

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL HELD WITHIN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ON TUESDAY THE 26th DAY OF DECEMBER 1911 AT 8 O'CLOCK P.M.**

Present: His Worship Mayor McNeish, Chairman presiding  
Alderman G. W. McRae  
Alderman A. J. Henderson  
Alderman W. J. Dick  
Alderman A. Smith  
Alderman R. C. Biss

Correspondence was received and read as follows:

From Thos. Dennis making application for sidewalk and road to house at corner of 9<sup>th</sup> and Ridgeway. Referred to Board of Works.

From Mrs. Robt. McDowell complaining against assessment of her property on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street West in view of grade of street having been lowered about 10 feet. Referred to Court of Revision.

From J.O. Schlichter and three other property owners making application for a short piece of sidewalk on 11<sup>th</sup> street connecting with the Grand Boulevard. Referred to Board of Works.

From J. Wylie Donaldson, Secretary Board of Trade suggesting that the Council take into consideration the advisability of appointing Park Commissioners as provided for by subsection 3 of Section 294 of the Municipal Clauses Act. Alderman Biss, Chairman of the Parks Committee did not think the time had arrived for the appointment of Board of Park Commissioners. HE was of the opinion that the Parks Department could be run more economically by a standing Committee of the Council and moved that the communication be field. The motion was seconded by Alderman Dick and agreed to.

From C.W. Whyte, Secretary B.C. Library Association with an abridged draft of proposed Public Libraries Act which the Association was asking the Government to enact at next session of the Legislature and asking the Council to pass a resolution favoring its being passed. Referred to finance Committee.

From Burrard Inlet Tunnel & Bridge Co. with share certificate for one thousand shares in the Company. Filed.

From Hamilton Reid of Messrs. Bowser, Reid & Wallbridge wishing to know whether Council would consent to the Liquor seized in the Augustine conviction being handed back to the Accused. Referred to Board of Police Commissioners.

From Arthur G. Smith, District Registrar with duplicate certificate of indefeasible title in the name of the City of North Vancouver to Blocks 7, 8, 9, 10, 24 and 25, D.L. 855.

The following reports were read from the Medical Health Officer, Fire Chief and Chief of Police regarding camps on the foreshore:

To His Worship the Mayor  
and Aldermen of the City Council,  
North Vancouver, BC

Sirs:

I had occasion to report in April of this year, in regard to the sanitary condition of the camps on the foreshore. I drew your attention to the lack of proper sanitary arrangements, and the difficulty of improving the same. Also, the difficulty of the disposal of all kinds of garbage. The question of the removal of these tents was considered.

I am asked to further report, and I cannot find anything further to recommend that did not appear in the previous report, excepting to draw your attention to the increase in the number of tents, and consequently the greater crowding.

This matter has been one which has affected numerous other cities at periods in their growth. I can merely cite the instance of the city of Melbourne where the Authorities allowed such camping grounds to grow to such an extent, that, in order to eliminate such dwellings, they had to make each individual tent pay a license fee to the City, great enough to discourage such a mode of housing.

My object, therefore, is to point out that to allow such a precedent, after taking into consideration the instance of other cities, it is once contrary to the best interests of the City and the community generally.

I am,  
Your obedient servant,  
(Signed) J.J. Thomson

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To the Chairman Fire & Light Committee,  
North Vancouver, BC

REPORT

Dear Sir:

I beg to make a report on the tents situated on the Esplanade east and west of Lonsdale. On making an inspection of the said tents I find on the south side of Esplanade west they are far too closely congested. In some cases I find a very small space between each, thus causing a great risk to the lives of occupants in the event of fire, especially during the night, during which time more difficulty is experienced in getting telephone service to notify the Fire Department there is not telling what the result would be. I also find the same risk on Esplanade east, until McDougall, Jenkins premises are reached - then I find twelve in particular on the west side of the above premises. Three are close along side of the aforesaid premises, the other nine being in close proximity. Some of the above are of shingle sides with canvas roofs, these having a larger and greater burning power than the tents entirely made of canvas. In event of a fire in either of the above twelve and a wind blowing, the results might be serious. I may state there has been two tents burned down on the North side of the Esplanade west this month, and owing to no wind blowing and a speedy arrival of the Fire Department they were able to confine the fires to the seat of their origin.

Hoping something may be done to reduce the great fire danger now existing to the aforesaid occupants, I am,

Your obedient servant,  
(Signed) Jas. Findlay  
Fire Chief

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Alderman Alexander Smith,

Sir,

In reference to our conversation of this morning, I beg to state that I think it would be to the best interests of the City if the camps on the waterfront removed, as it has come to the knowledge of the Police Department that there are certain undesirable persons taking up their residence in that locality. Recently we have had several serious robberies pulled off in the City, and from information secured, we are of the opinion that the perpetrators are somewhere on the waterfront.

Yesterday one large concern reported that one roll of wire netting and two tons of coal disappeared from their works, and other things are continually disappearing. I could cite many other occurrences that have come to our attention but it would not be advisable as our department is reluctant to give information to outsiders, but an official of the City has the right and privilege to examine our books.

I do not pretend to say that there are not respectable persons living there, for there are, as I am personally acquainted with quite a number, but it would be better for them to live in some other locality. I may say that the City of Vancouver was up against the same problem about fifteen years ago, and the authorities removed them.

I am,

Yours truly,

(Signed) Arthur Davies,

Chief of Police