

Baltimore Morning Herald
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Collection of Taxes will Begin March 15

***Levy Ordinance Passes Its Second Reading—
Council Confirms Nominations—Charter Inquiries***

At the council meeting last night the first branch moved the \$1.81½ levy ordinance up another peg by placing it upon its second reading.

Tonight it will give the measure its third and final reading, and City Collector Gorter, who will be in waiting, will hurry with the engrossed copy to the home of Mayor Hayes. Thereupon, with a new pen, the mayor will sign it and it will become a law. Tomorrow in each of the morning papers Mr. Gorter will give the required two weeks' notice that the collection of taxes is to begin. Yesterday the bills were ordered printed, and March 15 the books of the tax department will be opened. Thus the mayor-council fight will pass into history. In the first branch last night the solons enlivened the gloom of their proceedings by indulging in two exchanges of polite persiflage. Mr. Morgan was the storm center of both.

Nomination Confirmed

By unanimous vote the mayor's nomination of Mr. Francis E. Bond, to succeed himself as one of the commissioners for opening streets, and of Mr. Oscar Leser, to succeed Judge T. Burling Hull, of the Appeal Tax Court, were confirmed by the second branch. The approval of the lower house is not necessary.

The motion in each case was made by Mr. Hubert and seconded by Mr. Guyton. There was no discussion of the nominations.

Judge-Elect Leser will displace Judge Hull March 1. Mr. Bond's new term begins March 1.

Charter Inquiries

In the second branch Major Venable introduced a resolution asking the law department for advice upon the following points:

“Whether or not the opening and closing of streets is a “new improvement” within the meaning of the charter, and if so, whether or not the city council has, under the recent decision of the Court of Appeals, any power to pass ordinances providing for the opening or closing of streets, and if it has such power, what is the extent of that power?”

“Whether or not the grading and paving of streets at the expense of the owners of property benefited thereby, as heretofore done in this city and as provided for by law or ordinance, is a ‘new improvement’ within the meaning of the charter, and whether or not, under

the recent decision of the Court of Appeals, the city council has any power, and if so, what power, to pass ordinances for having streets paved at the expense of those benefited thereby.

“If the city council has such power, can it provide in such ordinances that the money to be expended in paving street intersection, or in front of city property, is to be taken out of the sum set aside in the ordinance of estimates for the current year for paving cross streets or in front of city property?”

“Has the city council the power to pass ordinances for new improvements in the manner specified in section 85 of the charter, and, if so, can it provide in such ordinances that the money to be used in constructing such improvements is to be provided for in the ordinance of estimates for the ensuing year? And if such ordinance so providing be duly passed, is the board of estimates bound to make provision for the money to construct such improvement in the ordinance of estimates for such ensuing year?”

As a result of the introduction of this resolution which was adopted unanimously, Mr. Guyton moved that a number of improvement ordinances up for their third reading be tabled until the law department’s reply had been received. In the first branch two of these measures were passed. They were:

An ordinance providing for the repaving of Chesapeake Street, between Fayette street and Fairmount avenue, with vitrified brick.

An ordinance permitting the Central Real Estate and Trust Company and John S. Moke to pave with vitrified brick, at their own expense, St. Paul street, between Thirtieth and Thirty-first streets.

Minor Matters

In the first branch Mr Couglar introduced an ordinance to take the place of the defective Jenkins run sewer measure. Mr. Watts’ resolution inquiring as to the feasibility of concentrating street repair work under one departmental head was recalled for the table and passed. The ordinance assessing the property owners along Forrest street, between Fayette and Lexington streets, for repaving costs, which through error they did not pay at the proper time, was passed by the first branch.

To Meet Again Today

The council will meet again at 5 o’clock this afternoon.