

## RESOLUTION TO BUY NECESSARY LAND CARRIES

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSITION TAKES PLACE AT PRIVATE MEETING PRIOR TO PUBLIC SESSION

In the special meeting called by Mayor George W. Mead at the city hall last evening, the city council voted to buy properties sufficient to extend East Grand avenue from the corner of Third street to Fifth street and also to Birch street. Council members stated that the cost would approximate \$50,000.

### Properties Needed

The resolution passed by the council calls for the purchase of the old McCarthy property, lot 1, block 16 of Neeves first and second addition located at the southeast corner of Oak and Third streets; the Gouger property, lots 5 and 6, block 14, Neeves first and second addition, located at the northwest corner of Third street and East Grand avenue; the Pugin lot, shown in the E. H. Aldrich map of the city of Wisconsin Rapids as lot 1, for \$1500; the C. D. Seales lot 13 and part of lot 12 for \$2000; and the Dr. J. J. Looze property shown as lot 10 on the Aldrich map; also such other property as is necessary for the opening of a street 80 feet wide from the corner of Third street and East Grand avenue to the corner of Fifth and Arbor

The information contained in this article was practically all obtained by The Tribune from Mayor Mead and is not the news as recorded by a representative of this newspaper except that part of the proceedings which were public.

streets. The McCarthy property will be exchanged for that which the St. John's Episcopal church owns at the northeast corner of Third street and East Grand avenue.

Mayor George W. Mead called the meeting to order and informed the nearly 75 visitors that the group had convened earlier in the evening as a committee of the whole and that during that time they had discussed freely the proposed extension of East Grand avenue. He made brief mention that the gas plant franchise had been discussed by the group and then informed the meeting that the council had passed a resolution for the purchase of lands necessary to extend the avenue.

### Carries by 13-3 Vote

Every councilman was in his chair as the mayor ordered Alderman F. F. Mengel to read the resolution which had been adopted by the committee. Then it was moved and seconded that the council adopt the resolution and it was put to a vote with the result that it passed, 13 to 3. Those opposing were Aldermen Bamberg, Reiland and Rablin.

At the closed meeting of the committee a plan whereby the avenue would be extended to Birch street met with considerable disapproval and several members signified their belief that the street be continued to join Arbor street at Fifth street, according to Mayor Mead this morning in an interview with The Tribune. He stated that the discussion lasted nearly two hours and that finally the resolution calling for the purchase of properties to allow the extension either straight through to Fifth street or to Birch street was drawn and adopted by the committee. Then when it was put to a vote, the mayor said, the result was just as the vote taken when the body acted as the city council, 13 to 3, in favor of the adoption.

### Offer to Build Gas Plant

The mayor stated today that shortly before the private meeting expired, the committeemen were presented with a plan whereby W. J. Taylor, C. E. Boles and George M. Hill offered to form a \$200,000 corporation for the building of a gas plant in the city. Also in that proposal the corporation was to re-

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ceive the franchise for the city gas and coincidental with that plan was offered another proposition whereby the American Gas Construction company of Newton, Iowa, would build a modern gas plant here similar to the one which a local committee inspected at Wilmar, Minnesota, a short time ago. The plant, according to Mayor Mead, would cost \$150,000 and would supply the city with water gas. The American Gas Construction company then would agree to operate that plant on a profitable basis for a period of three years and would serve the city with gas at a cost not exceeding that of any other company. That construction company, in the proposal, according to Mr. Mead, would guarantee six per cent interest on the local corporation's investment.

### City Can Purchase

"At the expiration of two or three years of gas service from that company, Mr. Mead said, the city can purchase the plant from the company at the cost of the plant plus the six per cent interest paid on the investment. Then, if the council sees fit to have the electric light commissionmen or the councilmen themselves be directors of the holding corporation, it is entirely satisfactory."

He stated that the committee spent but little time, not in excess of fifteen minutes in considering the proposals and that there was no vote taken regarding them. In his opinion the gas project will be given thorough discussion and consideration at the next meeting of the council which will be held at the council chambers on Thursday, January 3, having been postponed from Tuesday because of the holiday and from Wednesday because of the mayor's absence from the city at which time he will be serving as an elector at Madison.

He mentioned that the reason Messrs. Taylor, Hill and Boles had been selected to form the corporation was because none of them were holding a city office. He did not definitely state who would furnish the capital for the corporation, but intimated that he might finance it himself.