

One of the legacies of the new commission will be left by the present municipal government is the city hall problem with which the council has been laboring for some time without much result,

If indeed the frame structure being erected at the corner of South First and Walnut streets could be considered such.

Several attempts have been made by the city council to build a city hall but after each meeting at which any action was taken that action was reversed or nullified in some manner.

The council went so far as to order the old city hall building on North Front street in front of the Northern Pacific station torn down and a new structure erected in its place at a cost of \$15,000. The building was torn down but nothing has since been done except erect a barn like structure for accommodation of the police department and the jail at the corner of First and Walnut streets. In the meantime the municipal offices are scattered throughout the city as they have been for some time past and as they are likely to be for some time in the future.

Early in the year the council voted to purchase the lot at the northeast corner of " and First streets and made arrangements to ~~order~~ issue \$50,000 worth of bonds to purchase the property and build thereon a city hall, despite the fact that the city owned a site on First and Walnut streets and also on Front streets. The building was to be 50 x 120 feet, three stories high with full basement. This action was later rescinded and on May 19 the city building inspector was ordered to prepare plans for adding an extra story to the old city hall on Front street.

On June 18 the council adopted a resolution adopting plans and specifications for remodeling the city hall

on Front street at a cost of \$15,000. Architect Weatherwax having prepared the plans and specifications, the same being examined by the members of the council so the minutes of that meeting stated.

The clerk was ordered to advertise for bids which he did. When it came time to open the bids it was found there were none because the plans and specifications had not been finished and there was really nothing to bid on.. The plans mentioned were only tentative.

The council thought they had complied with the law and the city attorney thought so too and it was ordered by the body that the work proceed under the direction of the building inspector.

That could not be done, the council later discovered because the law had not been complied with in regard to the bidding.

While the bids had been properly advertised for, there was nothing for the bidders to bid on as the plans were not there for them to examine and figure on.

The law provides that the city may do such work if bids had been made and rejected. This left the matter where it stood at the beginning. Nothing could be done so the council is letting the matter stand until the new commission shall come into power--Yakima Herald, September 6, 1911.

Cutting and slashing with ruthless hands the council at its special session Monday afternoon hacked the estimated money to be raised by taxation for city expenses in the coming year down to \$134,226, just a little within the \$135,000 which it is surmized the city will have at its disposal from the year's taxes.

The council has been given to understand that the value of city's property will be \$15,000,000 on which the city may levy a tax of 1.1-2 per cent.

The council held the estimate down so hard that it forgot to allow \$8,500 for the new auto fire rig which it has ordered. This was not included in the estimate of \$47,780 that Assistant Fire Chief McK. D. Lambert presented for the needs of the fire department and which was cut down to \$28,000. The captain and four men were eliminated the estimated need of 2,500 feet of hose was cut in half, the number of new hydrants was reduced from 30 to 15, the auto chemical and the aerial truck were eliminated and the west side fire station was cut down from \$6,000 to \$4,000.

The mayor instructed the council to remember the ladder truck when it gets back its purchase money after giving up the South First street site for a new city hall.

The street department asked for \$38,000² and was given \$40,000 on account of the increased size of the city. This is for team hire, repairs, cleaning etc. and has nothing to do with paving.

Items of the estimate include:

Police department \$12,000.

Fire department \$28,000.

Street department \$40,000.

Health department \$6,000.

City engineer \$3,660.

City engineer \$2,370.

City attorney \$2,200.

City Police judge \$650.

City treasurer \$1,550.

Building inspector \$1,550.

Library \$2,250.

Water and light \$17,300.

Maintenance of public buildings \$1,000.

Fire station \$8,000.

Total \$126,020.

Present indebtedness \$34,186. Interest on bonds \$10,920.

Printing \$2,000.

Final total \$173,126.

Aside from taxation the sources of revenue are estimated by

City Clerk Justus C. Brooker as follows:

Police fines and bails \$12,000; licenses \$25,000;
building inspector \$1,500; treasurer \$400. Total \$38,900. To be
raised by taxation \$134,226.--Yakima Republic, Sept. 9, 1910.

Items of the estimate include:

Police department \$12,000.

Fire department \$28,000.

Street department \$40,000.

Health department \$6,000.

City engineer \$2,370.

City Finances

The undersigned special committee to whom was referred the message of our mayor regarding the financial condition of our city and the estimated needs for the ensuing year, have the honor to report as follows;

We have made a careful estimate of receipts and disbursements as it is possible at this time to do.

The receipts from all sources we estimate as follows, to wit:

From taxation \$13,000; from liquor licenses, \$3,000, from sundry licenses \$600, total \$16,000.

The above estimate of \$13,000 to come in from the assessment of real and personal property is based upon the valuation of \$1,250,000 as shown from the assessor's books for the past year, together with an additional \$50,000 for territory taken into the city since the assessment was made.

Our estimated disbursements follow:

To water company, nine months \$2,250; electric lighting nine months \$750; interest on refunding funded indebtedness \$30,000 at 6 per cent \$1,800; estimated cost of police department \$3,000; estimated cost of street work, trees, ditches etc. together with salaries in this department, \$3,200; fire department, \$2,000; extra hose \$800; officers salaries \$1,500; treasurer's fees, \$600; incidentals \$2,500, park appropriation, \$750, total \$19,350.

If matters are carefully guarded there need never be a recurrence of the spectacle of our city warrants being unsalable even at 20 per cent discount as has been the case in the past.

The assessed valuation can be increased about 30 per cent so the total valuation will approximate \$1,700,000. Whether this is advisable is a question as last year's assessment was fully 20 per cent per cent of actual value, if not more and when business of all kinds

was more active than at present the real property was certainly worth 25 per cent more than it is today.

Reduce the expenses by \$3,000 to \$4,000....Carefully studied and respectfully submitted: G.W.Jones, W.A. Cox, B.D. Young. Ordered printed by council, F.M. Spain, city clerk.

City growth

Council

A communication was read at the council meeting from Capt.

J.H. Thomas that if the city contemplated making what he termed a grand thoroughfare from the main or business portion of the city to the fair grounds and would choose his route, that he would put down a good substantial side alk from the southwest corner of block 216 Home addition, to the southwest corner of his ranch, free from all expenses to the city. The walk would be fully a quarter of a mile in length. The communication was referred to the committee on streets and ditches.

The city on streets and ditches reported they had heeled in 429 trees to be used in the park and on the streets.

Ordinance No-- providing for issuance of search warrants to search for and seize any gambling apparatus used or kept in any unlawful gambling house or building or place resorted to for the purpose of gaming and providing for the destruction of said gaming apparatus, was read and laid over to the next regular meeting.

Ordinance No--pertaining to the keeping of minors within doors after 9 p.m. was read first and second times and laid over.

A telephone was ordered i at the city hall because of the lowering of the rates from \$4 to \$2.50 per month.

Twenty stamped ballots were found in a desk by Councilman Kuechler and the inspector, judges and clerks of precinct No. 2 were ordered to appear at the next regular meeting to explain their presence i the drawer noted--Yakima Herald, March 22, 1894.

Workers are engaged in seeding to blue grass and clover the city park. Trees will also be planted this spring and the required \$500 expended in improvements of this character--Yakima Herald, March 29, 1894.

North Yakima
historical

On last Wednesday the citizens of North Yakima, pursuant to call, in Shull's large tent on Front street for the purpose of devising ways and means of protecting the general health and welfare of the city.

Mr. J.T.V. Clark was nominated chairman and after a few remarks introduced Mr. Paul Schulze who made a strong appeal to the citizens to take some immediate steps toward keeping up good sanitary regulations in the town, intimating that the company which he represented would gladly do all in its power to assist.

His remarks were met with general approval. It is proposed, in the interest of general health of the people, to adopt for privies the dry earth system while it will prevent importing impurities to the wells. It being deemed being deemed necessary to have police protection and in view of the fact that a corporation cannot be effected until October, it was moved that a power placed in them by the citizens to act as a provisional city government.

Dr. B.T. Mouser addressed the meeting, explained the methods that many eastern and Colorado towns had adopted in sanitary matters, showed how necessary it was to have a healthy town by all means as good health was the main promoter of business, energy and happiness. It was shown how impossible it was to have a healthy town when the out houses and wells from which water was used were scattered promiscuously throughout the town, the latter being deepest drained the former, thus sewing broadcast the seeds of diphtheria, malaria etc. It was further advised to take action on these measures at once, for when the soil once gets saturated, with this death dealing seepage,

it is impossible to obtain up re water within the town limits again.

The committee of five to act as a council in accordance with the wishes of citizens on all matters pertaining to the town was approved and adopted.

The gentlemen appointed for the committee by the chairman unanimously accepted by the meeting were J.V. Yeates, Walter Milroy, Dr. Morrison, J.W. Shull and the Local and Land Agent representing the NPPRCO.

A vote of thanks was extended to the chairman and the meeting adjourned sine die..

...At a meeting held March 11, 1885 pursuant to a call of the citizens and property holders of North Yakima Yakima county W.T. the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted.

"Whereas the town of North Yakima Washington Territory is now without properly authorized municipal or other government and,

Whereas it is very desirable and necessary for the public prosperity and interest of the citizens and property

of the said town that a mode or means of self

be instituted and

a necessary government as provided by the law cannot

at the next meeting of the legislature of this

year next and

our good right as citizens to organize for the

life and property, it is therefore

that we, the citizens and property holders of North Yakima Yakima county, Washington Territory in mass meeting assembled on this 11th day of March, 1885, do hereby unanimously agree and

bind ourselves jointly and severally to cooperate with and assist and abide by the rules and regulations and methods of government which may be adopted and provided by a committee of five citizens appointed by the ciama at this meeting said committee consisting of the agent of the Northern Pacific Railroad Land Department at North Yakima, Dr. W.F. Morrison, W.J. Milroy, E.S. Yeates and J.W. Shull.

T.J.V. Clark, chairman

Citizens meeting. This resolution was largely signed by citizens and property holders-- Washinton Farmer, March 14, 1885.

City Growth

The city fathers should pass an ordinance compelling all property owners to clean up all rubbish before their premises once a week to be hauled away by the city scavenger. Our broad streets with their rows of shade trees, are one of the principal features that attract the eye of strangers and should not be marred by rubbish of any character--Yakima Herald, March 20, 1890.