

In accordance with the statute, I herewith transmit a certified copy of said verdict, and of the judgment of confirmation.

Respectfully,
PERCY L. MONTEITH,
Clerk.

Accepted and placed on file.

From the Recorder's Court
To the Honorable, the Common Council:

Gentlemen—I respectfully report to your Honorable Body that a Jury duly impanelled in the Recorder's Court, in the matter of opening of London Avenue into Welland Avenue, as a public street and highway, rendered a verdict in favor of said opening Tuesday, December 9th, 1930, which was confirmed by the Court Tuesday, December 23rd, 1930.

In accordance with the statute, I herewith transmit a certified copy of said verdict, and of the judgment of confirmation.

Respectfully,
PERCY L. MONTEITH,
Clerk.

Accepted and placed on file.

From the Clerk

That he presented such portion of the proceedings of the last regular session as is required by the charter to be so presented, to His Honor the Mayor for approval, on the 27th inst. and that they were approved on the 30th inst.

Also, That he has been served with copy of Plaintiff's Declaration & Rule to Plead, issued out of the Circuit Court for the County of Wayne, Michigan, in a cause wherein Joseph Taylor is Plaintiff and the City of Detroit, Defendant and that he has referred the same to the Corporation Counsel.

Placed on File.

From the Clerk
To the Honorable, the Common Council:

Gentlemen—I beg to inform your honorable body that I am in receipt of the following communication from the Committee on City Finance.

Respectfully submitted,
RICHARD W. READING,
City Clerk.

Committee on City Finances

December 15, 1930.

Mr. Richard W. Reading,
City Clerk.

Dear Sir — Enclosed herewith is communication from the Committee on City Finances to the Common Council, covering certain financial problems.

Will you be good enough to present it to the Council at its next meeting?

Sincerely yours,
RALPH STONE,
Chairman.

To the Honorable, the Common Council:

Gentlemen—The Committee on City Finances met today to discuss the financial problems which are now facing the Mayor and your Body. These problems appear to be the following:

I. PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.

(a) Long Term

(b) Unemployment Relief

II. BUDGET 1931-1932

III. DEFICIT OF ABOUT \$22,000,000.00.

IV. SPECIAL ASSESSMENT TAX BURDEN

Obviously, a committee of citizens such as ours cannot put together in detail either a long term improvement program or a city budget. We have not the intimate knowledge of the details of over two hundred activities in which the city government engages, to handle such a task properly. That duty and responsibility belongs to the Mayor and Common Council, aided by department heads, commissions, and boards such as the Board of Education, elected and appointed for that purpose. Such study and recommendations as we can make must necessarily be mostly of the plans or principles upon which these things may be done. It is true, however, that the civic organizations represented on our Committee have in their membership committees which have studied budgets and made suggestions in detail with respect thereto, and they will be available now as heretofore.

The underlying facts which should control are that this is a period of business depression; that under our present unbalanced system of taxation, four-fifths of the burden of paying the cost of government is upon real estate; that real estate is already suffering from the severest depression it has known for years; and that there is an absolute and positive limit to its ability to pay taxes, and therefore an end in sight to the income for the City which can be derived from it. Alarming increase of delinquent taxes is the proof of this.

In other words, there is now an emergency amounting almost to a financial crisis facing the city, and its financial program therefore must be framed to prevent that and to enable the city government to perform efficiently its most important functions of protection of life, safety of person and property, and conservation of health. All other activities must await better times and more favoring conditions.