

Finding Aid to the Fargo N.D. City Council Meeting Minutes, 1875-1910

Johnson, Roy P.

Fargo City Council Meeting Minutes Index, 1875-1910

Collection number: Mss 42

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SCOPE AND CONTENT

This index to the meeting minutes of the Fargo City Council for the period of 1875 to 1910 was compiled by *Fargo Forum* reporter Roy P. Johnson in 1950. It was donated in 1983 to the Institute, part of a larger collection of Johnson papers. The original Fargo City Council minutes were deposited at the Institute in 1976 (Mss 42).

Johnson's original index was in card format, but placed into printed form by the Institute staff. Mr. Johnson's subject categories are retained and no attempt has been made to edit the individual entries. This index to the minutes is far from complete; rather it reflects Mr. Johnson's research interests at the time. Yet, the index does cover a great variety of subjects, particularly 'firsts,' controversial matters and the city's infrastructure. To search, browse the pertinent category. The entries are organized in chronological order within each topic. If a category contains numerous entries, use the Ctrl F command to search for a particular word or phrase within that document. Each entry begins with a specific topic followed by short comments and the pertinent date of the meeting minutes.

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AID TO DISTRESSED CITIES

Fargo aids sufferers of Johnstown, Pennsylvania flood that killed 2,200: On June 8, 1889, council appropriated \$350 to help. Council and citizens joined in sending Johnstown a carload of flour.

Funds for New Richmond, Wisconsin cyclone sufferers: On June 19, 1899, council appointed a committee to solicit.

New Richmond, Wisconsin cyclone: City council June 22, 1899, at request of Alderman Alex Stern, appropriated \$500 for those cyclone sufferers.

Edinburg, N.D., fire: On April 17, 1900, the council appropriated \$250 for the Edinburg, N.D., fire-sufferers.

San Francisco earthquake: City council on April 19, 1906, at request of President Lewis of Commercial Club, Col. Morton and others, appropriates \$1,000 for San Francisco sufferers, "remembering the splendid generosity of cities and towns of entire country to fire-swept Fargo."

Casselton fire: Must have been quite a fire there in latter July 1910. The council on August 1, 1910, approved the action of the Mayor and fire department in sending apparatus there.

BRIDGES

First talk of a new bridge across Red River: See council minutes October 31, 1881. See also special meeting November 11, 1881.

Committee named to pick site for "A Red River bridge": See minutes July 10, 1882. It finally developed into two bridges, Front St. and N.P. Ave.

First important meeting on bridges over Red River: Special meeting of October 26, 1882.

First discussion of a new bridge east end of Front Street.: Citizens were to subscribe \$10,000. See minutes February 5, 1883.

Eighth and Ninth Street bridges: Completed by county. See minutes May 7, 1883.

Piling for N.P. and Front St. bridges: It came by rail and steamboat. See minutes June 16, 1883.

Front Street bridge completed: Council got final estimate December 3, 1883. Minutes of December 3, 1883, indicate got final estimate then and planned to meet with Moorhead committee to inspect it.

Police to attend to swinging bridges for steamboats: Minutes September 7, 1885, indicate police were to attend to opening and closing of Red River bridges.

First N.P. Avenue bridge completed: Minutes of September 7, 1885, show this bridge was near completion on the date.

Slough Bridge dedicated to city: G.G. Beardsley did this June 6, 1887. It was described as being located on a part of the W1/2 of the NE1/4, Section 1, Township 139, Range 49.

Had to start South Side Bridge swinging again: Council on May 14, 1888, ordered approaches to South Bridge cut away so as to "allow this bridge to swing."

Still had drawbridges in 1891: Chief of police's monthly pay for tending bridges was increased from \$10 to \$25, on May 4, 1891.

Bridge across slough at foot of Second Ave.: Council decides May 4, 1891, to remove approach to it so as to make a proposed lake on the west side of Island Park.

Bridge to connect Fourth Street, Fargo, and Garroway Street, Moorhead: This was before council on December 2, 1891. Apparently nothing came of it, except eventually a footbridge.

Red River Bridge north of Fargo: First mention of it at council May 2, 1892. Council, in subsequent minutes, learned one could spend no money outside of city.

Beardsley Bridge across Big Slough condemned: This by council June 3, 1895.

North Broadway Bridge: Council on September 9, 1895, appropriated \$300 for bridge north of city at request of Alex Stern and J.W. Van Neida of Businessmen's Union.

Ninth St. ravine bridge: Council plans July 6, 1896, to fill ravine.

Seventh Avenue North Bridge over slough: Lots of material about this bridge beginning October 26, 1896, and continuing on. Includes controversy with Standard Oil Company over its use and finally removal of the span.

Bridge over river north of city mentioned: (This probably was the North Broadway road bridge.) Alderman Stern on September 21, 1896, told of proposal of P. Lamb to provide road through his pasture leading to the bridge if city would provide pasture fence. A number of references to this bridge about this time.

Bridge at foot of Broadway leading into park: Repair of this bridge discussed May 3, 1897.

Slough Bridge ordered torn down: On December 8, 1897, council ordered slough bridge "along G.N. tracks" torn down.

West Front Street Bridge trouble: On May 22, 1899, council meeting it developed "the bridge at the W. end of Front St. was unsafe, had been condemned. Travelers to and from west had to detour two miles either N. or S." County was asked to build "a bridge over the slough S. of the N.P. tracks."

Island Park footbridge: On August 7, 1899, the council refused to appropriate \$25 toward a footbridge across the Red River requested by G.J. Keeney.

First attempt to get Red River declared not navigable: Council resolution of January 4, 1904, asks Congress to act. The constant expense in maintaining drawbridges was too much.

CITY GOVERNMENT

Fargo created by territorial legislature: Date was January 5, 1875.

First Fargo election: Held April 5, 1875.

First Mayor: Captain George Egbert elected April 5, 1875. He defeated Patrick Devitt, 86-51.

Organization of Fargo city government: 'Was on April 12, 1875 at 2 p.m. in S.G. Roberts office. See minutes of that date.

First Fargo ordinances: Passed May 3, 1875.

J.B. Chapin takes offices as mayor first time: Declared elected May 4, 1880.

Hook and ladder company building for council meetings: Decided on by council May 4, 1880.

First ordinance on street railways: Passed November 1, 1880.

J.B. Chapin elected mayor: See minutes April 11, 1881.

Beginning of a city hall project: Voted May 18, 1881 to look for site for "calaboose (sic) council room and city clerk's office."

Lot bought for city building: On June 14, 1881 bought lots 19-20-21, Roberts Addition, for \$3,150. Size 93 x 140 feet.

J.B. Morse gave up all his rights in connection with the street railway: See minutes September 5, 1881.

New city hall: First meeting held there April 19, 1882.

How to get on and off a streetcar: Council asked city attorney to draw an ordinance July 3, 1882. It also was to regulate "obstructing of street car tracks."

First franchise for Fargo & Southern, Second Ave. N. right-of-way: See minutes of May 7, 1883. Franchise covered from western end of Second Avenue to Harwood Street.

Furniture for city hall and jail: Paid E.G. Ohmer \$284 for it June 19, 1883. This building evidently just built.

New city hall: Council on November 7, 1883 paid various bills for its construction.

Scotch capitalists buy Fargo bonds: See minutes November 26. 1883.

Council asks territorial legislature for a municipal court for Fargo: See minutes January 7, 1884.

Death of the horse-drawn street cars?: On May 5, 1884 a council committee reported on the removal of the street railway tracks. No subsequent reference, but see preceding.

City gets bill for damages to steamer *Grandin* and service from steamer *Pluck*: This bill was received September 1, 1884 "on account of failure to open the north side of bridge."

City refuses to pay claims of steamers *Grandin* and *Pluck*: On October 6, 1884 city attorney recommended this action. See previous minutes.

Fargo & Southern right of way on Second Avenue: Council considered repealing this franchise November 17, 1884. Referred to city attorney. Minutes of November 26, 1883 indicate the road was given the right-of-way.

Steamer *Grandin* and its barges: On January 6, 1885 council learned that these craft had been properly assessed in Traill County for 1884.

City charter: On January 6, 1885 city charter was declared inadequate. Plan another.

Fargo's new charter failed in legislature: See minutes March 16, 1885.

New school law in effect: Mention of it in council minutes April 7, 1885.

Fargo Street Railway Company: This company asked for a franchise September 6, 1886. It was granted on final passage October 14, 1886. Nothing seems to have come of it, as per subsequent minutes.

Fargo asks legislature to incorporate city: Council made this move January 25, 1887.

Fargo, Duluth and Black Hills railroad: Wanted right-of-way in Fargo March 3, 1887, planned to build into city within a year. Council said it would give right-of-way to any railroad that will build into city in a year.

Maj. A.W. Edwards elected mayor: Council canvassed vote April 8, 1887 and Maj. Edwards had been elected mayor.

Fargo under a new incorporation plan: Council canvassed vote April 20, 1887 that was 852 to 12 for incorporation. City had adopted it. The election apparently was April 18, 1887. Under this plan the mayor presided over council meetings, instead of council president. Edwards took the chair and began presiding. (Was the 1875 incorporation of a town, and this one in 1887 of a city?)

Ask steamboat owners to lower stacks: This was on July 6, 1887. Hoped they could pass under bridges without opening draw. Street and bridge funds of city about exhausted.

Manitoba Railroad threatens to move depot: Opposing opening of Cass Street, present (1950) Eighth St., over its track, on August 1, 1887, company said might move.

Aldermen drew lots for long and short terms: See minutes of April 17, 1888.

William Mackenzie of Dundee, Scotland: He apparently held some city bonds. See minutes July 6, 1888. Apparently a cablegram sent him July 2, 1888.

William O'Neill was in tax arrears: Doubt on his right to hold office as alderman expressed at council May 6, 1889.

Alderman O'Neill could he hold office or not: Long discussion of this point at council meeting July 1, 1889. See also previous minutes. Another alderman charged he had been.

Police ordered to spy on railroads: See how long they block crossings: This was ordered by council August 19, 1889 after agent Bates of Manitoba railroad said "Broadway crossing never been blocked over 5 minutes."

Effect of prohibition of Fargo: On March 24, 1890, Alderman Gearey said city would lose \$14,000 in license fees "in coming year" cannot pay more than \$2,500 for lighting city during year. Much controversy over lights revealed in minutes around here.

Tree trimming in residential district: Council got hot on this for first time July 6, 1891, threatened to do at owner's expense.

City finances bad: On September 14, 1891 mayor said he was against installing more streetlights. City cannot afford, he said. He objected to a light being put at Seventh and Front Street.

Electric street railway wants time extension: On November 2, 1891 this company wanted to change its proposed route and wanted until January 1, 1892 to complete line. Mr. Finney said line would be in operation by July 1, 1892.

J.H. Finney and J.W. Smith get street railway franchise: They got it October 19, 1891. See this and subsequent minutes. Line was to run from Front and Eighth streets to Grand Pacific hotel and back. Entire route shown there. This line probably never materialized. Reasons could be poor streets, weak bridges, or finances.

City financially embarrassed: On May 2, 1892 Alderman Schuyler said city can lay no more water mains due to its finances.

Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Waterway: First mention of it January 9, 1893. Council is asked by Duluth board of trade to support plan.

Completion of Great Northern Railway to Puget Sound: City council was asked April 10, 1893 to take part in the celebration June 7-8 1893, and to place a Fargo exhibit at St. Paul, etc.

City financially strapped: Council minutes August 9, 1893 show city funds \$5,000 overdrawn and mayor will sign no more warrants except salaries. This resulted from burden of 1893 fire.

Contract for city buildings after 1893 fire: Phillips and Bartlett got contract for \$7,700 on September 5, 1893.

First mention of unfair railroad rates: See minutes October 2, 1893.

New city building accepted by council: January 8, 1894 council approved this city hall, built to replace the one destroyed by 1893 fire.

Plans for a new city building: Presented to council May 11, 1896. City building was getting overcrowded. See preceding minutes.

Postpone construction of city building; bids too high: Five bids opened August 3, 1896 were from \$9,534 to \$10,150. All rejected.

Municipal court fines to go to school: City attorney ruled June 22, 1896 must go to school funds as before.

Judge W.H. Barnett found short in his accounts: Reported at council meeting August 31, 1896. He was ordered to remit balance. There is a further reference to this September 8, 1896.

First concerted action for legislative help for cities: Council hears reports from Alderman Hill of meetings in Fargo December 22, 1896 and December 30 1896 in Grand Forks of representatives of a number of N.D. cities to get together on wanted legislation.

Formation of Municipal League for North Dakota: Council hears January 11, 1897 of plans for such an organization meeting in Fargo October 19, 1897.

Failure of Citizens National Bank of Fargo hits city for \$16,000: Council heard of and discussed this development February 2, 1897. From this date on there are many references to it. It indicates final loss to city written off at something over \$4,000. The city treasurer's bonds became involved and there were protracted dealings with him over it, minutes show.

Committee on "retrenchments": City council and mayor voted for and established this committee on May 10, 1897, when the city was almost broke from 1897 flood expenses.

City about broke after 1897 flood: Council informed by city attorney July 6, 1897 that city about broke, could incur no further indebtedness. Street commissioner ordered to lay off men.

Fire city engineer, hire another: Act of the council June 8, 1897 and July 13, 1897 cover the removal of J.Tudor Groves and appointment of Samuel F. Grabbe.

New Northern Pacific depot: W.F. Ball, representing Northern Pacific, told council October 4, 1897 that Northern Pacific would build a new depot in spring. He got permission to erect a temporary building for a waiting room.

Important lawsuit directed against city: On January 10, 1898, two men, Rolph and Cadbury had started suit to test right of city to levy special taxes for paving. A number of references to this suit but not much of the fine detail. Council hired extra legal talent. Apparently city lost.

Free water for the improved Northern Pacific Park: On April 18, 1898 Northern Pacific showed city council plans for lawns, flowerbeds, lake, small fountain on grounds of new depot being built. Council authorized free water.

A street railway proposal that did not materialize: Street railway franchise ordinance failed of passage June 6, 1898. This was composed of a group including Johnson Wagner and Robert Clendenning, Moorhead; John W. Van Neida and John B. Lockhart, Fargo and associates. There seems to be no further reference to this outfit following June 6, 1898.

Benton Power and Traction Company: This company asked a street railway franchise May 22, 1899. On June 5, 1899, council got a report on this outfit that was filed and this apparently ended this venture.

New Great Northern freight depot: Being built May 12, 1902, says council minutes.

Beginning of the first electric street railway in Fargo: On August 11, 1902 the council received and filed the acceptance of M.E. McDonald, George H. Rice, R.H. Patterson and F.E. Donnelly of the city's franchise ordinance granted June 11, 1902. (There are many previous franchises, which did not materialize into construction.)

Bridge for Fargo-Moorhead city street railway: Meetings of October 20, 1902 and November 5, 1902 refer to work of Fargo-Moorhead committees on this project.

Name of street railway company: First mention of the line as the "Fargo and Moorhead Street Railway Company" shown in minutes of November 26, 1902. Ordinance amendment that date gives to November 1, 1903, for completion of line.

Wooden approaches on Northern Pacific bridge being replaced by metal: On April 8, 1903 council authorized sale of wooden material on approach to N.P. Ave. bridge that was being replaced. This evidently was for the purpose of strengthening bridge for street railway crossing.

Extension of time for completion of Fargo-Moorhead street railway: Council granted the extension July 27, 1903 on request of F. B. Morrill representing the company (McDonald, Rice, Patterson and Donnelly were line owners.)

Stop giving city police court fines to board of education: This was ordered stopped by the council on September 29, 1903.

Transfer of street railway franchise: Frank W. Larned, president of Fargo and Moorhead Street Railway company notifies council of transfer of franchise from the original grantees to the Fargo and Moorhead Street Railway Company, October 15, 1903. So many street railway franchises were granted (none of which materialized into actual construction) that a special study of council minutes we have will be needed to clarify. They date far back. On November 6, 1903 Attorney Morrill and Mr. Sickler, secretary of Fargo and Moorhead Street Railway company explained to council the delay in starting operations for construction of plant. The council that date approved the extension of time and made final passage of it November 10, 1903.

Controversy over wooden poles for trolley wires: Many references to it during this period April 19, 1904 council minutes for instance.

Route changes on Street railway: Many references for changes pro and con beginning with minutes of April 19, 1904.

Automobiles appear on scene: First reading of an ordinance to regulate speed of automobiles and motorcycles was read July 6, 1904. However there is an earlier ordinance on automobiles only, April 29, 1903, first reading.

Street railway to agricultural college, Moorhead Normal School: Final passage September 12, 1904 amending street railway ordinance to extend lines to colleges.

Street railway waiting station: January 3, 1905 council grants Fargo and Moorhead Street Railway Company permission to erect a waiting station on south side of N.P. Ave., just east of Broadway.

Motorcycle speed regulation: First reading resolution June 5, 1905.

First attempt to regulate streetcar operations: Resolutions June 12, 1905: Attempts to make streetcars stop at certain corners so passengers can use rear platform for entrance or exit.

Turnout for streetcars on Broadway: Council approves plans for one in N.P. Ave. vicinity June 12, 1905. Details given.

Regulate conduct of streetcar passengers: Final reading of conduct ordinance June 12, 1905.

New city hall: Contract for its construction was let to Schlanser & Ostbye for \$17, 251 on October 16, 1905. There were several city halls, as subsequent leads will go. One was burned in 1893 fire. The reason for a new city hall - lack of space - is closed in previous minutes running some time back.

Streetcars extended to fairgrounds: On June 1, 1906, the council gave first reading to amendment of streetcar franchise to permit extension to fairgrounds.

Deaths of ex-mayors Egbert and Seth Newman: On August 27, 1906 the council appointed Aldermen Emery, Lewis, Van Horn and Marsh to draw appropriate resolutions in connection with “recent” deaths of these two ex-mayors. The resolutions were adopted September 12, 1906 and state “George Egbert who died in Portland Oregon recently.”

New Great Northern depot: On October 15, 1906 the council heard of plans for a new Great Northern depot but it is not certain from the minutes whether it was for freight or passengers.

Citizens National Bank failure: On February 18, 1907 the city “wrote off” \$4,791 as a loss, affairs of this bank having been closed up. There will be one or more earlier referenced to this bank failure, which will be included as I come to them.

City buildings moved: Council on June 12, 1907 ordered all city structures except water pumping station moved out of Island Park. Previous council minutes indicate these probably included superintendent’s residence.

First city commission form of government election: It was held July 22, 1909 and the city commission plan was turned down 967 to 868.

Great Northern Surrey line: The city council on June 6, 1910 finally passed a right-of-way ordinance giving the Great Northern a route through Beardsley’s addition for its Surrey line.

Automobile speeding: Must have been some trouble around June 13, 1910 when the council ordered 10 miles per hour speed at intersections.

First trouble with automobile speeders: Must have been around July 22, 1910 when the council authorized hiring of an auto and a driver for use as “either the mayor or police” in enforcing the auto speed limit.

ELECTRICITY AND LIGHT, ETC.

First kerosene street lamps for Fargo: Minutes of December 5, 1879, authorized Mayor George Egbert to pay Cass Lamp Works bill of \$44.

Police ordered to care for oil street lights: On June 14, 1881, “day police authorized to put the street lamps in good order and purchase a barrel of oil and the night police instructed to light the lamps at night and extinguish them in the morning.”

Gas Light and Fuel Co.: Mr. Bowman sent communication to council October 7, 1881, “relaying and establishing a gas light and fuel company.”

Fargo Electric Light and Power Co. given franchise: See minutes November 7, 1881.

Fargo’s first electric lighting tower: Passed ordinance November 7, 1881, giving franchise to Fargo Electric Light and Power Company for 1 or more towers, about 150 feet high, light on top, 20,000 candlepower, of sufficient strength to read coarse print a distance of two miles from tower. To cost \$275 per year.

Fargo Electric and Power Co. given street lighting contract: This was on October 1, 1883.

First talk of streetlights on poles: See minutes of October 5, 1883.

Lighting tower destroyed: Minutes of August 18, 1885, tell of “the lighting tower being destroyed.” Apparently this was the first tower and it was not until 1886 that the city expanded to two towers. See minutes of January 13, 1886. Another earlier reference to destruction of first tower in minutes of August 3, 1885. That would indicate it was destroyed previous to August 3, 1885.

Temporary lights before Manitoba and courthouse towers completed: Rufus E. Fleming of light company authorized to put 12 temporary lights in city until tower that was destroyed is replaced.

Lighting towers - “Street Lights” - completed at Manitoba depot and County (Cass) Courthouse: Minutes January 13, 1886, show them completed that date. See previous and following minutes. They were 125 feet in height.

Electric Light Company in receivership: On June 8, 1886, council informed of this. Committee reported company couldn’t put up additional lights, could only partially service.

Fargo’s streetlights were occasionally dim: See council minutes November 10, 1886, and before and after. Council said it might discontinue use of electricity.

Fargo Gas Light and Coke Company: Was given electric tower lighting contract March 29, 1887. See minutes preceding. This was about time Fargo was getting ready to put up a third tower. It has 2. The gaslight and coke co. were to pay half of cost of third tower.

Building of the light tower at Broadway and Northern Pacific tracks: On July 6, 1887, council paid Morris & Russell \$105 for building a foundation for it.

Fargo Incandescent Electric Light Company given franchise: This was on May 7, 1888. V. S. Stone was president of company; E.S. Tyler, secretary.

Fargo Incandescent Light Company gets permission to erect building: Authorized June 28, 1888. Was to be on lot 15, block A2, N.P. Second addition. Details given in minutes.

First incandescent lights for city: On February 4, 1889, council authorized contract with Fargo Incandescent Light Company for 18 lights for city.

Fargo Gas and Electric Company comes into existence: See minutes of March 25, 1889. It got franchises of Fargo Gas Light and Fuel Company, Fargo Electric Light and Power Company, Fargo Gas Light and Coke Company and Fargo Incandescent Light Company.

First talk of suspended streetlights: It was on May 6, 1889, at council meeting after the big storm of that day, which hit the light towers hard.

Fargo Gas Light and Coke Company: On September 9, 1889, this company mentioned in minutes. Council's annual 'city appropriation was to include \$5,500 for lighting city to go to this firm. It probably was an early name of what later became Fargo Gas and Electric Co.

Fargo's light towers ordered torn down after destruction by tornado: On July 7, 1890, council authorized the towers razed.

Experiment with electric lights: On July 21, 1890, council authorized 4 lights in various parts of city for "experiments in lighting city."

Wooden masts for arc lights: These were authorized for first time on August 4, 1890.

Fargo's first "suspended" arc lights: Contract for them approved with Fargo Gas and Electric Co., on August 19, 1890. This was a five-year contract. Minutes before and after this have lots of detail.

Final disposition of Fargo's street lighting towers: Sold for scrap to Mr. Johnson at \$6 per ton. This authorized by council March 7, 1892.

Raising of height of arc lights on streets: On January 9, 1893, the Fargo Gas and Electric Company was given until June 1, 1893 to get arc lights raised higher on poles, arms.

Electric plant franchise for W.F. Ball and John S. Watson: Was granted by city council, February 27, 1893. Were given street lighting franchise the same date.

First city electrician: William Mangold hired November 9, 1894 to care for fire alarm system which city was buying from Mutual Telephone Company. (Mutual had operated this system for city on lease basis for some time).

Hughes Electric Company: On June 20, 1898, Alexander Hughes and Edmond A. Hughes got an electricity franchise. "Gen." Hughes of Bismarck first asked council for it September 7, 1897. There are a number of references to Hughes Electric from this point on. Hughes Electric subsequently became Fargo-Edison Co., and later merged with Fargo Gas and Electric to become Union Light.

Incandescent enclosed arc lights: First mention of this type was November 21, 1898 when Hughes Electric proffered them to city. Subsequent minutes indicate they were adopted, at least in part.

Struggle between two electric companies to get city street lighting contract: On November 28, 1898, the two companies, Hughes Electric and Fargo Gas and Electric were asked to put up "incandescent enclosed arc light lamps" on Second Ave. N, a block apart (one at Eighth Street, one at Ninth Street), as a test proposition, so council could see which was best.

Fargo-Edison Company: On April 4, 1900, promoters of this concern are listed as Alexander M. Robertson, William A. Duret, Eugene A. Morrill, Alexander Hughes, Edmond A. Hughes and George A. Hughes.

Important N.D. Supreme Court decision: Special meeting of council April 27, 1901, in reference to decision by court that declared electric light contract between city and Fargo Gas & Electric Company as null and void. Vote to call for bids for lighting.

Fargo-Edison Company gets street lighting contract: Awarded May 9, 1901. (John S. Watson was president of Fargo-Edison Co. O.G. Barnes, manager of Fargo Gas and Electric Co.) Began service 12:01 a.m. July 1, 1901. (Fargo Gas & Electric probably continued to serve homes).

City adopts mast-arm electric street light system: Adopted by council June 3, 1901, after trip to Twin Cities by committee.

Gasoline street lights placed on exhibition in Fargo: Alderman Coshun told council on August 5, 1901, he had allowed American Development Co. to set up six in fifth ward "to exhibit their system."

Union Light, Heat & Power Co. formed: Council approved merger and transfer of franchises of Fargo-Edison Company and Fargo Gas and Electric Company on August 14, 1902.

Electricians: The first ordinance regulating electricians, first reading, June 2, 1903.

Electric batteries for police bulls-eyes: Council on July 5, 1904, authorized purchase of batteries. This seems to be first reference to the counterpart of the modern flashlight.

Oil lamps for election place: The city council authorized purchase of two oil lamps for the Sixth Ward, First precinct polling place July 18, 1904.

Otter Tail Power Company electricity: This company proposed to build a line and supply Fargo March 8, 1909, at the time Fargo was bickering with Union Light and considering a municipal plant.

Fargo's first white way system: On December 5, 1910, the council ordered the Union Light, Heat & Power Co., to discontinue arc lights where the white way system "is now in use." The Union Light people first proposed "a new system of street lights" June 25, 1906. Many business firms and individuals asked the council May 1, 1910, to install it in business district... and there are a number of references to it from 1906 on until its installation.

Municipal electric plant: During 1910-1911 this was a hot issue. Some aldermen resigned over the controversy. Voters approved a municipal plant by okaying \$35,000 in bonds for it, 460 to 253 votes at what must have been a lively election held July 5, 1910. Somewhere along the line the plant never materialized.

FIRES AND FIRE PROTECTION

First Fargo fire wardens: L.S. Cornwall and Barney Griffin appointed April 15, 1875.

Fargo Pioneer fire committee or company: Its services were noted in minutes of November 19, 1877. Bought a hook and ladder outfit for \$475 on the same date.

The fire of January 1880: Resulted in demand January 22, 1880, for organization of a fire department.

Organization of a fire department: Communications asked it January 22, 1880, following a fire in the month.

New fire bell arrives: Reported June 21, 1881. Built bell tower, set up a system of bell signals.

First paid firemen: Could have been John Peterson and Henry Newland who were hired "to work under chief engineer" on November 26, 1883.

Fire department reported in bad shape: See minutes of November 26, 1883.

Yerxa Hose Company formed: See council minutes of December 13, 1883.

Fire alarm system: This was first one. Was reported working okay following installation, fire committee reported February 13, 1884. Mutual Telephone company installed it and provided the service at a rental fee.

Fargo's bell tower: On February 2, 1885, Robertson Bros. was paid \$36.58 for material for the bell tower.

Yerxa Hose Company peevied: This company on July 7, 1886, resigned "as part of the fire dept." Any connection between this and action of council January 8, 1887, to look for a team or teams of fire horses?

City's first fire horses: They were bought some time between April 11, 1887, when a committee was appointed to seek them, and February 6, 1888 when the first bill for oats for fire dept. was approved.

(Was one of these horses named "Mage" in honor of Major A.W. Edwards, mayor at the time?) Previous minutes indicate purchase of horses before this for \$400 but Mayor Edwards vetoed payment of the bill.

History of Fargo's fire companies: Something on this in minutes of August 6, 1888.

First horse hose wagon: Council authorized purchase of it for Yerxa Hose Company March 4, 1889.

Hose tower for firemen: First one probably was built about time March 3, 1890, when city council approved bill for it.

City offered fire alarm system: A.B. Cuptill of the Mutual Telephone Company offered it to the city April 6, 1891, for \$4,500.

Moorhead firemen feted: First mention of this. Council was invited February 4, 1891, to attend the reception and banquet the Fargo fire department was planning February 9, 1891, at the Columbia hotel for Moorhead firemen.

Continental have party: Council was invited to their reception and ball at armory October 19, 1891.

Even before fire council tried to keep wooden buildings out of fire limits: See minutes May 11, 1892.

Volunteer firemen and Porritt block fire: On April 8, 1893, council paid a great number of volunteer firemen for services in February and March.

Pay men to open Fargo city safe after 1893 fire: On August 7, 1893, S. S. Graham paid \$12 for this job. Subsequent minutes indicate how city records, council minutes were charred, damaged, and how man was hired to transcribe minutes.

Fire of 1893: Beginning with special council meeting June 8, 1893, following minutes for year or more tell highlights of the big fire, how it brought after "incombustible" sidewalks, stricter building inspection, paved streets, grading of street levels, etc. In writing this story the minutes should be studied carefully. By checking backward, a story of controversy in fire dept. is shown. It also reveals fact city officials realized fire hazards in city and did various things to correct prior to the fire. What was done with fire debris is shown in minutes June 12, 1893.

Fire companies placed in one single building first time: Minutes of October 16, 1893, indicate Yerxes admitted into new city building. There had been a front at hose house prior to 1893 fire.

Horses killed in 1893 fire: John Mosher on October 2, 1893, filed claim for \$280 for horses destroyed.

Fireman W. H. Johnson died of injuries received in 1893 fire: Council was informed December 4, 1893, through funeral expense bill submitted by Rescue Hook and Ladder Company.

Firemen's parade of June 13, 1894: Council was invited June 4, 1894, to participate in it.

Fire bell: On August 6, 1894, city purchased a new bell for fire tower from the Buckeye Bell Foundry.

L.G. Crocker appointed first driver for first hook and ladder wagon: See minutes of January 21, 1895 and February 7, 1895.

Hook and ladder wagon trouble: Minutes of August 5, 1895, tell of Nott company providing new springs for truck they sold city for \$987. Previous minutes tell lot about the problems involved with this first hook and ladder wagon. Goes back about 6 months or so.

City buys Mutual Telephone Co. fire alarm system that had served city for some years: Final payment made to Mutual November 4, 1895.

Accident to continental hose cart and driver: Report on heard by city council August 3, 1896. This led to insurance for drivers. See subsequent minutes.

Insurance for fire department drivers: Was voted September 29, 1896, on condition drivers carry a like amount on their own.

Eclipse lanterns for fire department: Four ordered purchased also cellar pipe (or pike?) on September 21, 1897.

Chief Best of police department disabled: Was reported to council on January 3, 1898. Agreed to keep paying his salary.

Helmets for fire department: First reference to helmets seems to be May 2, 1898, when council authorized purchase of 18 of them.

Columbia Hotel fire ruins: Were reported in dangerous condition September 21, 1898, walls tottering, etc.

Landing mats for fire department: First reference to this on February 6, 1899, when the council authorized department to buy 2 "landing mats."

Chimney sweep regulation: Chimney sweep ordinance adopted February 6, 1899.

Electric driven fire engine: Hughes Electric told council March 6, 1899, they would soon be able to furnish city such an apparatus but subsequent minutes reveal nothing more on it.

City appropriation for Fargo fire festival: On April 17, 1899, council appropriated \$1,000 for this festival.

Fire engine: Mayor reported May 1, 1899, that at a recent fire, the water pressure was inadequate and he had secured free use of a Silsby fire engine from Mr. Wright of the Buffalo-Pitts Co., until council decided, and had hired John Thompson at \$2.50 per day as engineer. The council approved Thompson for 30 days.

Permanent Fargo fire festival committee: Created by council January 2, 1900.

Fire whistle: On March 15, 1900, council voted to improve fire whistle. This is first mention of a whistle in minutes. It probably was on water works steam pumping plant.

Webster block fire: Council on May 17, 1900, asked debris be removed from Webster block site, destroyed by fire recently.

Fire underwriters yammer for better fire protection: Ask council September 3, 1900, for enlargement, extension water mains, larger river intake. (The intake was built, subsequent minutes show.) This followed the Webster block fire as referred to in minutes of May 17, 1900.

Chemical fire engines: Fire chiefs ask council December 6, 1900, for an "additional" chemical engine. This seems to be first reference to chemical engines.

Wallace G. Rice appointed fire chief: By council July 9, 1902.

Volunteer firemen paid for Porritt block fire work: Bills allowed October 20, 1902.

First Siamese nozzle for fire department: Purchase authorized by council November 5, 1902, after Porritt block fire.

Edwards block fire and bigger water main: On January 12, 1903, council calls for bids on 10-inch water main. Same date asks that debris be cleaned up after Edwards block fire.

Check fire equipment of other cities: Council orders mayor, water works superintendent to check facilities in Twin cities January 12, 1903, following the Porritt block fire.

H. Kane removed by mayor as assistant fire chief: This was January 21, 1903 that it was reported to the council, and followed the Edwards block fire.

Northern Pacific furnishes special train to bring fire equipment free from Casselton to Fargo to help fight Edwards block fire: On February 2, 1903 council thanked Northern Pacific for this aid.

Change system of appointing fire chief: This followed the Edwards block fire; first reading of ordinance February 5, 1903.

First fire engine in Fargo: Mayor rented one from W. S. Nott Co., he reported to council February 13, 1903, and January 21, 1903. This followed Edwards Block fire.

James W. Sutherland appointed fire chief: This was done March 2, 1903 after resignation of W. G. Rice following Edwards Block fire.

W.G. Rice resigns as fire chief: This was at council meeting March 2, 1903 and followed Edwards block fire. Rice was thanked by council for faithful, conscientious service. (Note: Rice is still in Fargo, is active, has promised to tell us story of 1893 fire. He was about 17 and joined fire department in 1893.)

Mayor demands better fire protection: On November 19, 1903, the mayor, after Edwards block fire, demanded immediate attention on this problem and council voted to advertise for bids for a high duty water works pumping engine.

Fire escapes for hotels, opera house: Mayor on January 4, 1904 demanded better fire escape facilities for hotels, opera house. This followed the disastrous Porritt and Edwards Block fires.

Better fire protection asked by Commercial Club: This was on January 12, 1904 and followed the disastrous Porritt and Edwards Block fires.

Liquor, cards barred in fire hall: By ordinance amendment this was done July 18, 1904.

Gamewell fire alarm system: City council made final payment on it January 2, 1906. Previous council minutes indicate the city for years had fire alarm boxes maintained by the Mutual Telephone Co., and bought by the city in 1893 just before the big fire.

Two firemen killed in fire: Firemen William White and George W. Hartman were killed at J. I. Case fire November 18, 1907. The council started raising funds at once for Hartman's family, made plans to attend the funerals in a body.

Fire station no.2 on south side: The council bought a site on lot 4, block 9, original townsite, for \$2,850 on March 15, 1909. Fargo construction company got contract for new fire house for \$14,900 on November 1, 1909. Building of station closely followed the J. I. Case fire and there may be some connection. (The fire was November 18, 1907 and at next council meeting December 2, 1907, the council made plans to seek a site for a firehouse on the "south side.")

First aerial fire wagon: The city council approved its purchase October 26, 1909 from the American LaPrance Co.

FLOODS

Flood of 1882: Minutes of April 10, 1882 refer to "high water" and electric company ordered to turn out lights at 10 p.m.

Flood of 1882: See minutes of April 6, 1882. High water had put water works out of commission. City realized way back in 1883 what would happen in the 1897 flood: On August 6, 1883, minutes show city engineer reported the danger posed from Northern Pacific Railway filling their track across the slough west of the railroad shops. Council asked him to warn railroad.

Flood of 1897: City council minutes from April 5, 1897 on have many references. When this flood story is written these minutes should be studied carefully. It tells the story of the destruction of the cedar block pavement and what was done about that, about water contamination, the special train with fire equipment from St. Paul, how high water affected a polling place, etc.

Major Edwards demands city replace his sidewalk destroyed in 1897 flood: He sent a communication August 30, 1897. Details in our excerpts.

Fourth ward 1897 flood damage: City auditor reported November 15, 1897 that it was \$6,422. Council decided to bill Northern Pacific railway that it held responsible for this south side damage owing to slough plugging along right-of-way Front St.

Northern Pacific Railway blamed for damage on Fargo's south side in 1897 flood: On February 7, 1898 council authorized suit to collect \$6,400. Preceding minutes indicate council contended that blocking of slough on Front St. by the railroad caused the Sheyenne River water to inundate south side. Various references to this after the flood and up to February 7, 1898, but no indication after that date what happened to suit.

HEALTH

First board of health: Was formed May 6, 1880. Members were Charles Sweatt, J.R. McLaughlin and J.J. Shotwell. (J.B. Hall refused to serve on it.)

Smallpox epidemic: On November 24, 1881 council approved acts of Mayor Chapin in securing hospital for smallpox patients. Voted to have Drs. Sherlock and Darrow vaccinate and to bar people from smallpox districts coming into city, etc.

Smallpox: Council had petition from Fargo Medical Society February 7, 1882 on this disease. Also had one from Fargo Rending (sic) Co., regarding dead animal removal.

Smallpox epidemic: Dr. Darrow paid \$50 on May 1, 1882 for vaccinating.

Smallpox epidemic: There must have been one in February 1883. On February 5, 1883 Mayor Kindred was given authority to set up a hospital, burn clothing, force doctors to report cases, etc.

See council minutes February 5, 1883. Dr. Darrow appointed city health officer.

Smallpox: Council got bill April 9, 1883 from B. Schmidt for damage to goods and house in smallpox cases.

First dump ground: See minutes June 16, 1883.

First city scavenger: Barney Hagan was appointed May 24, 1883.

Smallpox: On July 2, 1883 council paid M.R. Knowles \$17.50 for groceries for "smallpox house."

Diphtheria and scarlet fever outbreak: Council pays pest house bills. Minutes December 3, 1883.

Mr. Kedney's pest house: He presented his claim July 7, 1884 for use of his house as a smallpox hospital.

Fargo's first milk ordinance filed: It was introduced by council November 10, 1886 at request of milk dealers and was rejected by council December 6, 1886. No reasons indicated here.

Mrs. Dick at northwest corner of Standard Oil Works; offers to sell her house for pest house for \$275: Reported to council September 19, 1892. Minutes indicate not purchased.

Scarlet fever: Cases in city, council was told November 14, 1892. Pest house recommended.

County hospital: Council January 6, 1896 voted pay \$1,000 for all of block 35 Roberts Second addition, and turn over to county for a hospital.

Smallpox epidemic: There must have been one around June 1901. On June 3, 1901 council got report from health officer with a list of patients treated at the "quarantine building." In the May 9, 1901 minutes is a reference to "the smallpox epidemic of the spring of 1901." These minutes indicate \$1,500 spent on it, city had to borrow money to pay bills.

Tobacco juice on sidewalks: First anti-spitting ordinance given first reading August 5, 1901.

Epidemic: There apparently was an epidemic, possibly smallpox, at this period. Council was informed October 15, 1902 that the city hack was being used to haul patients to the detention hospital. On same date mayor appointed committee of five to look into adequate water supply for city.

Diseased, impure milk: September 11, 1905; first reading of milk ordinance.

Milk ordinance: It was finally passed November 20, 1905 and J. W. Dunham was appointed milk inspector December 4, 1905. Preceding minutes indicate this grew out of an epidemic of smallpox and other diseases. Way back in the minutes, years before, an ordinance regulating milk fell by the wayside by the protest route. It will be referred to later.

Fumigation of hospital wagon: Regular fumigation of it ordered February 6, 1906. Also provide barn for it.

Meat inspection: First reading of a meat inspection ordinance was on May 7, 1906. On July 2, 1906 J.W. Dunham was appointed city meat inspector.

Detention hospital contract: Was awarded (or ratified as to bid) to C. H. Johnson & Co., for \$15,429 on May 9, 1910.

Detention hospital: Fargo has had a number of detention hospitals all resulting from various epidemics. Apparently the present building was authorized by a vote of 388 to 99 on October 11, 1910. Throughout the council minutes there are various references to detention hospitals.

INSTITUTIONS

The beginning of the move to get agricultural college into Fargo: On December 12, 1889 council endorsed bill of J.E. Haggart for issuance of bonds for building agricultural college in Fargo.

Congregational College: Mentioned in minutes of January 6, 1890 with reference to a sewer.

Agricultural College comes to Fargo: On October 5, 1891 P. McKenna and J. Lowell asks a water main for agricultural college "if the bond issue carries." More about this subsequent minutes. Apparently Fargo had been chosen by legislature as site, but it required a bond election to pay for construction of the school.

Reverend Collins: He came before council January 5, 1891 to ask for a street light at Sixth Ave. and Ninth Street N. Had a Catholic church there

Methodist Church: Council grants permit for it on lots 23-24 Roberts Addition, October 3, 1892.

Keeley Institute for Fargo: On April 18, 1893 T. Y. Stevenson, Sioux Falls, told council plans to establish Keeley Institute in Fargo.

Children's Home Society: First mention of this organization May 21, 1894. Council heard a request balance of fire relief fund be given society. (Later the society built the North Dakota Children's Home.)

Hospital of Miss Jennie Corbett: Minutes of October 26, 1896 and November 2, 1896 tell of her hospital project and why did it not materialize.

Catholic Seminary: On February 7, 1898 Catholic seminary on North Broadway was reported in arrears for water. Council voted to give all schools, colleges and educational institutions free water.

Crittenden Home: Must have been under construction around about August 26, 1898, at which time the home asked for a sewer.

Masonic Temple cornerstone laying: On June 5, 1899 the council got an invitation to attend this ceremony.

Catholic cathedral: Must have been under construction around about July 7, 1899, on which date the council learned that the sidewalks about the cathedral were out of line. They were ordered re-laid.

Old Catholic church abandoned: Father Lemeaux asks council December 4, 1899 to move street light from old site on Seventh Avenue North to a point on avenue near new cathedral.

St. John's Hospital established: Probably was being constructed on or about April 17, 1900 when Reverend Thomas Egan asked the council for free water for St. John's which was approved.

Founding of children's home in Fargo: Mrs. T.R. Sloan appeared June 18, 1900 to ask city to furnish water and sewer to a "children's home now being erected on Tenth Street S.

Catholic orphanage: This is one of first references to it. Council approves free water for it October 3, 1904.

St. Luke's Hospital: Was it being built around July 5, 1910? At least on that date they asked the council for vacation of an alley at the rear of their building. This is the only mention of St. Luke's Hospital found in the minutes between 1875 and 1911.

Associated charities: This organization appears for the first time in the city council minutes August 1, 1910, when they asked for and were denied quarters in city hall, which had no spare space. Was this the forerunner of the Community Welfare Association?

Sacred Heart Academy: Must have been in process of construction around September 14, 1910, at which time they asked the council for water.

Fargo College library: Probably being built around December 5, 1910, at which time request was made of city council for some public utility or other.

MILITARY (FARGO CONNECTIONS)

Company B target range: Captain Grafton on August 7, 1893 asked council for help in establishing one.

Captain Grafton gets pay for guardsmen who worked at 1893 fire: See council minutes February 19, 1894.

G.A.R. commander-in-chief in city: On May 4, 1885 council was invited to attend ceremonies in his honor on Decoration Day.

Generals Alger, Siegels, Siekels, Siegals and others visit city in September, 1896: Captain Parker of G.A.R. asks council September 21, 1896 to meet them when they arrive in city "Saturday."

Camp Briggs: On April 30, 1898, at a special meeting with reference to mobilization of troops for the Spanish-American War, Mr. Pool appeared for governor, and council designed a spot in Huntington addition for a camp and agreed to lay 1 1/2 inch surface pipe for water from nearest main.

Monument for Spanish-American War dead: On April 17, 1899 a committee of two aldermen, three citizens was appointed to consider a monument to soldiers and sailors who fell in the late war. (This probably resulted in the statue in Island Park.)

Efforts to bring Company B home from San Francisco: On July 17, 1899, the council asked the governor to use state funds, or borrow, to transport the troops home "after muster out at San Francisco." Council was informed that a public meeting had been held in city August 5, 1899 on the matter of raising funds. On September 11, 1899 at request of chairman Worst of executive committee for reception committee for Company B, the council appropriated \$400 toward that event. On August 14, 1899 police magistrate Gearey (interested in Company B) got a thirty-day leave of absence.

Spanish War cannon: Council on September 11, 1899 asks governor to requisition war department for one for Fargo. Want it in Fargo by September 30, 1899 at latest.

Spanish-American War cannon obtained for Fargo: Mayor Johnson tells of communication from Congressman Spalding, cannon to be shipped from Seattle, Northern Pacific Railroad will transport free if put in N.P. Park. Council approves.

Gun carriage for Spanish-American War cannon: On May 17, 1900, council authorized \$92 to build a carriage for the Spanish-American War cannons in N.P. Park.

Armory building: On January 4, 1904 council consented to erection of an armory for Company B, First North Dakota National Guard on lots being a part of what was originally block 19, original townsite.

ODDITIES

Fargo's first official paper: *Northern Pacific Mirror*. Named April 15, 1875.

First city council resolution created N.P. Avenue: That was May 3, 1875. It was from Broadway to Case (sic) St.

First orders to enforce liquor ordinance: Issued by council to city attorney July 10, 1875. The license fee, first set at \$100, was cut to \$50 on August 10, 1875 or 1876.

E.B. Chambers, editor of *Fargo Times*, mentioned: Council was informed he resigned from school board. This was on July 6, 1880. (Did he go to government printing office job in Washington at this time?)

Addition to *Fargo Republican* office: C.W. Darling got a permit for it, a wooden building, August 2, 1880.

Ask Northern Pacific Railroad for flagman at Sixth Street (Broadway?): See minutes October 4, 1880. Council asked red flag by day, red light at night.

George Holes appointed police chief by Mayor Chapin: Minutes of April 11, 1881.

Ask Manitoba Railway to put a flagman at Broadway crossing: May 2, 1881.

Reinstatement of Mr. Holes as chief of police: Was asked of council May 18, 1881 in a communication. No further details. Next mention of chief of police is April 22, 1882 when J.M. Bartley appointed.

Coffin of policeman Alderman: City paid Luger Furniture Company \$60 for it July 11, 1882. Council attended funeral in body at 2:00 p.m. on July 7, 1882.

Gambling: Ordered stopped in city November 5, 1882.

City looks for a slaughterhouse site: See minutes of November 5, 1882.

Chapin resigns as alderman: He resigned March 15, 1883 effective April 2, 1883. What was significance of this?

Flat Iron Block: On June 4, 1883, council asked investigation of dangerous condition “about the Flat Iron Block.”

Will proposed Gas Works be a nuisance: Council asked board of health June 16, 1883 to look into this.

Attorney McCraw: He complained of taxes July 9, 1883. There is no mention here, of course, of the McCraw romantic scandal.

Barbed wire: This must have come to Fargo for about the first time after its development on or about November 6, 1882, as the council passed an ordinance barring it from city. Someone might have been hurt by it on the basis of the council resolution.

Barbed wire prohibited in city: See minutes of November 6, 1882.

Ask saloons be closed on Sundays: On May 5, 1884, the council asked the mayor to have the police chief close them on Sunday.

Body in Red River: On September 1, 1884, James Jardine’s bill for searching for a body in the Red River was referred back.

Druggists and liquor: First ordinance regulating druggists’ sale of liquor passed September 1, 1884.

Front Street gambling house: On October 6, 1884 council was asked by second ward residents to suppress this gambling house.

Patent fire extinguisher: Council on December 8, 1884 referred a patent fire extinguisher proposal to a committee. First and only mention of this.

City hires a young lady to do some typewriting: This is first reference to a typewriter in city council minutes. On March 16, 1885, Mary Hayden was paid \$32.25 for typewriter work on new city charter.

Funeral of General U.S. Grant: Council declined August 3, 1885 to grant \$200, asked by Colonel Gearey, toward expenses for services on day of funeral of General Grant.

Fargo Sun “too small”: *Sun* had gone into a smaller sized page. Council dropped it as official paper September 14, 1885. Called it “useless as advertising medium.” W.H. Matteson was publisher.

Employment of girls in beer gardens and saloons: Was barred in ordinance given first reading October 5, 1885.

Weighing of coal and hay: First ordinance on this introduced October 11, 1885.

C.A. Roberts, his proposal to dig for gas within Fargo: He informed Fargo Gas Company and got a franchise May 3, 1886: See minutes before and after. Nothing seems to have come of this.

Knights of Labor: First mention of this group is in minutes of July 7, 1886. They objected to council against use of prisoners for street work.

Toboggan slide: First mention of a toboggan slide in minutes of November 10, 1886. Council gave Robinson Brothers permission to build one across and over Seventh Street near intersection of Jefferson Avenue.

Saloon closed on Sundays: Council on December 6, 1886 ordered the law enforced. Petitions with 191 signers forced action.

Fargo’s poor and indigent: The mayor was authorized January 25, 1887 to hire a person to care for indigent and poor. The person would receive and distribute contributions. This appears first step of this kind in the minutes 1875-1911.

Mayor Edwards has trouble with his council: He had spent \$413 to hire a detective named John O’Brien to do some investigating for him. Council persisted in refusing to pay bill. See various minutes beginning about November 9, 1887. Reason for detective not given.

Citizens threatened with paint pots: Council voted November 9, 1887 that unless they put numbers on their houses the city would send men with paint pots to do it.

Mayor Edwards hired detective “to investigate certain city officers”: See minutes of November 9, 1887. This paragraph amplifies paragraph on Mayor Edwards and Detective O’Brien. Many lack of quorums while Edwards was mayor.

Oats for fire department: First mentioned minutes of February 6, 1888. Paid J.C. McKendry \$10.78 for oats.

First horseshoeing for fire department: On March 7, 1888 paid J.L. Otterson \$1.25 for shoeing.

First veterinary services for fire department: Council on March 7, 1888 allowed W.C. Langdon \$3.50 for this kind of service.

Meals for prisoners cost city 122 cents per meal: Mrs. P. Roach got contract on this basis July 2, 1888.

Mrs. George A. Putnam gives horse-watering tank to city: See minutes August 6, 1888.

Circus in Fargo: Probably in August 1888. Mayor reported to council September 3, 1888 he had hired 18 special police and the bill was \$62.

“Babcock”: Council on October 1, 1888 paid charges and freight for Babcock of \$6.88. These were soda-acid hand fire extinguishers.

Police chief had stove repaired but council wouldn't pay bill: Council finally told Mr. Wood, then ex-chief, that \$8 was too much and told him to keep the stove. Either November or May 1888.

\$1,000 license fee for liquor: Adopted by council November 22, 1888. See minutes December 3, 1888 for list of men licensed by council.

Bells on horses drawing sleighs: Ordered by the council February 11, 1889.

WCTU in liquor matters: WCTU on December 3, 1889 asked council not to issue liquor licenses to men under indictment, or convicted.

Bishop Shanley comes to Fargo: Reverend D.V. Collins, Catholic priest, was before council March 3, 1890. Asked council to take part in parade and reception for Bishop Shanley on St. Patrick's Day.

Seth Newman resigns as mayor, claimed he had interest in a city contract: This was on March 24, 1890. He may have been connected with Fargo Water and Steam Company.

Fargo census in 1890: On July 7, 1890, council paid a group of Fargoans who assisted in census enumeration. They included Lee Roberts, S.H. Bayard, Willard Lyon, E.A. Shotwell, etc.

Curling club: First mention of it January 5, 1891, when council asked to fence off a portion of the ice rink for it.

Herbst's horse broke his leg: He presented a claim to the city and it was paid, \$50 “in full” on January 5, 1891. See previous minutes.

Cattle driving on First Avenue south: Certain residents were peeved, complained to council May 4, 1891. Council ordered cattle being driven from pasture to be taken along Front Street west of Eighth Street in the future.

Entertainment of state legislators in Headquarters and Columbia Hotels: Council approved a bill of \$149.25 to pay the hotels on July 6, 1891. The entertainment had taken place in October 1888. Might have some connection with statehood. Previous minutes indicate council controversy over this bill since 1888.

City council gets artists sketch of first building erected in Fargo: See council minutes August 3, 1891. Received from Colonel H.M. Lazelle of Eighteenth U.S. Infantry, etc. (If this sketch was placed in city hall it probably was destroyed in the fire of 1893 which razed city hall.)

Mayor Hanson of Moorhead dies: Council decided December 7, 1891 to attend his funeral December 11, 1891, pass resolutions.

Kuhnert Livery Stable: This building was on the present (1950) *Forum* building site. A.F. Kuhnert got a permit for it June 21, 1892.

Blind pigs: On February 6, 1893 the mayor told the council what “His official duty regarding blind pigs is.”

Mayor Ball denies he is for wide open city: Told council so April 17, 1894 as he took office after winning unopposed. Says not in favor of prohibition, but it is law.

First merry-go-round in Fargo: This is first mention found, on May 7, 1894. J. Blair got permission for tent for his merry-go-round for one month between cold storage house and First Street South.

First building elevator in Fargo: S.G. Magill of Magill and Company building one in his proposed building at Broadway and Front, June 4, 1894. Council demanded brick cribbing. This was an aftermath of the 1893 fire.

Mrs. Thorell's cow: She presented bill for damages May 14, 1895 and said her cow was killed in fall from big slough bridge near G.N. tracks.

Wild birds and squirrels: First ordinance to protect them given final passage September 5, 1895.

Alex Stern helps out a destitute woman and gets paid back by council: See minutes September 5, 1895.

The sad case of Mrs. Heath: She appeared before council September 9, 1895. Needed financial help to get home to Sault Ste. Marie. Had come here to meet husband, he failed to show up. Council helped her out of old fire relief funds. (*Argus* or *Forum* files have something on this case.)

Skating rink building at north end of Island Park: Mr. Wylis asks November 11, 1895 for permission to build it.

Mayor Johnson and Alderman Hill reprimanded: Council decided February 2, 1897 they were staying too long at Bismarck legislative session and should come back to Fargo or stay there at own expense.

"Runners" for hacks, omnibuses etc., under regulation: Ordinance passed July 13, 1897.

O.G. Moulton Packing and Slaughtering House: He got a permit September 7, 1897 for one on lot 2, block 11, Keeney and Devitt Addition.

"Sidewalk snow plow": Mayor had received a catalog illustrating such equipment, referred it to the council November 1, 1897, and suggested it might be a good thing for city. No further action on it indicated in minutes.

Fargo wants an armored cruiser named for city: Resolution to government making this request was on March 7, 1898.

Omaha Exposition: On June 20, 1898 council appropriated \$100 for exhibits.

Death of Alderman Archie J. Craig's wife and daughter: On July 5, 1898 council adopted resolution of sympathy in this case.

Cement: First mention of it in minutes seems to be about January 3, 1899 when it was authorized for boiler room at water pumping station. A new addition had been built at the plant.

First typewriter: On February 6, 1899, auditor and treasurer were authorized to buy one "for use of city officials." No indication here as to whether it was actually bought, however.

Slaughter house: On May 22, 1899, Green & Eggert got a permit for a packing, slaughtering house on lot 6, block 4, original townsite.

Sick fire department horse: Council heard June 19, 1899 that a sick fire department horse had been placed in Alderman Ames' barn and that James Walsh had been hired to care for it.

Admiral Schley: On July 3, 1899 council sent telegram to the admiral on the anniversary of destruction of Cervera's fleet.

President Dias of Mexican republic: Council invites him to Fargo in resolution August 14, 1899. (He was to be in Minneapolis during tour.)

Steam heating pipes under streets refused: On August 28, 1899, the council told the Hughes Electric Company it could not dig into paving and put any steam pipes in service. Subsequent minutes show how the council broke down, first time on October 28, 1899 granting permit for pipe under Broadway from lot 1, block 1, Roberts Addition to the Stern block.

J.E. Haggart and the American flag: Council authorizes Marshall Haggart to put U.S. flag on beam of his home on September 25, 1899.

Colonel Morton and the development of Oak Grove district: Colonel C. A. Morton, who previously had received council authority for it, reported October 2, 1899 he had finished putting in 1,288 feet of 4 inch water main and 1 hydrant in Oak Grove district at his own expense. The council reaffirmed they would repay him from water rent collections.

Coal pits under sidewalk: Apparently the first one was authorized for the deLendrecie store October 2, 1899.

Fred and "Dutch" Lena Lake building found: to be 14 feet in on N.P. Avenue: On October 4, 1899 city council discovered this situation and launched a remedy. The house was on N.P. Avenue near the west end of the north bridge.

Lockup for women: Council October 4, 1899 fitted up cells for women in basement of city building.

Mayor Johnson visits Scandinavia for immigration drive: His leave approved by council October 1, 1900.

Trouble with cows on sidewalks: Council barred picketing close to walks on August 5, 1901.

Trouble with drunks from Moorhead: This is only reference of its kind. Mayor told council October 7, 1901 he had told police to bring drunks to bridges and ordered police to make them go back and sober up where they got their liquor.

Jag Wagons: First and only mention of is on February 3, 1902 when Mr. Dennis of Dennis Brothers objects to "jag wagons, so called" standing in front of his place of business.

City engineer Carter dies during council session: A.M. Carter, city engineer. Mayor reported him seriously ill and not expected to live through night as council session opened August 4, 1902. His death was reported before session ended. At same session council paid more bills for anti-toxin.

Death of "Major", old fire department horse: Alderman Sutherland reported this horse's death to council October 27, 1902. This probably was one of the first two fire horses obtained by the city, during Mayor Edwards' administration, the horse being named for him. Papers probably played this up.

Thiel Detective Agency employed by mayor: Council authorizes to pay this agency \$60 for work for mayor, on August 3, 1903. No indication given as to purpose of detective work.

Bjornson statue (Bauta Sten): Council invited to unveiling of Bjornson statue on May 17, 1904.

Horse and buggy for police chief: On July 6, 1904 the city council appropriated not to exceed \$15 per month to the police chief for horse and buggy use in rounding up vagrants.

Serious illness of "Doc", a fire department horse: Council is informed June 12, 1905 that "Doc" has an incurable disease and authorizes purchase of a new horse.

Fargo city census: Results of it reported to council July 5, 1905 by O. J. Olson who was supervisor. State law had provided for city census for the first time (this is aside from federal censuses.)

Bell in city hall tower: Council ordered fire bell May 15, 1906 moved from its location to the city hall tower, newly completed.

First tennis courts: It may be those authorized in Island Park June 4, 1906 by the council. The YMCA put them in.

Gus Myras, popcorn vender: He got permission from the council to sell popcorn on the streets June 8, 1906.

Charles Anderson: First reference to Charles Anderson is in minutes of June 25, 1906 when he was given \$108.87 for catching dogs.

Poisoning of Alderman Graham: On July 9, 1906, Professor Ladd reported to the city council that Alderman Graham had been poisoned by drinking lemonade purchased in Island Park. The council ordered cancellation of concession and removal of the soft drink establishment.

Fargo was second city in country to join League of American Municipalities: On July 16, 1906 the council of this group to come to Fargo in 1907. It was pointed out that a Fargo mayor had been a president of the national group. There is another reference to this way back in minutes, which will be brought out in these notes later.

Gamblers pardoned: On August 21, 1906 the mayor announced that acting under authority of law, he had pardoned C. L. Terry, Peter Fisher and Edward McKee, who had been found guilty of gambling. This is the only reference found in minutes 1875-1911 to gambling, aside from the usual gambling ordinances.

Smith premier typewriters: Three purchased by city November 19, 1906. This was probably the double keyboard machine. On December 3, 1906, an Underwood was bought for city assessor.

Bucket shops: On February 18, 1907 first reading was held on ordinance regulating commission brokers.

Death of Mayor J.A. Johnson: He died the morning of June 16, 1907. Shortly before at a previous council meeting he had been given a thirty-day leave of absence, saying he was going to Minnesota to try to regain his health. Alderman Peter Elliott was named to fill out his term, getting more votes than H.F. Emery. Other council minutes indicate Johnson was one of Fargo's more important mayors

Grace Burns murder case: On March 2, 1908 the council approved the bill of the Pinkerton National Detective Agency for \$167.18 for service in investigating the Grace Burns murder case.

Henrik Wergeland statue: On May 4, 1908 the council started the ball rolling to seek for Fargo the statue of Henrik Wergeland, Norse poet and patriot, which Norway had given to the United States. Resolutions passed for forwarding.

Adding machines: First reference to an adding machine for the city government is on September 8, 1908, when the council authorized purchase of one for \$300.

Cash register: The city seems to have bought its first one, for the auditor, for \$166.25 on December 7, 1908.

First automobile accident injury claim against city: On October 4, 1909, E.M. Parmenter asks \$60 for damages, his car having run into a sand pile on the street. The council turned down his claims November 1, 1909.

U.S. senator dies in Fargo: The evening of October 21, 1909, the council adjourned "in respect" after receiving word that United States Senator Martin Nelson Johnson of North Dakota had died at 7:10 p.m. in the Gardner Hotel.

First woman city employee: It could have been Miss Myrtle McGilton, clerk to the city auditor, whose salary was raised to \$70 per month June 13, 1910. This is the first reference in council minutes 1875-1911 to a woman employee before 1910 being engaged to "typewrite" a charter or some other document. That can be found in the minutes.

Hay market: The last mention of hay market in council minutes 1875-1911, tells of moving it to Third Avenue North on July 1, 1910, following the objection of the Huber Manufacturing Company to its current location.

OPERA HOUSES, THEATERS

First opera house: J.J. Shchey was assessed \$25 per month on January 7, 1879 "for conducting opera house."

Fargo Opera House: On March 17, 1884 the building committee reported it was in "perfectly safe condition."

First ice skating rink in Island Park: See minutes of November 6, 1890 and November 17, 1890.

Ice rink building on N.P. Avenue: Probably was completed in December of 1891. City engineer reported to council January 4, 1892 that it is safe for public if snow is kept shoveled off roof.

Plans for new opera house submitted: Council got look at plans for opera house at corner Second Avenue and Roberts Street on October 16, 1893.

Opera house: Council decides to check September 5, 1898 why opera house not connected to water system.

Opera house license: Fixed at \$150 a year on February 6, 1899.

Walker Theater: First mention of this theater is 'in council minutes May 12, 1902. Theater wants reduction in license fees.

George Fowler's theater: This is probably the old Grand Theater of vaudeville days. The council on September 4, 1906 granted George Fowler permission to build a new theater on the north side of block 1, Roberts Addition.

First movie theater: There's a possibility that the Palm Theater, 112 Broadway was it. On November 14, 1910 the council approved plans for the Palm Theater submitted by R.J. Ferguson, who was going to remodel a building for his establishment. (Incidentally the first movie house in the U.S. was

opened at Los Angeles April 2, 1902, also the first movie projector, making public use possible, was invented in 1894.)

PARKS

Chase trespassers out of Island Park: Council November 25, 1878 gave trespassers thirty days to get buildings out of park.

E.S. Tyler, first superintendent of Island Park: Appointed November 25, 1878.

First move to improve Island Park: Council voted to fix up Island Park, also known as Lincoln Park, November 25, 1878.

Has city got title to Island Park: Council voted a check on this May 18, 1883.

Protection of trees in parks: First reading of an ordinance of that type August 5, 1889. Previous minutes tell of teams driving through park and teams being hitched to trees in park, etc.

Professor Spaulding's plan to improve Island Park: Read to council June 1, 1891.

Oak Grove Park: On August 17, 1908, the council began considering the idea of adding Oak Grove to the park system of Fargo.

Island Park: It was transferred to "park district" by council March 27, 1911.

"Park District": The minutes show that the "Fargo park district" was created by ordinance March 2, 1907. And on April 3, 1911, minutes show canvass of election at which C.B. Waldron was elected park commissioner for three years. It is possible he was the first park commissioner, but the minutes of November 25, 1878 show that E.S. Tyler was the first park superintendent, in charge of Island Park, also known as Lincoln Park. There are many other references to parks and park affairs in other portions of the minutes.

POLICE – JAILS

First Fargo marshal: John E. Haggart was elected in city election April 5, 1875.

City rents first "jail and yard": Was rented June 9, 1875 from A. H. Moore for \$15 per month.

First night watchman: Angus McDonald. Council allowed a bill of \$32 he presented, on August 4, 1875.

Description of first jail: See minutes of April 17, 1876.

Build city lock-up: This was between June 12, 1876 and August 9, 1876. See those minutes. George A. Strout built it for \$197.

R. Hadwen sold site for jail to city: For \$250, see minutes June 17, 1878. Evidently it finally cost \$800.

Move first city jail: It was moved about June 17, 1878 to August 5, 1878. (moved to lots 16 and east 2 of lot 15, block 4, city of Fargo.)

First balls and chains: Were bought January 7, 1879 from George H. Clapp for \$8.

Police ordered uniformed: See minutes April 22, 1882.

Telephone for city jail: Ordered "placed at once" on May 2, 1882.

Dark lanterns for police: Council on August 6, 1888 authorized purchase of six.

Remodel patrol wagon: A.J. Rosenquist got the job October 1, 1888 for \$32.

First Colt revolvers for police department: First mention was in minutes November 8, 1888 when city bought two from Sylvester Brothers for \$6.

Police patrol wagon: Mayor recommended one September 19, 1892 and it was referred to committee.

James K. Bingham appointed policeman: This is first reference to him. The date was April 28, 1896.

Louis Dahlgren appointed a policeman: This was April 18, 1896 and is first reference to Dahlgren in minutes.

Policeman Louis Dahlgren injured: Council gets report January 5, 1897 on Louis Dahlgren who was injured December 13, 1896. (This probably was the time when he was badly cut up by a jail prisoner.)

First Fargo detective: On December 19, 1898 the council authorized the police department to designate one policeman as a detective.

First request for a police matron: On March 7, 1910, Miss Topping, superintendent of Florence Crittenden home, asked council to appoint a police matron, which was turned down same meeting for lack of funds. Council was informed nine girls went wrong and were sent to various institutions in past twelve months.

Police telephone call box system: Was bought from Dean Electric Company April 4, 1910.

PROSTITUTION

Houses of ill fame: Final passage of ordinance on houses of ill fame was September 12, 1887. First reading was August 1, 1887. No details.

Houses of ill-fame: At a council meeting August 4, 1890, petition of H. Yerkes and others in first ward call attention to an "ill famed house" in the ward and wanted nuisance abated. This led to council action October 6, 1890 creating ill fame house district.

Houses of ill-fame: On October 6, 1890 council designated "houses of ill-fame be restricted to the district known as 'under the hill' being that portion of Third at North lying north of the Central House." Mayor was instructed to notify "keepers of ill famed houses of the district designated."

Houses of ill fame: On April 6, 1891 a committee was appointed to check on compensation and disposition of money paid by the houses in the "hollow" to extra policemen. At the next council meeting April 21, 1891, the police force "was reduced" to chief and three men.

Houses of ill fame: On June 5, 1893 council gets a communication recommending "an investigation into the matter of prices paid by (sic) women in the 'hollow.' Committee appointed to check.

Houses of ill fame: Council received September 5, 1893 petitions signed by 500 women, 400 men asking council to banish houses of ill fame from city. The petition was filed.

Houses of ill fame: First reading held on an ordinance "prohibiting the keeping of houses of ill fame or resorts for the purpose of prostitution, street walking and providing penalties." Final passage was February 28, 1896.

Houses of ill fame: Between October 1908 and November 2, 1908 the red light district must have been much in the limelight. On the first mention date, the council voted for suppression of "certain houses of prostitution running openly in the city" and left it to the mayor to have executive officers attend to their duty. On the latter date, the Mayor, Peter Elliott, read a message on "the social evil" and the council again adopted a resolution asking the executive officers to enforce the law. There are not too many references to red light district in council minutes. I shall copy them off as I run into them and later put them together for reference.

PUBLIC LIBRARY

What library was this: On December 10, 1894, J.W. Miller got permission to lay a track along Roberts Street for convenience during construction of public library. Did this antedate the public library mentioned in the 1900s minutes?

First vote on a public library: Votes canvassed by council April 5, 1897 (date of election,) show the public library issue failed, 519 to 223.

Public Library in Fargo created: Final passage of ordinance creating was on November 5, 1900. Woman's club asked council March 15, 1900 for vote on question. Election April 12, 1900 was 295 to 60 for library. (Previous minutes indicate, way back, defeat at polls of library issue.)

Masonic Temple Library: Council decides April 1, 1901 that Masonic temple shall have free water as long as it uses portion of its building for a free public building.

Andrew Carnegie gives \$20,000 for Fargo Public Library: Thomas Baker Jr., of free library board informs council to this effect April 1, 1901.

Buy city library site from John Haas: On July 8, 1901, council accepted for \$3,500 the site of Haas, west portion of lots 11-12 Roberts Addition. (Later minutes indicate city realized from sale of salvage on this city. This could be the ruins of Columbia Hotel.)

City Library opens: On February 2, 1903, council receives word of formal opening of public library.

SCANDALS

“Scandalous and false attacks on city administration” published in *Fargo Daily Sun*: Council minutes of February 6, 1885 indicate they were published on February 4, 1885. Apparently an attack on volunteer fire department when A. Cantiney was confirmed as chief. The council took official printing away from the Sun and gave it to the *Fargo Republican*. See subsequent minutes.

Vote fraud: Democratic central committee asked an investigation of vote counting in First and Second wards as council on April 7, 1886 canvassed the April 5, 1886 election. No further reference.

Police chief Richard Fields scandal: Begins with minutes of January 19, 1892. He resigned under fire. See subsequent minutes.

Claim illegal votes in election of Morton Page: See minutes April 1, 1895. Nothing seems to have come of it. Hans T. Erickson raised the stink in this case.

Board of Inquiry dismisses charges against Alderman Schuth preferred by city auditor: This referred to taking out of office of a sealed bid. The board absolved Schuth December 9, 1895.

SEWAGE SYSTEM

First investigation of a sewerage system for Fargo: On January 3, 1881, council voted “to investigate cost of a sewerage system for Fargo.”

First plan for sewage system: City engineer asked April 22, 1882 for report on best sewage system for city. He gave his report May 1, 1882.

Voters approve \$50,000 for sewer system: On September 14, 1882 they voted 136 to 25 for \$50,000, seven percent bonds.

Investigate sewer system in Chicago: See minutes April 21, 1883.

SIDEWALKS

Citizens ordered to clean walks of snow: See minutes January 2, 1882.

First public improvement: Sidewalk on Front Street ordered May 12, 1875.

First sidewalk: See minutes May 12, 1875. Was on north side of Front Street, blocks 1 to 6. Material in it described was two feet wide.

Decide on ten-foot sidewalks for Broadway: Decided January 7, 1879.

Sidewalk building boom: Minutes of 1883 indicate a big sidewalk-building boom.

Sidewalk widths on Broadway, N.P. Avenue established: See minutes February 5, 1884.

First incombustible sidewalks: Contract awarded November 6, 1893 to Fargo Tile Works. An aftermath of the big 1893 fire. The minutes show lot of trouble in getting sidewalks built after fire. City had to force them, etc. See subsequent minutes. See also preceding minutes.

Ella J. Henderson gets into trouble with city: She was ordered November 9, 1894 not to lay wood sidewalk. City had taken it up after discovery. This followed the 1893 fire and agitation for incombustible sidewalks in fire district.

STREETS (PAVING, ETC.)

First street commissioner: J.H. Pashley, appointed April 15, 1875.

First street grading: Front Street. Minutes May 12, 1875.

First talk of paving Broadway and Front Streets: See minutes of May 2, 1881.

Ask bids for paving Broadway: This on May 14, 1881. City engineer asked to prepare specifics. Voted to drain water off Broadway. They called for bid opening 2 p.m. on May 25, 1881. But there is no mention of opening them on that date. See minutes of May 30, 1881.

Reject bid of J.J. Palmer to pave Broadway: This was on May 30, 1881.

Order Front Street paved, Fourth to Eighth Streets: This was June 14, 1881, but it never went through. City discovered N.P. owned Front Street. See also minutes of May 18, 1881.

Chamber of Commerce and street planking: See minutes of April 26, 1883.

First move for street paving: Council asked Broadway and Front Street property owners to meet with council on May 19, 1883. See minutes of that date.

Fargo stops Northern Pacific Railroad from building a water tower at foot of N.P. Avenue: See minutes of May 24, 1883. This is one of many controversies with Northern Pacific over who owned streets near tracks.

Planking of Broadway: Was first approached in minutes of May 19, 1883 and June 16, 1883 but council gave it up July 16, 1883. Got only one bid, \$16.87 per foot. Apparently this ended any plan for use of plank for street paving. No further reference found in minutes at least.

How Fargo streets were numbered and named in 1883: See minutes August 13, 1883 and August 14, 1883. (The plan adopted then is still followed. This also covers numbering of houses.)

Planking of Broadway and Fourth Street asked: By chamber of commerce committee May 12, 1884.

Fargo buys second grader: On July 9, 1885 city paid William Weaver \$550 for a "New Era" grader.

First use of a grader to grade a street running into the city: N. Whitman was on July 9, 1885 given permission to borrow city grader for this purpose.

Broadway traffic blocked by a fence: Council gets complaint July 9, 1885 that A.J. Harwood had fenced in Broadway opposite Harwood's second addition.

Street sprinkling petition: Received by council on June 7, 1886.

First street "planer": Bought from James Holes for \$223 on June 8, 1886.

Council considered concrete base and asphalt paving way back but failed to make use of it: On June 15, 1887 Baker Asphalt Company submitted this proposal. There were many protests against paving streets at all. See minutes following.

How Fargo finally got possession of Front Street from Northern Pacific Railroad: Is told in minutes of July 6, 1887. Mayor Edwards put the deal over. City got a street 75 feet, 6 inches wide, from river to Thirteenth Street.

First Fargo paving bids: The council on August 5, 1887 called for bids returnable by August 20, 1887 to pave Seventh Street (1 block); Front Street (4 blocks) and Broadway (2 blocks). However, there are no council minutes record again until September 5, 1887, and no further mention of this particular paving proposal. It was evidently due to the fact Fargo didn't legally own Front Street as yet; it had to be dedicated and various papers drawn up, and other reasons.

First request for a subway at Eighth Street crossing: Made by board of trade on September 5, 1887.

Fargo's first street intersection signs: On November 19, 1887, J.H. Cornwell was paid \$69 for painting board indicating Fargo's streets and avenues. See also minutes preceding.

Mayor Edwards burned up about water standing on streets: This was on April 4, 1888. Vote to hire man to open drains.

First petition for street sprinkling: It was brought to the city council on May 6, 1889.

First city street sprinkling: Was done by George Osgood. He was given the job under a contract on May 13, 1889. E.T. Enbretson was awarded the contract May 8, 1889 but couldn't get bondsman.

Businessmen demand streets be sprinkled at once: They squawked to council on June 3, 1889. Names given.

How Fargo curbing was made in 1889: Minutes of September 9, 1889 describe details of its construction, which see.

Fargo's first city owned street sprinkler: It was purchased May 12, 1890 from George E. Osgood for \$125.

First mention of "a tunnel under N.P. at Eighth Street": Council on November 2, 1891 asked for a tunnel giving reasons: school children, traffic, growth of city, etc.

Dirt for Fargo streets: Some of the first came from an excavation for an addition to the rear of the Luger store on Front Street. See council minutes of June 21, 1892. Subsequent minutes show great expense in buying dirt to bring streets up to grade.

First important move looking toward locating grading and leveling Fargo streets: On June 22, 1892 council authorized survey, establishment of base lines, setting of iron monuments, etc., on Broadway, N.P. Avenue, Front Street, and Thirteenth Street. See subsequent minutes on what developed.

Fargo was using Catholic property for a street: Bishop Shanley asked council on April 16, 1895 to do something about it. See also subsequent minutes. This was near cathedral site.

Decision on cedar block paving: Made at council meeting on May 14, 1895.

First decision to pave Fargo streets: This important meeting was on May 14, 1895 and Alex Stern, M. Stern, Martin Hector and J. W. Smith put on the push and got council action at that meeting.

Had to move poles and hydrants within curbs for Fargo's first paving: See minutes of July 24, 1895.

Culvert on Eighth Street south: J.W. Miller given contract to build it for \$790 on September 5, 1895.

Award first paving contracts in city: Front Street, Broadway, N.P. Avenue; McDonnell & O'Neill got the contracts on July 24, 1895. (J.E. Snyder got the N.P. Avenue job but assigned it to McDonnell & O'Neill.)

Original Broadway paving completed: Final estimate approved on September 9, 1895.

Original Front Street paving finished: Final estimate on October 3, 1895.

N.P. Avenue original paving completed: Council approves final estimates on October 24, 1895.

City drops Eighth Street tunnel under N.P. tracks proposal: Minutes of January 6, 1896 and before and after tell this story. The city wanted an underpass, or subway, but N.P. wanted them to build approaches, excavate. Alderman Sweet suggested dropping: Front Street approach would be precipitous, dangerous.

Street sweeper bought: Council learns February 3, 1896 it is shipped.

Bringing Fargo streets up to level grade: Around and about February 26, 1896, in preparation for paving, city did a lot of work on this, bought thousands of yards of dirt, etc. See minutes both sides of this date.

Eighth Street paving job awarded: To Henry (sic) O'Neill on July 6, 1896.

Lower grade on Broadway, from Ninth to Twelfth Avenues: This was ordered on July 16, 1896 in preparation for paving north Broadway. Council ordered it lowered "to conform to property."

Eighth Street paving: Reported by city engineer on September 8, 1896 that this project was completed.

Eighth Street viaduct: Council votes August 5, 1897 to improve Eighth Street viaduct. (Was this an elevated sidewalk?)

Northern Pacific Railroad gets injunction against city from Judge Charles F. Amidon: This reported at council meeting September 7, 1897. It was to stop city from paving Eighth Street from Front Street to Northern Pacific tracks, and N.P. Avenue from Roberts to Eighth Street.

"Guide boards" at street intersections: Were discussed by city council on April 17, 1900.

Broadway cedar block pavement in bad shape; Reported to council on September 17, 1900. (This eventually led to concrete foundation for wood blocks. See subsequent minutes.)

Trouble with Northern Pacific: Railroad had fenced in Front Street beyond Thirteenth Street. Council considered this problem on July 18, 1901 and started check to see what clash there was between city and Northern Pacific over streets ownership. It resulted, subsequent minutes show, in final ironing out of difficulty and dedication of some street areas to city.

Shelter building for city road machines: Plans for it discussed by council on May 2, 1904.
Equalizing of street levels caused trouble: On July 6, 1904 city got claims for frozen water pipes on Seventh Avenue north, due to lowering of grade of avenue.

Paving improvement project first time up: On May 1, 1905, council voted to investigate "all" types of paving.

First move to get concrete base under cedar block paving: On January 2, 1906, city engineer was asked to get plans for repaving Broadway between Great Northern-Northern Pacific tracks with 32 inch creosoted blocks on 6-inch concrete foundation. Previous blocks not creosoted. On same date council paid expense bill of N. McKellar, alderman, and S.F. Crabbe, city engineer, who had investigated types of paving in other cities.

Concrete base for cedar block paving: Council on May 7, 1906 accepted a bid of James Kennedy for re-paving Broadway between Northern Pacific and Great northern tracks with concrete base. This was first paving of this kind. The minutes prior and after this date have many references to this issue as the old non-concrete base wood paving began to disintegrate.

Re-paving of Eighth Street south with concrete base: The ball was set in motion for this project on July 9, 1906. There are subsequent developments in the minutes that follow.

City's first dump wagon: Probably the one the council authorized purchased on April 29, 1907 was the first one.

First street department boiler: Council approved purchase of one on February 1, 1909.

TELEPHONES

First telephone franchise: Given to H.C. Shoen, E.C. Eddy and others January 7, 1880. On January 3, 1881, "Fargo and Moorhead Telephone Exchange" authorized to erect poles and do general phone business.

Order Manitoba Telegraph poles removed from Broadway: See minutes of February 13, 1882.

Western Union: Manager Inman on May 1, 1882 asked permission to run his lines down Roberts Street to Manitoba tracks.

Renumbering of lots and houses: First request came for MacNutt & Cassin in a letter of April 10, 1883.

Free mail delivery in Fargo: First mentioned in council minutes of August 6, 1883 in communication from Honorable J. B. Raymond, delegate to congress from Dakota Territory. Apparently nothing came of it till considerably later. See subsequent minutes.

Western Union given right to put poles on Second Avenue: This was on October 1, 1883.

Free mail delivery in city: Council minutes of September 5, 1887 indicate Postmaster Judd wanted streets marked, houses numbered so he could get mail delivery started. This was probably the start of carriers.

Erie Telephone Company gets permit to extend its line: This was on December 12, 1887.

New Fargo post office: It must have been pending in Congress about March 3, 1890 when council objected to a committee appropriation recommendation as "too small." Minutes of March 24; 1890 mention letters from Representative Hansbrough and Senator Pierce regarding \$250,000 for Fargo post office.

First telegraph service into *Argus* building: This could be it. On July 7, 1890, council authorized Western Union to set up poles between its office and *Argus*. Poles were to be at Front and Seventh and another on Seventh Street.

Reconstruction of Northwestern Telephone & Exchange Company: On June 1, 1891, the council passed a resolution giving this company "which was about to reconstruct its plant in city," to set up a system of poles.

Northwestern Telephone Exchange Company: Given franchise or franchise suggested on July 6, 1891. Plan was to not give them a franchise but simply turn the Erie and inserting Northwestern. This apparently is not the original franchise. It had to do with setting up a pole system. See minutes.

Peyton C. Crenshaw and I.P. Clapp telephone and messenger franchise: They asked for it on April 2, 1894 and got it on April 16, 1894. There seem to be not further references to this outfit in subsequent council minutes.

Frederick C. Underwood gets telegraph and messenger franchise: Minutes of October 22, 1894.

Telegraph and messenger system: On August 26, 1895, council gave Frederick B. Underwood to January 1, 1896 to complete system. See previous minutes for franchise dope.

Northwestern Telephone Exchange Company general offices: They were in Minneapolis, at least on January 3, 1898, when council decided to see them about subscribers' complaints on service.

Complaints on telephone service: Council received word on February 7, 1898 that Minneapolis office of telephone company would come to Fargo soon to investigate complaints. (Previous minutes mention complaints.)

Western Union connection with Northern Pacific Railroad: On May 5, 1898, council authorized Western Union to set up a number of poles to connect its office with the Northern Pacific depot, then under construction.

Metallic circuit long distance transmitters: Whatever this is, it is only mentioned this once, March 6, 1899, when council authorized installation of such transmitters in offices of auditor and chief of police. (Did this precede the Tri-State Telephone and Telegraph?)

Northwestern Telephone Exchange Company conduits: Asked council on April 7, 1902 for permission to put in conduits.

Independent telephone company franchise: First reading given franchise September 27, 1902. Officers were: E.H. Moulton, president of Twin City Telephone Company, Edward E. Webster and Frederick H. Curtiss. (Northwestern Telephone Exchange Company was operating here at this period. There also was an Erie company.)

Tri-State Telephone and Telegraph Company (long distance outfit), first appearance before city council: On December 5, 1904 ask permission to cross street and alleys along Great Northern right-of-way.

Tri-State Telephone and Telegraph Company, first long distance outfit, comes to city: On March 6, 1905, the company asked for rights, which council, in first instance, turned down. Minutes show why it relented.

First long distance telephone office: Tri-State Telephone and Telegraph Company requested authority on March 5, 1906 to set up a "switching office" in Fargo for long distance. This is the first reference to a "long distance" office. Minutes before and after tell the story.

U.S. mail carriers: Council on June 8, 1906 authorized uniformed mail carriers to ride free on street cars by amending franchise ordinance. This is first reference to mail carriers as such in council minutes.

North Dakota Independent Telephone and Telegraph Company: First reading franchise ordinance for this company was February 18, 1907. On April 22, 1907, the time for completing its system was extended to September 1, 1907. (had trouble getting conduit.)

WATER SUPPLIES

First effort to check water supply problem: Council voted August 2, 1880 to check water supply of other cities.

To check water supply of other cities: See minutes of August 2, 1880.

Water mains first installed in 1880: See minutes of August 2, 1880.

Difficulty with Fargo Water and Steam Company: Minutes of August 2, 1880.

Investigation of Water Company: Was ordered on September 14, 1885 after report company was putting in meters, charging meter rates.

Trouble with Fargo Water and Steam Company that owned Waterworks: See minutes of June 8, 1886. City council ordered check of fire protection facilities in other cities, and the cost to consumers. Evidently some trouble with consumers hereabouts.

Water crisis: On October 4, 1886, council decided to look into a winter water supply because of low stage of water in Red River.

Water Company fed up with troubles, wants to sell out to city: See minutes of June 7, 1887 and before and after.

First thought of the purchasing of the waterworks: On July 11, 1887 planned to seek expert help, considered advisability of purchase. See minutes before and after. A. McHench thought a city well would be the thing. Subsequent minutes for years show test wells authorized which never developed satisfactorily.

Voters made possible purchase of waterworks in election of June 23, 1890: The \$80,000 bond issue carried 409 to 47.

Fargo acquires water works from Fargo Water and Steam Company: The deal was closed September 23, 1890, and city took over October 1, 1890. Lots of history on this in preceding and subsequent minutes. Eventually this waterworks, part of which still stands (1950) in Island Park, was developed, into the present city filtration plant. The first waterworks cost the city \$15,800, plus \$48,000 debt of plant owners which city assumed. Many colorful details of Fargo going into its water service deal follow September 23, 1890 minutes. There is an inventory of all the plant property.

Big water main extension: It began after Fargo bought the waterworks. First contract let October 15, 1890 to W.D. Allen. See minutes before and after.

Banking hydrants: They were banked with straw or manure in the fall. On December 1, 1890, S. L. Draper was paid \$6 for banking hydrants.

Standpipe: First mention of a standpipe is in council minutes of November 17, 1890. E.A. Fitzgerald paid \$20 for tending standpipes.

First Fargo waterworks superintendent after city became owner of works: William Hart appointed permanent superintendent on January 5, 1891. He had been temporary superintendent for a short time just after city took over works.

First city waterworks ordinance: It was passed on May 8, 1891, after the city had acquired the waterworks from a private company. See previous and subsequent minutes. The city water office was set up in the Keeney block.

Plumbers ordinance: First one was passed on May 8, 1891.

First step for a dam for a better water supply: Council talked of it August 3, 1891.

Water crisis: First talk of a dam across river in city council minutes of November 2, 1891. A little later, see minutes Moorhead was investigating prospects of getting water from Fargo.

Take steps for first dam across Red River: Council authorized making of a contract on January 4, 1892.

Fargo digs an artesian well after the 1893 fire: On May 21, 1894 J. Dobyng got contract to sink one Third Avenue South, between Seventh and Eighth Streets.

Fargo checks proposed filter for waterworks in Grand Forks: Council orders correspondence with Grand Forks on August 6, 1894.

Water crisis: On July 6, 1896 council heard pressure was so low, upper stories had trouble getting water. Council considers abandoning Northern Pacific water contract July 6, 1896. Appoint committee August 10, 1896 to investigate a pump to supply water for 20,000 people.

Water wagon ordinance: This was amended May 3, 1897 after the flood.

Plan to place water works on the hill in Island Park: This was considered by council December 8, 1897 after the 1897 flood had caused suspension of water service for a time.

“Good health” well: Mr. Prequitz (?) offered to sell it to city for reasonable consideration on March 7, 1898. Nothing further on this found.

New water pump for Fargo waterworks: G.H. Porritt got contract for one April 4, 1898. This was to be a “compound horizontal duplex of three million gallon capacity.” Its purchase might have been the reflection of fire fighting difficulty, or trouble developing out of the 1897 flood that inundated the waterworks. Porritt was to get \$7,560.

Water crisis: On May 8, 1899, the council rescinded previous action by which schools, colleges and institutions got free water. This due to “a recent fire at which fire water pressure was inadequate.”

Trouble at waterworks: Council informed September 5, 1899 that the pumping engine at the works rocks on its foundation when run to capacity. Council ponders larger intake as remedy.

Fargo wells on north side beginning drying up: On February 19, 1900, Sixth Ward residents say their wells been drained by construction of trunk sewer on Ninth Avenue North.

Drainage canal convention in Fargo: Council on April 17, 1900 voted \$25 toward this session. (I believe this came during a drought period. Recall that in Argus for 1889, Major Edwards was advocating a canal from the Missouri to the Red River to remedy the water shortage.)

To hire expert to check improvement of waterworks improved water supply: This voted March 18, 1903 and followed Edwards block fire.

Biggest water mains demand grows out of big fires: Council starts ball rolling for October and 14-inch water mains on Broadway and First Avenue South in plans made September 5, 1904.

High capacity pump for waterworks: Buy one from Fairbanks Morse Company for \$3,686 on December 19, 1904. This also a result of the disastrous Porritt and Edwards Block fire.

Commission of Fargo water problem: Was appointed on December 3, 1906 and finally brought about the filtration plant. It included Dr. Ladd, later D.E. Willard, geologist, and others. Many references to what this commission did and said follows this date.

Water crisis: The council was faced with it on a number of occasions, among them October 24, 1910, when “the water is very low,” in the river. This was at the time when the city was deep in plans for its new water plant that would filter water. During this period, Frank L. Anders, newly appointed city engineer, hastily threw in a dam that still stands. There was no contractor. He just assembled men and tossed it in, with steel sheathing.

WEATHER

Telegraph weather report for Fargo: See council minutes July 16, 1886. Was offer from Minneapolis weather service. City agreed to buy signal flags and display them on city bell tower, watchman to do it.

Big gale of July 25, 1887: Reference to it made in minutes of August 1, 1887. It had badly damaged north side bridge. Council ordered bridge approaches closed.

Big windstorm on May 6, 1889: Blew down one of city’s light towers, seriously bent the others. See minutes of this day and some days following.

Tornado of 1890: It must have happened in July 1890. Council acted on some phases of its destruction at a meeting July 7, 1890. Light towers, the north side bridge, east wall of city building, etc., had been damaged. Also see subsequent minutes. Many special police had been called out.

City building tornado insurance: Decided on this July 14, 1890 after a storm that damaged light towers and other structures.