

Baltimore Morning Herald
April 7, 1901

Beginning of the End in Sight for Solons

*City Fathers Meditate on the Fleetness of Councilmanic Madness –
Work Stopped to Prepare for Election*

With less than four weeks of their official life remaining in to them, the members of the city council, at their meeting last night, spent much time in meditating upon the fleetness of human greatness. Before the moon of May waxes the entire first branch will fade into history. Most of the members in all probability will nevermore strut the boards or be permitted to gaze from the floor upon the elegant oil paintings of ex mayors in the council chamber.

At the instance of Major Venable a joint committee of four members was appointed to make arrangements for winding up the business now before the council. The committee consists of Messrs. Linderman and Venable of the second branch and Messrs. Sproesser and Preller of the first. It will report at the next meeting, Monday, April 22. The extra long recess was taken in order that the solons might be free to devote their entire time to the primary contests.

In the first branch the beginning of the end was especially apparent. Mr. Hower protested against the introduction of the new ordinances on the ground that there will be no time to pass them. Once, while Mr. Steinaker was making a strenuous effort to have the second branch's amendments of two of his repaving ordinances concurred in. Mr. Morgan facetiously observed that his fellow solon had an eye on the primaries.

Franchise Ordinance Favored

As aforesaid in the Herald, the committees on the street railways made a favorable report upon Mr. Frank's quartet of franchise ordinances. With one verbal amendment they were passed to their second reading. At the next meeting they will be read a third time and sent to the first branch. Their final passage before the final adjournment of the council is practically certain.

Paving Measures Passed

The second branch passed the ordinances providing for the repaving of Bayard Street with asphalt, and of Collins and Augusta avenues with macadam. The second branch's amendment, placing the cost of repaving the two avenues upon the city, was agreed to by the first branch. The second branch, in addition, passed the ordinance changing the name of Chesapeake Street to Kenwood Avenue.

Infectious Diseases Hospital

The first branch passed the ordinances appropriating \$25000 for a municipal infectious diseases hospital, closing Jenkins and Point lanes, authorizing Louis Yakel to build a five story bridge over little Sharp street, and authorizing the Baltimore, Chesapeake and Atlantic Railway company to build a covered footway over Light street, from its pier to the bed of Camden street. The resolution authorizing the Weems Steamboat Company to enlarge its wharf shed was also passed.

Where Are They At?

In the first branch Mr. Sproesser strung a sensation by offering a resolution of inquiry regarding the whereabouts of the late charter commission's minutes. When the commission disbanded the minute book was ordered to be placed in the city library, but recently diligent search failed to discover it. Mr. Sproesser's resolutions states that it contains "opinions" and "reasons" of the commissioners "which might be of value to the courts in interpreting the charter." Messrs. Sproesser, Reinhart and Donnelly were appointed to hunt for the volume. The resolution is regarded as a dig at Mayor Hayes, whom some of the solons think should be able to produce that for which search is to be made. Mr. Donnelly, one of the mayor's friend, asked to be excused from serving on the committee of investigation, but his plea, was disregarded by President Gephart.

To Invited Editors

Through Mayor Hayes the council received a letter from the secretary of the Interstate Editorial Association intimating that the organization might hold its annual meeting in Baltimore next June if invited to do so. Messrs. Ford, Morgan, Venable and Hubert were appointed to consider the matter, with power to act. The mayor recommended that an official invitation be extended to the association.

Mr. Quick Tardy

The first branch received from Water Engineer Quick a reply to Dr. Sudler's resolution, calling upon him to furnish the council with a list of his employees. Mr. Quick stated that he would submit the roster as soon as possible. Many of the water department employees are Republicans. The scalps of these are greatly desired by the Democratic solons.

In reply to Mr. Preller's resolution Collector of Water Rents Shafer submitted to the council a detailed list of houses supplied with water by the city. Mr. Preller had intended to base an ordinance for the reduction of water rents upon this information, but owing to the near approach of final adjournment he will be unable to do so.

Other Matters

In the first branch Dr. Norris introduced an ordinance providing for the repaving of Carey Street from Lexington Street to Columbia Avenue, with Belgium blocks. The committee on city property made a favorable report upon the ordinance providing for the extension of Carroll Park. President Wilmer being ill, Mr. Frank presided in the second branch.