

CHESTER TIMES – April 17, 1916 – BIG PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS – Council  
Considering the Erection of a New Municipal Building of Modern Design and Conveniences

Progressive modern methods marked the session of City Council this morning and this will be further appreciated when the announcement is made that a movement was started for the erection of a new municipal office building for the city; another proposition was made and practically accepted for the construction of a white way on Welsh Street from Seventh to Sixth Street and from that point to Edgmont Avenue; and also another proposition which was made for the opening of another street near Third and Kerlin Streets and the erection of a block of new houses in that section. Each of these three propositions met with the approval of the members off Council and were the cause of stirring up more realism than any movement of that nature which has been introduced for a long time.

The report has been current for some time to the effect that it was more than probable that it would not be long before positive action was taken with reference to a municipal office building to replace the headquarters which are now maintained in the historic City Hall, but it was not until this morning that the project was formally launched. It was just at the close of the session that superintendent of Public Property Mirki took the floor and made the public announcement that the project had been thoroughly talked over and he desired that when Council adjourned that it do so for the purpose of considering the erection of a new and modern municipal office building. This suggestion evidently met with the accord of the other members and such action was taken. It is understood that the question was gone over thoroughly and that during the present week something more definite will be done and the subject be in such shape that it can be more fully considered at the next meeting.

PROPOSED WHITE WAY – The White Way proposition was offered by John D. Shattuck of the Suburban Gas Company, after he had been given the privilege of the floor. He pointed out that it was the intention of the company to have installed along Welsh Street from Seventh Street to Sixth Street and along Sixth Street, from that point to Edgmont Avenue, lights of 500 candlepower each. These would be placed on poles seventy feet apart, on each side of the street while at Seventh and Welsh Streets, there will be one of the large lights on each side of the street; at Sixth and Welsh Streets, and four poles would be erected. It was the intention of General Manager Shattuck, according to his statement this morning, that the company would back up the movement and that the city would be at no expense whatever. The proposition was such that members of Council agreed to the White Way and it was accepted and the City Solicitor instructed to draw up the necessary agreement to protect the city.

PROPOSED NEW STREET – W. R. Bricker, representing Robert Wetherill, was given the privilege of the floor, and he made a proposition to open a new street running off Third Street between Kerlin and Ulrich Streets, and extending back to Mary Street. This street would be forth feet in width and a driveway 16 feet in width would be paved at the expense of the promoters. On each side of the driveway it is the intention to have a four-foot grass plot and then the sidewalk and another grass plot. The intention in this proposition is to erect houses facing on Third Street and also on both sides of the new street making them neat houses of modern construction and keeping up with the spirit of progress. The proposition, as submitted, met with the unqualified approval of the members of Council and an ordinance will be drawn up providing for the placing of the street on the city plans and granting required permission to Mr. Bricker, who states that Mr. Wetherill is in readiness to give the word to the engineers to go ahead with the work of preparing the official plans immediately.

Representing the Friehofer Estate, Mr. Bricker further made a proposition that the estate was also in readiness to pave the boulevard in the First Ward free of any expense to the city. It was further stated that the promoters would look for an agreement providing for a remission of taxes for a certain number of years, and in this manner. It would be possible for the city to pay its share of the expense without any immediate outlay of money. The question was brought up with regard to the status of the boulevard with respect some other adjoining property, and the question was referred to city Solicitor A. A. Cochran for the purpose of inspecting past ordinances.

Another proposition offered by the representative of the Friehofer Estate was the paving of the Parkway in the First Ward at the entire expense of the estate, it being the desire to let the contract at private contract. A material is suggested by the promoters, but there was a question raised with respect to this material and the offer was finally accepted with the exception that when the ordinance is drawn up it will contain a proviso that the street shall be paved with some material approved by city council. A proposition was also received for the construction of a sewer on Parkway Avenue and this was referred to the Department of streets.

During the session a communication was read from city Clerk Newsome in which he cited the facts in connection with the defeat of the jitney petition, there having been but 564 signatures received.

A lengthy communication was also received from Josiah Sleeper, B. F. Riley and Howard Brothers, asking that provisions be made for the removal of the large trees in front of the properties at 603 and 605 Welsh Street. This was referred to the department of Public Property.

Another communication was received from J. C. Taylor in which he pointed out that in a short time a \$50,000 improvement proposition would be underway in the neighborhood of Twentieth and Hyatt Streets and asking that for the purpose of saving the old trees in that neighborhood that a slight change be made in the curb lines. This proposition met with the approval of the members of Council but was referred to the City Solicitor for further consideration.