

Citizen Control of the Citizen's Business

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21 KING STREET EAST



TELEPHONE: ELGIN 1904

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SOME SUBJECTS DEALT WITH BY THE TORONTO CITY COUNCIL AND BOARD OF CONTROL 1925

Not all the results of the labours of the City Council and Board of Control are included in this publication. No attempt was made to include the large number of minor and more or less routine matters given attention by the various Committees, the Board of Control and the Council. This publication is only intended to convey an impression of work done and decisions made in regard to the more important matters such as those involving policy, etc. It is presented as a statement of facts. It does not discuss the ways and wherefores of these actions and is not in commendation or condemnation of any of the members comprising the 1925 Council.

Some Subjects dealt with by the 1925 City Council

"Board" unless otherwise specified means Board of Control.

APPOINTMENTS, Etc.:

April 6th: "Asked" the Board to "reconsider" their motion requiring Heads of Civic Departments to forward to the Board of Control for their information a list of any promotions or vacancies expected in their departments two weeks in advance of these contemplated changes or additions.

April 20th: "Received" communication forwarding copy of the Minutes of the Board "rescinding" the above.

May 4th: "Referred back" to the Board for further consideration their recommendation that the Medical Officer of Health be directed to ask for and accept the resignation of certain of his employees not yet naturalized British Subjects.

June 15th: "Struck out and referred back" recommendation of Board that Property Commissioner's nominees for Superintendent and Matron of Detention Home be not accepted but that Board's nominees be appointed.

June 29th: "Approved" appointment of Property Commissioner's nominees for Superintendent and Matron of Detention Home.

Sept. 21st: "Passed" by-law appointing C. M. Colquhoun as City Solicitor.

Nov. 3rd: "Passed" by-law appointing Henry Reburn as Deputy City Treasurer.

Nov. 16th: "Adopted" Board's recommendation that the resignation of Corporation Counsel Geary be accepted, to take effect January 1st, 1926.

Nov. 30th: "Struck out" Board's recommendation to re-engage Corporation Counsel Geary from January 1st, 1926, same having been ruled out of order.

"Struck out and referred back" for further consideration Board's recommendation that C. M. Colquhoun be designated by by-law as Head of the Law Department.

BAY ST. EXTENSION:

Oct. 5th: "Adopted" Board's recommendation that proposed extension of Bay St. through to Roxborough St., etc., as proposed by Sub-Committee of Works Committee, be "struck out."

BLOOR ST. WIDENING—SPADINA TO SHERBOURNE:

Feb. 24th: "Adopted" the Board's recommendation that this work estimated to cost \$1,500,000 be abandoned. The damages resulting from such abandonment were estimated at \$217,000.

Mar. 9th: "Gave two readings to a Bill to repeal" the by-law authorizing this work.

"Instructed" the City Solicitor to apply forthwith to the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board for leave to pass the by-law abandoning this work.

(Note: Such leave was granted by the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board. The third reading of the repealing by-law not yet given by Council.)

BY-LAW CONSOLIDATION:

Feb. 9th: "Appointed" a Committee to report upon the advisability of consolidating city by-laws.

BUDGET ESTIMATES:

Mar. 2nd: "Adopted the Budget Estimates" for 1925 as presented, except that the clause providing that \$54,300 civic insurance fund be used for

Some Subjects Dealt With by Council

current revenue was struck out; also reduced Library Estimates by \$54,300. Amount of total Budget Estimates, not including Ratepayers' Share of Local Improvements or expenditures for Public Utilities, was \$27,183,492. Total Tax Levy other than for Owners' Share of Local Improvements \$24,491,640.

Nov. 30th: "Passed" supplementary appropriation of \$25,000 for purpose of Library Board.

Dec. 14th: "Passed" supplementary appropriation of \$14,000 for purpose of Library Board.

CENOTAPH INSCRIPTION:

Oct. 5th: "Refused" to suspend 32nd Rule of Council in order to consider motion suggesting a change in the wording of the inscription.

Oct. 19th: Motion to consider changing of wording ruled "out of order."

Nov. 2nd: "Suspended" Rule 32 of Council and "passed" motion to have wording of inscription changed.

CENTRALIZED PURCHASING:

April 20th: "Received Report" from Department Heads that adoption of a system of centralized control of purchasing generally, as recommended by the Commission appointed to investigate the subject, would be of benefit and asked J. W. Matson to formulate coordinated plan of procedure for consideration.

CIVIC MOTOR FLEET:

Feb. 9th: "Confirmed appointment" of a special committee to consider the matter of reducing the number of motor cars in the civic service and to recommend a system whereby necessary service could be secured at less cost.

May 4th: "Struck out" the report of the special committee hereon which in short recommended for other than the Fire and Police Departments, that a sort of taxi-cab system for civic cars be adopted, the control of cars to be placed under the Property Commissioner.

May 5th: "Carried" a motion that the Mayor be requested to call a conference of this special committee, the Board, Members of the City Council and Heads of Departments to "reconsider" the above report.

CONSUMERS' GAS COMPANY AUDIT:

Jan. 26th: "Adopted" recommendation that application be made to the Legislature for power to make an annual audit of the books of the Consumers Gas Company for the purpose of determining basic cost of manufacturing its gas, gross and net earnings, etc., also to make the Company keep separate accounts of the business within and without the city limits respectively. (This legislation was refused by the Legislature.)

May 18th: The Directors of the Gas Company, by resolution having permitted the City to make a full examination and audit of the Company's books, Council "adopted" the Board's recommendation that "a special committee be appointed" to formulate a programme to embrace the particulars of the audit, etc., and to report back to Council for authority to proceed further.

June 29th: "Adopted" the recommendation of the special committee appointing Mr. Russell Fox to direct and coordinate an audit and investigation into the affairs of the Gas Company to determine whether the price charged the people of Toronto for gas is fair and equitable and in proper relationship to the cost of manufacture and production—"adding" a provision to the effect that the total expenditure for such investigation be limited to \$25,000 and that it should be completed by Sept. 30th, 1925.

Some Subjects Dealt With by Council

Oct. 19th: "Received communication" forwarding Fox report on Gas Company and carried motion to not now consider report, but to have it printed and distributed to Members of Council, etc.

Nov. 3rd: "Refused to pass motion that Fox report be considered," but decided to request a special meeting to be called during that week to consider the report.

Nov. 12th: "Met and discussed" Fox report on Gas Company, but meeting was adjourned at 11 p.m. without any decision being reached.

Nov. 23rd: "Adopted a motion" to the effect that Fox report on the Gas Company be referred to a special committee to formulate recommendations for consideration of Council in regard to securing legislation to carry out the suggestions made.

Dec. 14th: "Passed" special committee's report that City Solicitor be instructed to apply to the Court for the construction of the various Statutes of the Province of Ontario relating to the Consumer's Gas Company and "Struck out" Board's recommendation that application be made to the Provincial Legislature on the basis of that made at beginning of the year.

COUNCIL-MANAGER QUESTION:

Nov. 30th: "Adopted" recommendation of Board not to submit to the next vote of the electors the question of establishing a (1) Council-Manager or (2) Commission form of government in Toronto.

DOMINION GOVERNMENT:

Feb. 9th: "Passed" and forwarded resolution of protest regarding proposal to license export of power to the United States.

Mar. 9th: "Adopted" proposal to send a delegation to Ottawa to press for the building of a bridge over the Western Gap to the Island and for the construction of a new Post Office and Customs House.

May 4th: "Passed" and forwarded resolution protesting against levy of new export power tax upon power exported under existing contracts.

GASOLINE:

Jan. 26th: "Passed" a by-law making it necessary that applicant will give an undertaking that he will erect and maintain a gasoline service station to the value of at least \$7500 in case of a corner lot, and \$5000 in case of an inside lot, and also provide lavatory accommodation free to general public, male and female, before the permit is granted.

Aug. 10th: "Adopted" recommendation of Property Committee not to adopt change which would make the \$7500 and \$5000 limit above include improvements, etc.

Feb. 9th: "Petitioned" Attorney General of Province of Ontario to investigate gasoline and oil prices.

Mar. 9th: "Adopted" motion of protest against Ontario Government tax on gasoline unless City given a certain relief.

GRANTS, SPECIAL:

June 29th: "Authorized" Board's recommendation that grant of \$50,000 be made to Banting Research Fund.

"Adopted" report of Hospitals Commission that, under certain conditions, City contribute \$100,000 towards contemplated buildings of Hospital for Sick Children.

Nov. 30th: "Adopted" recommendation of Board that \$25,000 be voted as the contribution of the City to the Beck Memorial Endowment.

Some Subjects Dealt With by Council

GRANGE PARK ROADWAY:

Nov. 16th: "Adopted" Board's report to strike out and refer back for further consideration when the 1926 Estimates are considered the Parks Committee's recommendation that a paved roadway be now constructed to the Art Gallery in Grange Park.

Nov. 30th: "Adopted" Committee's recommendation that this roadway be gone on with now.

HARBOUR COMMISSION:

Mar. 23rd: "Struck out and referred back" Board's recommendation that proposed legislation of Commission asking for power to bonus industries etc., be not approved, with instructions to arrange a conference between the Commission and Council.

April 6th: "Received notice" that original proposed bill of Commission had been withdrawn and "approved" proposed legislation of Commission as amended, said bonusing clause having been omitted.

June 29th: "Passed" by-law guaranteeing debentures of the Commission for principal amount of \$2,000,000.

HOSPITAL DEPOT:

Mar. 23rd: "Followed" recommendation of Hospitals Commission not to establish depot in East End outside of city limits, as policy of City is to pay for necessary services rendered by the Hospitals rather than conducting its own institution of this kind.

HYDRO ELECTRIC POWER COMMISSION:

June 15th: "Passed" by-law to provide for assessment and taxation of business, land and buildings of Hydro retail stores on the same basis as a private merchant.

LAMBTON BRIDGE:

Oct. 5th: "Requested" Toronto and York Highway Commission to call a conference between the Board, Minister of Public Works and the Works Commissioner to discuss the matter of the erection of a high level bridge over the Humber River at Lambton.

Dec. 14th: "Decided" to cooperate with the York Highways Commission, the County Council and the Provincial Works Department in the construction of a new bridge over the Humber at Lambton.

LEGISLATION:

Jan. 26th: "Struck out" Board's recommendation against Legislation Committee's report that extension for further term of 5 years of right to issue debentures for purchase of parks and playgrounds be sought. (Legislation granted).

Feb. 9th: "Adopted" recommendation that legislation be sought to authorized advance payments of taxes at a discount of 5% per annum.

Feb. 23rd: "Struck out and referred to Legislation Committee" for consideration Board's recommendation that legislation be sought to give City Relief Officer right, after due investigation, to commit aged indigents to Industrial Farm.

Feb. 23rd: "Approved" application for power to grant a fixed assessment to Aquatic Clubs. (Legislation refused).

Some Subjects Dealt With by Council

Mar. 9th: "Approved" recommendation that power be sought to enable City to issue short term bonds to cover initial financing of local improvement works which cost \$500,000 or upwards.

Mar. 23rd: "Sanctioned" application for legislation to empower City Relief Officer in his discretion and subject to first receiving consent of person in the case, to commit aged indigents to Industrial Farms.

Nov. 30th: "Adopted" recommendation that power be sought to enable City to operate a ferry to the Island.

"Adopted" recommendation that power be sought to make cemetery lands liable for local improvement rates, the same as church lands.

LIVE STOCK ARENA LEASE:

June 29th: "Struck out and referred back" for further consideration Board's recommendation that a lease of a section of the Live Stock Arena for hockey and ice rink purposes be granted.

Aug. 10th: "Struck out" Board's recommendation that section of Live Stock Arena be leased for hockey and ice rink purposes.

MILK COST INVESTIGATION:

May 4th: "Appointed" a committee to investigate the cost of milk in Toronto.

MEASLES HOSPITAL:

Dec. 7th: Passed by-law authorizing the issuing of debentures to extent of \$124,000 to provide for new measles hospital. (Total cost including equipment estimated at \$150,000).

NORTH GLEN ROAD BRIDGE:

April 6th: "Passed" by-law authorizing the construction of this bridge (66 ft. wide) at an estimated cost of \$600,000.

May 18th: "Adopted" the recommendation of the Board to refer back for further consideration and conference between the Board, Rosedale Community Club and Corporation Officials the matter of proceeding with borings for this new bridge.

June 1st: "Approved" the recommendation of the Works Committee that borings for this bridge be proceeded with and "struck out" the Board's recommendation that this clause be struck out and referred back for further consideration.

Nov. 2nd: "Struck out and referred back" for further consideration recommendation of Works Committee that work on 66 ft. bridge be proceeded with and struck out Board's recommendation that no new bridge be built, but that bridge be repaired.

Nov. 16th: "Adopted" recommendation of Works Committee that a bridge 46 ft. in width be constructed at an estimated cost approximately 30% less than 66 ft. bridge first proposed.

NORTH TORONTO SEWERAGE SYSTEM:

Mar. 9th: "Approved" report of Works Committee recommending the adoption of the City Engineer's plan for sewerage system for North Toronto at an estimated cost of about \$10,000,000 and received report of conference with North Toronto Ratepayers' Engineer.

April 6th: "Approved" payment of \$495, being fee of Consulting Engineer of North Toronto Ratepayers' Association in connection with his work, examining plans, etc.

May 18th: "Approved" Board's recommendation for payment of \$2,000 being account of Engineering Firm for services of report ordered by and for the North Toronto Ratepayers' Association.

Some Subjects Dealt With by Council

Sept. 21st: "Passed" by-law authorizing construction of local sewers, trunk sewers and outlets comprising the North Toronto Sewerage System under the provisions of the Local Improvement Act.

Oct. 19th: "Struck out and referred back" to Board for further consideration recommendation to appoint Harrison P. Eddy and Dr. George G. Nasmith, to advise re construction of this sewerage system.

Nov. 2nd: "Adopted" Board's recommendation to appoint Harrison P. Eddy and Dr. George G. Nasmith to advise re this system.

OIL-GAS LEASE, WOMEN'S INDUSTRIAL FARM:

May 18th: "Refused to adopt" Property Committee's recommendation concurred in by Board that right to drill for oil and gas on above property be granted on payment of \$1 per acre rental and proportion of petroleum, etc., received.

June 1st: "Again struck out and referred back" Committee's recommendation that lease to drill be granted.

RADIALS:

June 1st: "Approved" Board's recommendation to pass certain by-laws necessary to correct defects in arrangements for raising \$2,000,000 by Hydro Electric Power Commission of Ontario for purposes of rehabilitating, etc., radials owned by City and operated by the Hydro.

June 15th: "Repealed" defective by-law granting \$2,000,000.

June 29th: Received details of purposes for which \$2,000,000 required as follows:

For the Metropolitan Division.....	\$1,100,000
For the Mimico Division.....	750,000
For the Scarboro Division.....	150,000

and "passed" by-law arranging for raising the \$2,000,000 requested by the Commission.

Sept. 21st: "Carried motion" asking Commission to "discontinue any expenditures" on road bed and trackage of Toronto radials under their management, and owned by the City of Toronto, until a policy be determined as to future management.

Sept. 21st: "Struck out and referred back" for further consideration Board's recommendation that report of Commission suggesting the discontinuance of the Schomberg and Aurora Line be adopted.

Dec. 7th: "Refused" to pass the motion that the question of the advisability of giving to the Toronto Transportation Commission the control management and operation of the radials owned by the City of Toronto be submitted to a vote of the electors.

TAX COLLECTION SYSTEM:

Sept. 21st: "Adopted" recommendation of Finance Commissioner setting forth a modernized system of Tax collection.

TELEPHONE RATES:

Feb. 9th: "Adopted" Board's recommendation that application be made to Dominion Railway Board for a reduction of telephone rates.

April 20th: "Adopted" recommendation to engage Messrs. Clarkson, Gordon & Dilworth to examine and report on books of Telephone Company.

Sept. 21st: "Approved and authorized" the form of application drafted for presentment to the Board of Railway Commissioners of Canada for a reduction of rates.

(Note: It having been reported that the above application was refused by the Board of Railway Commissioners, a further application was authorized.)

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TRINITY PARK: SALE OF PORTION:

Feb. 24th: "*Adopted*" recommendation of Parks Committee to effect that City adopt the policy of selling a portion of Trinity Park for the purpose of an athletic stadium.

April 20th: "*Adopted*" recommendation of Parks Committee that in view of public opinion no portion of Trinity Park be sold for stadium purposes and that the former recommendation of the Committee in this connection be rescinded.

VIADUCT:

April 20th: "*Approved*" certain changes recommended in the new Spadina Bridge over the railway tracks.

June 29th: "*Passed*" by-law authorizing issuance of debentures to extent of \$1,000,000 to provide for part of City's share of cost of viaduct.

WATERWORKS—DUPLICATE SYSTEM:

Jan. 26th: "*Adopted*" recommendation of Works Committee that an expert engineer resident in Canada be employed to report upon the best and most feasible site, also the various plans proposed by the Commissioner in regard to the duplicate waterworks system.

Feb. 23rd: "*Appointed*" two Canadian Engineers H. C. Acres and William Gore to report as above recommended.

Nov. 16th: Received report that cost of work on the duplicate waterworks system as at October 24th, 1925, amounted to \$25,870.80.

Money By-laws: City Council in 1925 passed by-laws which provided for borrowing or authorized issue of debentures to borrow \$8,103,968 for various purposes. A large portion of this amount was, of course, authorized by the 1924 Council. In addition, Harbour Debentures were guaranteed to the extent of \$2,000,000 and \$2,000,000 worth of bonds were deposited with the Hydro Electric Power Commission of Ontario for radial purposes.

DURING 1925 THE CITY COUNCIL AND BOARD OF CONTROL DEALT, AMONG OTHER THINGS, WITH

1. The appointment of Civic Employees (p. 2).
2. The widening of Bloor Street from Spadina to Sherbourne (p. 2).
3. The passing of the estimates and the making of supplementary appropriation (p. 2).
4. The Civic Motor Fleet (p. 3).
5. The audit of the Consumers' Gas Co. (p. 3).
6. The North Glen Road Bridge (p. 6).
7. The North Toronto Sewerage System (p. 6).
8. The operation of the city owned radials (p. 7).

After reading over this resumé, does the present method of conducting public business seem to you to be businesslike, prompt and effective?

Every citizen has a definite share in conducting the public business. If the citizen fails in performing his share can he properly exact perfect service from his representatives?

VOTE AS YOU LIKE, BUT VOTE