

THE NEW COMMON COUNCIL

What Body Was Formally Organized Monday Evening.

MR. WEEKS INAUGURATED MAYOR.

The Oath of Office Was Administered by City Clerk Clement B. Jones in the Presence of a Crowd That Filled the Council Chamber—Mr. Weeks Was Applauded With Much Enthusiasm When the Ceremony Was Finished—Other City Officials Qualify—The Official Minutes.

In the presence of a crowd that packed the little common council chamber almost to suffocation, James L. Weeks was Monday evening inaugurated mayor of the city of Jamestown. The ceremony was short and simple. He walked quietly from the mayor's office to the front of the president's desk and with upraised right hand, promised to support the constitution of the United States and the constitution of the state of New York, the oath to that effect being administered by City Clerk Clement B. Jones. This ceremony concluded the new mayor bowed smilingly to the city clerk and returned to his office. The crowd applauded with genuine enthusiasm as he wedged his way through.

The ceremony of dissolving the old common council, installing the new and swearing in the newly elected officials follows a form which usage has ripened into precedent. First, the old council convenes, canvasses the vote and declares the result; next, the oath of office is administered by the city clerk to the mayor-elect and then to the aldermen. The old common council is then formally dissolved and the new common council is organized and made ready for the transaction of business.

On this particular occasion the old council was scheduled to meet at 7 o'clock, but as a matter of fact it was 7:30 when President Liedblad called it to order for the last time. The city clerk, having in the meantime prepared the statement of the vote and secured the signatures of the aldermen to the same, but little time was consumed in the formal preliminaries, and as soon as the result was announced Alderman Larson of the Second ward was elected temporary chairman and Mayor-elect Weeks took his place to be sworn in. The aldermen-elect followed. There was one break in the usual program at this point. City Clerk Jones said he had a resignation which had been presented and which the old council could act upon. The resignation was that of Policeman Frank F. Moynihan. It was read and on motion of Alderman Gustaf Anderson was accepted. Policeman Moynihan therefore ceased to be a member of the police force before the appointments for the ensuing year were made.

Next in order on the program was the choosing of a temporary chairman to preside over the deliberations of the new council. Alderman Entwistle was assigned this honor. Then came the election of a president as described elsewhere, and then came the mayor's message which is also published in full elsewhere.

The crowd listened to the reading of the message with close and careful attention, and at the conclusion gave the new mayor another round of applause.

Another pleasing break in the program was the presentation of a letter from the retiring Mayor, J. Emil Johnson. Mayor Johnson was ill and unable to be present, and he therefore wrote a letter to President Liedblad commending the faithful services of various city officials and speaking particularly of the efficient work of the retiring city attorney, who was to assume the duties and responsibilities of mayor. This, too, was heartily applauded. In fact, it was plainly evident that the council chamber was filled with the friends of the new mayor who were anxious to show their faith in him.

What interested the crowd most was the prospective appointments to be made by the mayor. It had been rumored that a few official heads were to fall into the basket and all were anxious to ascertain to what extent this rumor was founded on fact. The persons present did not have long to wait for as soon as a few preliminaries such as approving the bonds of various of the elective officers had been completed, the resignation of Alderman Dorman of the Second ward was handed in. This resignation was accepted. The appointment of George F. Clarke was submitted to fill the vacancy. The appointment was quickly confirmed. Mr. Clarke took the oath of office and his seat and the city clerk commenced to read the list of appointments. First on the list was that of city attorney and when the clerk read the name of former Mayor Eleazer Green there was another round of applause. It was repeated when the name of Frank A. Johnson as chief of police was read, again when

Fred H. Wilson was named as fire chief and fire warden, and again for John B. Shaw as city treasurer, Clyde G. Jones as city engineer and Charles F. Carlson as street commissioner. There was no change on the board of health, the officials whose terms expire receiving a reappointment. There was a big shakeup on the civil service commission, Arthur W. Kettle and William H. Harrison Jr. being named in the place of Orsino E. Jones and George T. Armstrong. There was another shakeup on the board of public works. In the place of Peter H. Hoyt the mayor named ex-Alderman Fred A. Dorman, and to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Lars E. Ericson the mayor named Charles H. Wiborg.

Two vacancies on the police force had been created by the resignation of Frank F. Moynihan and John Maharan, and Mayor Weeks made another by omitting to name Hans Jorgensen. Before adjourning the aldermen placed on record a hearty vote of thanks to President Liedblad for the faithful, efficient and impartial manner in which he had presided over the deliberations of the old common council. The crowd applauded the mention of President Liedblad's name very heartily and President Liedblad who stood outside the railing bowed his thanks.

The evening was devoted solely to organization, the approval of bonds, appointment of officers, etc., the details of which will be found in the official minutes which follow:

Common Council—Proceedings by Authority.
 State of New York,
 City of Jamestown,
 Council Chamber.

Regular meeting of the common council of the city of Jamestown, N. Y., held April 9, 1906, at 7 o'clock p. m.

Present—President Liedblad and the following aldermen: Price, Fenton, Porter, Dorman, Peterson, Lee, Larson, Anderson, Davis, Swanson, Entwistle—12.
 Absent—none.

There being no objection the reading of minutes of previous meetings was dispensed with.

By Alderman Dorman: Resolved, That the council proceed to canvass the result of the annual election held April 3rd, 1906.
 Adopted.

By Alderman Fenton: Resolved, That the result of the annual city election held April 3rd, 1906, as certified by us, be and the same is hereby declared to be the result of such election and that the certificate thereof be immediately filed with the clerk.
 Adopted by the following vote: Aye—Price, Fenton, Porter, Dorman, Peterson, Lee, Larson, Anderson, Davis, Swanson, Entwistle, Liedblad—12.
 Nay—none.

Upon motion of Alderman Entwistle Alderman Larson was chosen temporary chairman of the meeting.

The oath of office was administered to Mayor-elect James L. Weeks.

The city clerk administered the oath of office to Leonard J. Field, alderman for the First ward; Hubert E. V. Porter, alderman for the Second ward; James L. Sprague, alderman for the Third ward; A. Fred Helgren, alderman for the Fourth ward; Harvey C. Sturdevant, alderman for the Fifth ward; Alfred Gustafson, alderman for the Sixth ward.

The following was read and ordered filed: Jamestown, N. Y., April 9, 1906. Mr. Warner F. Liedblad, President of the Common Council, Jamestown, New York.

My Dear Mr. Liedblad: Gentlemen:—My physician forbids my going out of the house this evening, and so I am denied the privilege of being with you at this last meeting of the common council under my administration as mayor and the first meeting of the new council under my successor in the mayor's office. My illness at this time imposes a great disappointment upon me for I had sincerely hoped to be with you at this meeting and say a few words of farewell to the men with whom I have been working in the city government for so considerable a number of years. I cannot say that I am sorry to lay down the burdens of public office, for in fact I am very glad to get back to private life; back to my own business affairs often neglected of late; back to my family, freed from the cares, annoyances and responsibilities which a mayor has to undergo. On the other hand, I cannot say that I am glad to bid good-bye to the council chamber and mayor's office for the friendships I have formed there and the work we all have been able to do together will ever be the most pleasant recollections of my life. It is 12 years since I became an alderman of the city of Jamestown. At that time, even our business streets were deep with mud. Many of our sidewalks were in a state of dangerous dilapidation. We had no city hall, and the various departments of the city government were scattered all over town. The sewer system was inadequate and presented a most difficult problem. Yet even these conditions then existing represented a great deal of hard and efficient work by the mayors and aldermen serving up to that time. Whereupon, Alderman Fenton was declared elected president of this common council for the ensuing year. Mayor Weeks then presented his message, which was read, and upon motion of Alderman Larson received, ordered filed and published.

The message appears on page seven.

By Alderman Lee: Resolved, That the Rules of Order of 1905 be made the Rules of Order of 1906 and that the clerk be instructed to procure 200 copies of the same to be printed for general distribution.
 Adopted.

By Alderman Sprague: Resolved, That a warrant be drawn against the street fund in favor of J.

of the community vastly improved through the conscientious work of its board of health. We have seen a splendid city hall erected, housing the various city departments; and in that city hall it has been possible to put the various departments on an economical and business-like basis. Few cities have their finances kept in any better shape than does Jamestown under John B. Shaw; few cities have their public records kept more accurately and in a form more accessible to the convenience of the public, than does Jamestown under City Clerk Clement B. Jones. It is about the same way all the way through—Jamestown has a municipal government to be proud of, free from favoritism, free from graft, free from influences which tend to demoralize or to interfere with sound business administration.

The greatest achievement of the past six years is undoubtedly the purchase of the water plant, and the splendid manner in which the municipal system is now being managed for the benefit of all the people rather than the profit of a few stockholders. We have been working hard of late to put the electric lighting plant on the same basis, and make it as creditable to the city as is the water plant. Jamestown is a pioneer city in applying the municipal ownership principle and policy, and the success of the idea here is an encouragement to all other communities contending against the same conditions.

In retiring from the office of mayor, I have no anger, no resentment, no animosity against any man or against whether he was for or against me in city affairs. He had as good a right to his opinion as I had to mine. I have tried simply to do my duty, and have been content to let every other man do what he considered to be his duty. As I look back upon some of the contests of the past, I can see that on some of the issues which each side fought so hard, have come improvements and better ideas of government; so that although some of us thought we were fighting each other, we were really working together for the good of the city.

It is a special pleasure to turn the office over to so worthy a man as my friend, James L. Weeks. I do not mean it as a reflection upon any other person when I say that I consider him the best qualified and best equipped man ever elected mayor of Jamestown. He has stood right by me in all the hard places for the past six years; he knows what ought to be done and has the courage to do it. We will all be surprised and disappointed if his administration is not the best the city has ever enjoyed. There is no man whom I would rather see mayor than James L. Weeks, and with the help of the council, he will give us an administration we can all be proud of.

In conclusion, I wish to thank you, Mr. Liedblad, for the assistance you have rendered me, and please convey my gratitude to the other aldermen and city officials assembled tonight. My only feeling is one of deep gratitude to everyone who has helped to make these years prosperous and successful ones for our city. I could never have done the work of mayor if you aldermen had not helped me more than you can ever realize, and the credit for my administration, if there is any credit, belongs to you and to the people more than it does to me. If I can ever assist any of you, please call upon me, for I shall retain an active interest in city affairs, even though as a private citizen.

The best wishes for the new city administration to be ushered in tonight, I am

Cordially yours,
 J. Emil Johnson.

The resignation of Frank F. Moynihan as policeman was read, accepted and ordered filed.

Chairman Larson then declared the common council of 1905 dissolved, and the common council of 1906 was duly organized.

Clement B. Jones,
 City Clerk.

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 Nay—none.

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By Alderman Lee: Resolved, That the Rules of Order of 1905 be made the Rules of Order of 1906 and that the clerk be instructed to procure 200 copies of the same to be printed for general distribution.
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 Absent—none.

There being no objection the reading of minutes of previous meetings was dispensed with.

By Alderman Lee: Resolved, That Alderman Entwistle be, and hereby is elected temporary chairman of this meeting.

Adopted.

The next in order was the election of a president of the council, and upon roll call the result was as follows: The first roll call showed as follows: For Alderman Fenton—Fenton, Dorman, Lee, Larson, Helgren, Davis, Gustafson—6. For Alderman Porter—Field, Sprague—2. For Alderman Davis—Sturdevant, Entwistle—2. For Alderman Larson—Porter—1. Mr. Fenton having requested to defer his vote until after the vote had been taken, he arose in his seat and voted for Alderman Fenton.

A second ballot was called for which resulted as follows: For Alderman Fenton: Fenton, Dorman, Lee, Larson, Helgren, Davis, Sturdevant, Gustafson—8. For Alderman Entwistle: Porter, Sprague—2. For Alderman Porter: Field—1. For Alderman Davis: Entwistle—1. Motion Alderman Sprague that the election of Alderman Fenton as president be made unanimous.

The chair ruled the motion out of order.

Whereupon, Alderman Fenton was declared elected president of this common council for the ensuing year.

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Regular meeting of the common council of the city of Jamestown, N. Y., held April 9th, 1906, at 7:30 o'clock p. m.

Present—President Liedblad and the following aldermen: Price, Fenton, Porter, Dorman, Peterson, Lee, Larson, Anderson, Davis, Swanson, Entwistle—12.
 Absent—none.

There being no objection the reading of minutes of previous meetings was dispensed with.

By Alderman Lee: Resolved, That Alderman Entwistle be, and hereby is elected temporary chairman of this meeting.

Adopted.

The next in order was the election of a president of the council, and upon roll call the result was as follows: The first roll call showed as follows: For Alderman Fenton—Fenton, Dorman, Lee, Larson, Helgren, Davis, Gustafson—6. For Alderman Porter—Field, Sprague—2. For Alderman Davis—Sturdevant, Entwistle—2. For Alderman Larson—Porter—1. Mr. Fenton having requested to defer his vote until after the vote had been taken, he arose in his seat and voted for Alderman Fenton.

A second ballot was called for which resulted as follows: For Alderman Fenton: Fenton, Dorman, Lee, Larson, Helgren, Davis, Sturdevant, Gustafson—8. For Alderman Entwistle: Porter, Sprague—2. For Alderman Porter: Field—1. For Alderman Davis: Entwistle—1. Motion Alderman Sprague that the election of Alderman Fenton as president be made unanimous.

The chair ruled the motion out of order.

Whereupon, Alderman Fenton was declared elected president of this common council for the ensuing year.

Mayor Weeks then presented his message, which was read, and upon motion of Alderman Larson received, ordered filed and published.

The message appears on page seven.

By Alderman Lee: Resolved, That the Rules of Order of 1905 be made the Rules of Order of 1906 and that the clerk be instructed to procure 200 copies of the same to be printed for general distribution.
 Adopted.

By Alderman Sprague: Resolved, That a warrant be drawn against the street fund in favor of J.

Common Council—Proceedings by Authority.
 State of New York,
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of the community vastly improved through the conscientious work of its board of health. We have seen a splendid city hall erected, housing the various city departments; and in that city hall it has been possible to put the various departments on an economical and business-like basis. Few cities have their finances kept in any better shape than does Jamestown under John B. Shaw; few cities have their public records kept more accurately and in a form more accessible to the convenience of the public, than does Jamestown under City Clerk Clement B. Jones. It is about the same way all the way through—Jamestown has a municipal government to be proud of, free from favoritism, free from graft, free from influences which tend to demoralize or to interfere with sound business administration.

The greatest achievement of the past six years is undoubtedly the purchase of the water plant, and the splendid manner in which the municipal system is now being managed for the benefit of all the people rather than the profit of a few stockholders. We have been working hard of late to put the electric lighting plant on the same basis, and make it as creditable to the city as is the water plant. Jamestown is a pioneer city in applying the municipal ownership principle and policy, and the success of the idea here is an encouragement to all other communities contending against the same conditions.

In retiring from the office of mayor, I have no anger, no resentment, no animosity against any man or against whether he was for or against me in city affairs. He had as good a right to his opinion as I had to mine. I have tried simply to do my duty, and have been content to let every other man do what he considered to be his duty. As I look back upon some of the contests of the past, I can see that on some of the issues which each side fought so hard, have come improvements and better ideas of government; so that although some of us thought we were fighting each other, we were really working together for the good of the city.

It is a special pleasure to turn the office over to so worthy a man as my friend, James L. Weeks. I do not mean it as a reflection upon any other person when I say that I consider him the best qualified and best equipped man ever elected mayor of Jamestown. He has stood right by me in all the hard places for the past six years; he knows what ought to be done and has the courage to do it. We will all be surprised and disappointed if his administration is not the best the city has ever enjoyed. There is no man whom I would rather see mayor than James L. Weeks, and with the help of the council, he will give us an administration we can all be proud of.

In conclusion, I wish to thank you, Mr. Liedblad, for the assistance you have rendered me, and please convey my gratitude to the other aldermen and city officials assembled tonight. My only feeling is one of deep gratitude to everyone who has helped to make these years prosperous and successful ones for our city. I could never have done the work of mayor if you aldermen had not helped me more than you can ever realize, and the credit for my administration, if there is any credit, belongs to you and to the people more than it does to me. If I can ever assist any of you, please call upon me, for I shall retain an active interest in city affairs, even though as a private citizen.

The best wishes for the new city administration to be ushered in tonight, I am

Cordially yours,
 J. Emil Johnson.

The resignation of Frank F. Moynihan as policeman was read, accepted and ordered filed.

Chairman Larson then declared the common council of 1905 dissolved, and the common council of 1906 was duly organized.

Clement B. Jones,
 City Clerk.

Common Council—Proceedings by Authority.
 State of New York,
 City of Jamestown,
 Council Chamber.

Regular meeting of the common council of the city of Jamestown, N. Y., held April 9th, 1