steep streets without benching, I shall now outline, how far I am adhering to the benching system in establishing permanent grades in the City of Vancouver, and where I am departing from same.

In establishing grades on all new streets, that is, streets on which there are no permanent improvements, such as pavements and sidewalks, I am adopting the benching system, if the rate of grade exceeds 2 percent, and am making the rate of grade across the bench on flattened portion at intersections 1 ½ percent; this gives a fall of one foot across a 66 foot street.

In establishing grades on the wide main thoroughfares, such as Westminster Avenue and Granville Street, where the grades are steep and the distance between intersecting streets short, I have disregarded the benching principle, and made the grades as straight as possible, and am continuing to do so. My reason for adopting this course is, because I am of the opinion, that in the case of main thoroughfares or arteries of travel with steep grades, such as Westminster Avenue and Granville Street in Vancouver, where years of use has led property owners to consider the grade as established, it is justifiable to sacrifice the intersecting side streets for a short distance (about 100 or 150 feet) rather than increase the grade of the main street.

Benching has been adopted by all Cities of importance in this Country, and is considered to be in line with the best engineering practice, but occasions will arise in the carrying out of all rules and systems where advantages can be gained by adopting certain modifications.

I am enclosing copies of letters from Tacoma, Portland, Oakland and Los Angeles, with reference to operating electric cars on Steep Grades, as they may be of interest to you.

Yours truly.

Alderman Irwin moved that the letter of Engineer Clement be received and inscribed in full on the Minutes of this Meeting. The motion was seconded by Alderman Smith. Alderman McNeish moved as an amendment that such be not done until Engineers Thompson and Hanes have been granted an opportunity to make further report.

The amendment was seconded by Alderman McRae.

On a division there voted:

For the amendment - Alderman McNeish, Alderman McRae	2
For the Motion - Alderman Irwin, Alderman Schultz, Alderman Smith, Alderman Fowler	4

The motion was declared carried.

A communication from His Worship Mayor May in the following terms was read to the Meeting:

“In case there should have been any undue or premature Judgment rendered in connection with the resolution passed on Thursday the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst; proposed by Alderman McNeish and seconded by Alderman McRae, to the effect that the reports of the Commission of Engineers (re grades) be adopted in its

entirety which was defeated by four to two. Therefore, I will give every Members of this Council another opportunity to form a matured judgment by vetoing that procedure. My reason for so doing is because I consider progress towards the fulfillment of sanitary conditions and the establishment of permanent grades to those who are anxious to build good structures on a commercial basis, being greatly retarded and I would suggest that you refer the case to a higher tribunal, viz: a Plebiscite of the ratepayers of the City of North Vancouver on the question, "Shall the Reports of the Commission of Engineers be accepted? Yes or No;"

Signed: Wm. H. May, Mayor

The following Petition signed by some 226 persons, was presented and read to the Meeting:

To His Worship the Mayor & Council:

Your Worship and Gentlemen:

We, the undersigned, Ratepayers of the City of North Vancouver, deploring the breach of faith displayed by a majority of the Members of the Council in refusing to accept the Engineer's report on Grades after pledging themselves to adopt it, hereby call for the immediate resignation of the entire Board of Aldermen.

Alderman Schultz moved that the Petition be received and referred to the City Clerk for the purpose of ascertaining the status of the Petitioners whether they are Ratepayers or not, and that he report back to the Council as soon as he is in a position to do so. The motion was seconded by Alderman Smith and agreed to.

Mr. Colin F. Jackson addressed the Council relative to the Petition and its purport.

J.G.C. D. Wood enumerated the reasons which prompted him to sign the Petition.

City Engineer Hanes was next heard and stated in effect that in making his report, he was of the opinion that as a direct consequence of the location of the City, the East and West Streets would be successively occupied by Car Lines and that he concurred with the Engineer's Report of 1907 that these streets should be benched. He did not consider he had reported contrary to instructions.

Reports and recommendations by the Finance (General, Police) Board of Works (General), Water Works, Fire & Light and Public Health Committees on due accounts were submitted and read to the Meeting, and the Treasurer was authorized to pay the following Accounts, viz:

Finance .....	\$543.27
Police .....	8.78
Board of Works .....	2,734.65
Water Works .....	2,493.57
Fire & Light.....	1,666.90
Public Health.....	88.00

Reports of the Finance Committee; of the Board of Works Committee; and of the Water Committee of this date were read to and accepted by the Council.

Alderman Fowler moved that the City Engineer be instructed to prepare specifications and call tenders for the amount of sewer pipe required to construct the main sewer on Forbes Avenue with a view to the work of construction being proceeded with at an early date. The Engineer pointed out, however, that it would first be advisable to obtain the approval of the Provincial Board of Health to the plans of the sewerage system proposed to be installed in the City, and Alderman Irwin moved that the plans of the sewerage system proposed to be inaugurated in this City be submitted to the Provincial Board of Health, for its approval by City Engineer Hanes at as early a date as possible. The motion was seconded by Alderman Fowler and agreed to.

Alderman Fowler moved, seconded by Alderman Smith, that the Engineer's recommendations and plans re sewers be accepted by the Council. The motion on being put carried unanimously.

Alderman Irwin moved, seconded by Alderman Schultz that the resolution of the Council passed on Apr 11<sup>th</sup>, 1910 which reads "That straight Grades be established on all Streets north from the Waterfront" be considered contrary to the adopted report and recommendations of the Commission of Engineers of 1907, be and same is hereby rescinded.

The motion on being put to the Meeting, carried unanimously.

Alderman Schultz moved that the City Engineer furnish a grade fro the Knights of Phythias Building at the Corner of 4<sup>th</sup> street and Chesterfield, and that such grade be in accordance with the Engineer's Report of 1907, and be submitted to the Council for approval at next meeting.

The motion was seconded by Alderman Fowler and agreed to. Alderman McNeish and Alderman McRae dissenting.

Alderman Schultz directed Council's attention to a report which appeared in the "Province" of date June 3<sup>rd</sup> in which it was stated that at last Meeting of the Council Alderman Schultz and Alderman McRae were the participants in a most disgraceful scene.

Alderman Schultz resented this erroneous report and termed it a gross exaggeration of facts. After consideration Alderman Fowler moved that the Clerk communicate with the "Province" and call their attention to the report and inform

them that the Council do not consider the scene referred to was a disgraceful one.

The motion was seconded by Alderman Irwin and agreed to.

Alderman Irwin called attention to the bad condition of Keith Road between Chesterfield and Mahon Avenues.

The Chairman of the Board of Works reported that this matter was being attended to. The condition of the ditches on Lonsdale Avenue at the Upper End of the Park at the corner of 16<sup>th</sup> Street; also the condition of the ditch on the North side of 1<sup>st</sup> Street West, was referred to the Board of Health and Medical Health Officer for inquire and report.

Bylaw No. 105, "The Street Naming and Establishment Bylaw, 1910", was reconsidered, adopted and finally passed by the Council, and the Mayor and Clerk were authorized to sign the Bylaw and the Clerk to affix the Corporate Seal thereto.

On motion of Alderman Irwin seconded by Alderman Smith it was resolved that a summary of this Councils proceedings in relation to grades be published in the "Express" and a Vancouver paper. Alderman McRae and Alderman McNeish dissenting.

Mr. A.J. Henderson addressed the Council at length, relative to the grade question, and suggested that the matter be settled by both parties coming together and agreeing on a compromise between an arbitrary Straight Grade and an arbitrary bench grade.

The Council thereafter adjourned.

Signed: Wm. H. May, Mayor