

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL HELD WITHIN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ON THURSDAY, MARCH 4TH, 1915 AT 3:00 O'CLOCK P.M.

Present: His Worship Mayor Hanes
Alderman Foreman
Alderman Vance
Alderman Biss
Alderman Kennedy
Alderman Wright
Alderman MacDonald

Pursuant to notice, Mayor Hanes informed the Council that the object of the Special Meeting was to consider the policy of retrenchment in each of the civic departments.

Alderman Foreman suggested that the heads of each Department be requested to come before the Council and state as to whether it would be possible for any of the Departments to be operated with a lesser number of employees than already engaged.

Mr. Morrey was present and on motion of Alderman MacDonald seconded by Alderman Vance was granted permission to address the Council.

Mr. Morrey, on behalf of the Fire Underwriters Association stated that it had been intimated to him that it was the intention of the Council to reduce the Fire Department. He stated that in his opinion serious results would follow if such a course were adopted, he also stated that after placing his report, recently made, before the Board they had practically decided to recommend to the City of North Vancouver the instituting of another Fire Hall at 19th Street.

After some discussion the matter was left in the hands of the Fire and Light and Committee to obtain what information they could from the Underwriters Association as to what the increase in insurance rates would be if a reduction of the Fireman were made.

Moved by Alderman Foreman seconded by Alderman Kennedy and resolved that the Engineer be requested to come before the Council and give his opinion and offer suggestions, if possible, along the lines of retrenchment in his Department.

After the motion being declared carried, Mayor Hanes stated that he would veto the motion and stated his reason for doing so as follows:

That the Aldermen do not seem agreed as to whether the Engineer should give his opinion before first telling him what the Council expected from his Department for the year.

Moved by Alderman Wright seconded by Alderman Biss and resolved that the Chairman of the Finance Committee bring forward a scale or retrenchment according to his knowledge of how the finances are at present. There being a division in the Council the ayes and nays were called for.

For the motion: Alderman Wright Alderman Biss and Alderman Vance.

Against the motion: Alderman Foreman and Alderman Kennedy.

The motion was declared carried.

Alderman Foreman stated that he would not act as required by the Resolution.

Alderman Wright gave notice that he intended to introduce at the next Regular Meeting of the Council, the following Resolution:

That the Council considers and decides as to the advisability of cutting down the expense of the City by way of turning out the street lights at 1 o'clock a.m.

Alderman Vance asked the Chairman of the Board of Works if he had the regular staff of men employed on the streets. The Chairman of the Board of Works replied that there were about sixty men employed and working on the streets.

Alderman Vance then asked the Chairman of the Finance Committee if there were sufficient funds on hand to meet the expenditure so created by the Board of Works. The Chairman of the Finance Committee replied that there was not.

Moved by Alderman Wright seconded by Alderman Kennedy and resolved that this Council is aware from the information received from the Chairman of the Finance Committee that no funds are available in certain Departments to carry on the City work at present and that the council now go into Committee of the Whole to bring forward some definite proposal as to the way expenses may be reduced.

IN COMMITTEE

The Mayor appointed Alderman Foreman to act as Chairman of the Committee.

The matter of retrenchment was discussed.

Moved by Alderman MacDonald seconded by Alderman Wright and resolved that the Committee of the Whole rise and convene as a Council. Whereupon Mayor Hanes took the Chair and called the Meeting to order as a council.

Moved by Alderman MacDonald seconded by Alderman Biss and resolved that the Finance Committee bring in a report on the financial position of the City within one week.

At 4:30 it was moved by Alderman MacDonald seconded by Alderman Biss and resolved that the Council adjourns.

Signed: George S. Hanes, Mayor