City of Salem, Massachusetts

"Know Your Rights Under the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 30A ss. 18-25 and City Ordinance Sections 2-2028 through 2-2033."

The City Council Committee on Government Services

met remotely on March 3, 2021 **at** 6:00 **P.M.**

for the purpose of discussing the matters(s) listed below. Notice of this meeting was posted on

February 23 **at.**

(This meeting is being recorded)

ATTENDANCE

ABSENT WERE: Councilllor Dibble

SUBJECT(S)

C. Hapworth stated that we were discussing the placement of a portrait representing the Naumkeag people in the Council Chambers, and the moving of the Andrew Jackson portrait to the anteroom, and time permitting we would begin a broader conversation around representation in the council chambers.

C. Hapworth introduced guests Professor Emerson Baker and Elizabeth Peterson to answer any historical questions councillors might have

C. Hapworth asked Prof. Baker to discuss an overview of Andrew Jackson and his involvement with indigenous people in America.

Prof. Baker gave an overview of Jackson, stating that he was most known in regard to native americans for his removal of them from their native lands. He questioned why Jackson's portrait hung in Salem city hall, as he had no connection to Salem

C. Hapworth stated that his understanding was that it was based upon a visit to Salem, and the fact that Jackson's administration distributed a surplus to the states which allowed city hall to be built.

C. Hapworth asked Ms. Peterson and Prof Baker to discuss a brief history of indigenous people in New England and Salem specifically

Prof Baker and Ms. Peterson gave a brief overview

C. Prosniewski asked if there were any known sites in Salem where native Americans had camps or settlements

Prof Baker and Ms. Peterson listed a few sites where artifacts had been found including Pioneer Village and the North River

C. Sargent asked if Andrew Jackson had ever done anything to Native Americans outside of congressional approval

Prof. Baker stated that he wasn't aware of any

C. Sargent asked if Jackson was a good General

Prof. Baker stated that he was one of America's Greatest Generals

C. Sargent stated that we should judge people by the time they lived in and that Andrew Jackson did great things for America, and that if it were not for him many of us may not be here.

C. Hapworth stated that we're not here as a committee to pass final judgement upon Jackson, but we are here to talk about representation in our council chambers. Today we have all white males, many of whom spent very little time in Salem, and had very little impact on Salem's history.

C. Hapworth asked Julie Barry, senior planner public art to discuss the commissioning process for the new portrait

Julie Barry gave an overview of the process the city is going through to commission the Naumkeag Portrait

C. Flynn asked how much it was going to cost

Ms. Barry stated it was 30,000 from beginning to end

C. Flynn asked if the money was already approved

Ms. Barry stated that it was transferred from the Witch House

C. Hapworth asked Ilene Simons to weigh in broadly on the council chambers

Ms. Simons stated the history behind the receipt of the Jackson portrait, that she had researched, located and presented documents from the 1891 Council Records regarding why the portrait was there. An Order from the October 5, 1891, Council meeting stated that Andrew Jackson's portrait be accepted as a gift and further ordered that it be hung in the Council Chambers on the northern side of the chamber. Also that City Hall was built and furnished from the surplus that was given to the city from Andrew Jackson's administration. She stated that she felt it hung in the council chambers for a reason, and noted that a previous city clerk was descended from Jackson

Ms. Simons also stated that Jackson adopted a Native American son.

C. Flynn asked if it was legal for us to move a portrait, given a previous council had ordered it be placed

Ms. Simons stated that an order to move the portrait would supercede the previous order

C. Hapworth asked for public comment

Steve Kapantais stated that it was great to hear from Prof. Baker. He stated that he was excited to see the new portrait but that 30,000 felt like too much, though he was unsure how much art should cost today

Alice Merkl stated that she was fully supportive of seeing a new portrait in the council chambers, encouraged council to move forward with the order.

C. Hapworth asked for a motion

C. Sargent stated that he would prefer to see the question divided to allow for the portrait to go forward but to leave the Jackson portrait

C. McCarthy stated that he felt the commissioning should move forward but that there were too many unanswered questions around the portrait of Jackson

C. Hapworth stated that the commissioning was moving forward regardless, committee's task was to discuss moving the Jackson portrait and hanging the new portrait.

C. McCarthy stated if that were the case, he felt it should stay in committee as there were too many questions

C. Hapworth stated that if it were the will of the body not to move the Jackson portrait, we could divide the question so that we could allow the hanging of the new portrait, and take up it's placement, and the placement of all portraits at a later meeting to discuss councillor Furey's 2019 order.

C. McCarthy moved that the order remain in committee, seconded by councillor Flynn

McCarthy – Y

Flynn – Y

Prosniewski – Y

Hapworth – Y

C. McCarthy moved for adjournment, seconded by councillor Flynn

McCarthy – Y

Flynn – Y

Prosniewski – Y

Hapworth – Y

On the motion of C. McCarthy the meeting adjourned at
_____7:13_____P.M.

(Chairperson)

Permit to Build

petition of Mrs. H. F. Churchill for permit to build an addition to a building at the Willows was granted, subject to the approval of the committee on public property. (See Record of permits to build)

Intelligence Office

The mayor for the committee on police and licenses verbally reported in favor of granting the petition of Mrs. Margaret Rand for a license to keep an intelligence office. The report was accepted and the license was granted as applied for.

Portrait of Aud. Jackson

The mayor for the committee to whom was referred the communication from Benjamin Barstow in reference to the gift of the portrait of Andrew Jackson, submitted a report recommending the adoption of the following orders, viz:—

"Ordered, that the thanks of the City of Salem be tendered to Benjamin Barstow for his valuable and acceptable gift of a portrait of Andrew Jackson.

Ordered, that the picture be framed uniformly with other portraits in the council chamber and that it be hung in the vacant panel on the northern side of the chamber.

Ordered, that the joint special committee to whom was referred the communication from Mr. Barstow be hereby authorized to expend a sum not exceeding fifty dollars for framing said portrait and that the expense be charged to "miscellaneous" in the appropriation for incidentals. Mayor and Aldermen department."

The report was accepted, orders were adopted and sent down for concurrence.

Railroad Gates at North St. Crossing.

The following report and order were submitted, viz:

"In Board of Aldermen, City of Salem, Oct. 5, 1891. The committee on streets to whom was referred the matter of gates at the crossing of the Boston & Maine Railroad on North st. have considered said matter, and beg leave to report as follows, to wit: They respectfully recommend the adoption of the following order.

A. S. Palfrey, Chairman"

"Ordered that the inspector of wires be and is hereby ordered to cut the electric trolly wire, and all other wires of the Naumkeag Street Railway Co. which cross the tracks of the Boston & Maine Railroad Co. on Northst. unless, within 30 days from the date of this order the said

North Wall
Per. Vol. 16 P. 432 Oct. 5, 1891 Order

NOTE: Figures No. 2 and 3 post-date Figures 5, 6, 7. The many hanging electric fixtures had been removed by the time this picture was taken. The fittings where the earlier fixtures had been located are quite visible in the original photograph.

Figure 2

Council Chamber, Salem City Hall
After 1890-probably 1913. (Essex Institute)
Note louvered blinds at windows, gasoliers,
c. 1876 carpet, but 1890's window niche benches.

CORRECTION: This photograph does not show louvered blinds at the windows. Blinds could not exist with the roll-down shades visible in this photograph. Date should be "After 1891".

CITY HALL

City Hall was built in 1837-38 under the supervision of Mayor Leverett Saltonstall and a committee appointed for that purpose. The cornerstone was laid on September 6, 1837. Artifacts buried beneath the cornerstone included copies of local newspapers, the Mayor's speech for the organization of City Government (May 9, 1836), and the new City Charter.

In 1837, under the administration of President Andrew Jackson, the United States Treasury held a surplus in the amount of nearly Forty Million Dollars. This surplus was distributed to the various states, which in turn distributed this money to the cities and towns. City Hall was built from this surplus revenue, as Salem's share was nearly $34,000.00. The building and furnishings cost approximately $22,878.00 when finished, and this is perhaps one of the few municipal structures in existence paid for without taxing the citizens. City Hall was first occupied by the City Council on the evening of May 31, 1838. A formal dedication was held on June 8, 1838.

Since 1837, the building has served as the focal point for the decision-making process in Salem, and the City Council Chamber is still used today for government meetings.

The City Hall is architecturally significant because of its excellent Greek Revival design. It is perfectly proportioned and in spite of its comparatively small size, gives a feeling of strength and dignity. The architect, Richard Bond (1797-1861), was described in contemporary reports as "an architect of great fame," "an architect of high reputation" and "a distinguished architect." He also designed Gore Hall --the old Library at Harvard, the Bowdoin Square Church in Boston, both no longer standing. The facade is reminiscent of Robert Mills, with the ceiling rosettes in the Council Chamber exact duplicates of those done by Alexander Parris for Faneuil Hall Market in Boston.

The City Hall is located on Washington Street, the main thoroughfare of Salem, with commercial structures on either side of it. Completed in 1838, this two-story building is late Greek Revival in style. The original dimensions were 32 feet high, 45 feet wide and 68 feet long. The side and rear elevations are unadorned brick while the main facade is dressed granite. Three bays wide, this facade is broken by four giant pilasters, one on each corner and one on either side of the recessed center bay. The bays are set with tall windows, 6 over 6. The central entrance is reached by a short flight of granite steps; a cast iron lamp on a bracket projects from above. The tall front double doors are made of mahogany with brass studs outlining the center panels.

The pilasters support a massive entablature whose frieze is decorated with carved stone laurel wreaths. A parapet rises from the entablature and, over the center bay, this forms a partial pediment. The latter is topped by a gold leafed eagle which is an exact copy of the original, hurricane-damaged one done by Samuel McIntire. The original eagle was part of the gateway to Salem Common.

the month of September was received and placed on file.

The board then (10½ o'clock P.M.) adjourned.

Attest,

Henry M. Meek, Clerk.

At a meeting of the Common Council held on Monday evening, October 12, 1891, the following matters were passed in concurrence, viz:

Appropriation Lamp Dept.

Passage of the order transferring $50.— from gas account to horse and wagon account in the lamp department. (Presented for approval and approved October 19, 1891)

Appropriation Lamp Dept.

Passage of the order transferring $150.— from gas account to oil account in lamp department (Presented for approval and approved Oct. 19, 1891).

Appropriation Lamp Dept.

Passage of the order amending the item "180 electric lights" in appropriation bill so as to read "electric lights." (Presented for approval and approved October 19, 1891)

Appropriation for Sewer

Passage of the order appropriating $500.— for re-building the sewer in Lafayette street. (Presented for approval and approved October 19, 1891)

Water-Pipe Howard St.

Acceptance of the report and passage of the order appropriating $330.— for laying a water-pipe in Howard street extension. (Presented for approval and approved October 19, 1891)

Water Pipe Castle Hill

Acceptance of the report and passage of the order appropriating $300.— for laying water-pipe in Castle Hill district. (Presented for approval and approved October 19, 1891)

Water Rates

Acceptance of the report in the matter of the petition for reducing water-rates at Juniper Point (Presented for approval and approved October 19, 1891)

Andrew Jackson

Acceptance of the report and passage of the three orders concerning the portrait of Andrew Jackson (Presented for approval and approved October 19, 1891)

Water-Pipe Pierce Ave.

Acceptance of the report and passage of the order appropriating $250.— for laying a water-pipe in Pierce Avenue. (Presented for approval October 21, 1891 and approved October 29, 1891.)

Attest,

Henry M. Meek, City Clerk.

The rules were suspended and the nomination was confirmed.

Trustee of Plummer Farm School

The following communication was received, viz:

Mayors Office, Sept. 22nd 1891. To the Hon. the Board of Al[dermen]

Gentlemen:— I have the honor to nominate George M. Whipple to be a tr[ustee] of the Plummer Farm School, for the remainder of the term expiring ja[n.] 31, 1893 in place of the Hon. George B. Loring deceased; in accordance [with] the provisions of section 4, chapter I, of the revised ordinances. Re[spectfully], Robert S. Rantoul, Mayor.

The rules were suspended and the nomination was confi[rmed].

Water-Pipe

A petition from George P. Woodbury for the laying of [a water] pipe to his stable on Howard street extension, came from the comm[on coun]cil referred September 14th to the joint standing committee on [water] works and sent up for concurrence. The board concurred. (Presented for [ap]proval of reference and approved September 24, 1891.)

South Bridge Lafayette St.

The order widening Lafayette street near South Bridge, a[nd] appropriating $12500.— for the same and for rebuilding said bridge, came [back] from the common council recommitted September 14th to the co[mmittee] with instructions to report an order covering only the rebuilding of th[e] bridge, and sent up for concurrence in the recommitment. The board [con]curred. (Presented for approval of recommitment and approved [Sept.] 24.)

Water Bill B.&M.R.R.

A petition from William J. Hobbs general auditor of the Bo[ston] and Maine Railroad for an allowance of the discount on certain water bills [paid] by them to the city, came from the common council referred September [14th] to the water board with power to act, and sent up for concurrence. The [board] concurred. (Presented for approval of reference and approved September 24, 1891.)

Claim

A communication from Jane A. Patterson claiming damages [for] injuries sustained by a fall on the street, came from the common council re[fer]red September 14th to the joint standing committee on claims and sent [up] for concurrence. The board concurred. (Presented for approval of reference [and] approved September 24, 1891.)

Portrait of Andrew Jackson

A communication from the mayor, transmitting a letter [from] Benjamin Barton tendering to the city a portrait of Andrew Jackson

Sept. 22, 1891.

seventh President of the United States, came from the common council referred September 14th to a joint special committee consisting of President Brigham and councilmen C. Briggs and Allen, and such as the mayor and aldermen may see fit to join, and sent up for concurrence and to be joined. The board concurred and the Mayor and aldermen Palfray and Turner were joined to the committee (Presented for approval and approved September 24, 1891)

The following report and order came from the common council adopted and sent up for concurrence, viz:- Record of Public Property.

In City Council, City of Salem, Sept. 14, 1891. The joint standing committee on public property find that although the city ordinances provide that the said committee shall cause to be kept a record of public property, no complete record has ever been kept so far as the present committee is able to find out and would recommend the adoption of the following order

For the Committee, A. W. West, Chairman.

Ordered that the joint special committee on records &c. be requested to consider said matter and to formulate some plan by which such record may be made complete.

The board concurred. (Presented for approval and approved September 24, 1891).

Notice was received that the common council on the 14th of September had non-concurred in referring to a special committee the mayor's communication relating to the South Bridge and a new street from Lafayette street to Washington street. On motion of alderman West the matter was laid on the table. South Bridge Lafayette St.

Petitions and memorials were received and disposed of as follows-

Petition of Dorcas C. Nourse for compensation for land taken by the widening of Symonds street in 1881. Referred to the joint standing committee on claims and sent down for concurrence. Claim Symonds St.

Petition of Thomas Manning of Boston offering to buy Ram Island land of the city and to pay $300.- therefor. Referred to the joint standing committee on public property and sent down for concurrence. Ram Island

Petition of J. C. Cooper for a licence to set up and use one hackney carriage. Referred to the committee on police and licences. Hack

Petition of Shepley and Scott for a licence as undertakers. Undertaker

that the sum of one hundred dollars be transferred from Article No. 1 to article No. 2 in the lamp and lighting dept. appropriation of the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1891.

The order was adopted and sent down for concurrence.

Jury List

The jury list having been revised by the committee appointed for that purpose, by erasing the names of seventy persons and substituting an equal number therefor, was submitted to the board. The names erased and added were read to the board, and the following order was then submitted, viz:

"Ordered, that the foregoing list of jurors made in conformity with the laws of this commonwealth, and containing the names of such inhabitants of the city of Salem, as are thought to be qualified to serve as jurors, be hereby approved, the list posted in the entry of the City Hall for ten days as prescribed by law, and then sent to the common council for revision and acceptance of the same."

The order was adopted.

Wagon

The petition of George C. Smith for a license to set up and use one wagon for the conveyance of merchandise etc., was received and the license was granted.

Bills

The bills against the department for the month of November were examined and approved.

Clerk's Fees

The list of fees received by the city clerk during the month of November was received and placed on file.

The board then (9.15 P.M.) adjourned.

Attest,

Henry M. Meek, Clerk.

A special meeting of the Board of Aldermen called by order of the mayor for general business, was held on Tuesday, December 15, 1891 at 4 o'clock P.M.

All the members were present except Alderman Russell. The Mayor presided. The reading of the record was dispensed with.

Gen. Jackson

The following report came from the common council accepted

Dec. 15, 1891.

December 10th, recommendation adopted and sent up for concurrence, viz:-

"In City Council, City of Salem, Dec. 10th 1891. The joint special committee on the gift of a portrait of Jackson to whom was referred the matter of acknowledging, framing and hanging the same, have considered said matter, and beg leave to make a final report as follows, to wit; They have tendered the thanks of the city, conveyed in a resolution of October 19th last, to Benjamin Barton, Esquire, - have caused the picture to be cleaned and framed; and have added a tablet inscribed with such facts as seemed to possess general interest. They have also placed upon the portrait of Charles A. Read in the Mayor and Aldermen's room, a tablet bearing a similar inscription. Of the appropriation of fifty dollars, they have expended for these purposes twenty eight 50/100 dollars, and respectfully recommend that the balance be returned to the treasury.

For the Committee, Robert S. Rantoul, Chairman"

The board concurred. (Presented for approval and approved December 17, 1891)

Several reports from the joint standing committee on claims recommending "leave to withdraw" upon the petitions of Charles S. Buffum, Hannah A. Lendall, Dorcas C. Nourse, and Israel and Charles Phelps came from the common council indorsed "report accepted, recommendation adopted, December 10, 1891, and sent up for concurrence." The board concurred (Presented for approval and approved December 17, 1891) Claims.

The following report and resolve came from the common council, report accepted, resolve adopted, December 10th, and sent up for concurrence, viz:- Claim North River Flats

"In City Council, City of Salem, Dec. 10th 1891. The joint standing committee on claims to whom was referred the matter of the petition of Lucy E. Treadwell and others for the release to them of certain flats in North River have considered said matter, and beg leave to report as follows, to wit: The committee recommend the passage of the accompanying resolve.

For the Committee Henry Wardwell, Chairman"

"In the matter of the petition of Lucy E. Treadwell, Annie F. Clark, Frank R. Treadwell, and Harry D. Treadwell, for the release to them by the city of Salem of certain flats lying in the North River

Resolved, that permission be and is hereby given to said petitioners,

June 17th 1845- Information was this day received of the death of Andrew Jackson Ex-president of the United States- he died at Nashville on Sunday the 8th inst. at 6 o'clock P.M. 78 years of age -the Bells of the several Churches were tolled for one hour by direction of the Mayor & Aldermen. Death of Gen'l Jackson

Special meeting of the Board of Ald'n June 17th 1845- a quorum being present. Jurors

The following named persons were drawn to serve as Jurors at the Court of C pleas now in session at Ipswich-Viz- Douglass Osborn-Jn'o Chamberlain-Jerem'h Richardson, also on the 18th inst. James Chaney & Eben'r Symonds.

Attest J. Cloutman City Clerk.

In the Board of Ald'n June 23d 1845 present all the Board.

An Order for extending the Southerly line of Front St. over land of Jn'o Kinsman was passed- sent down for concurrence- came up Non-concurred.

An Order relative to the acceptance of Breed Street was passed & sent down for concurrence-

The following Order was passed-

"Ordered- That the Street Commissioner be directed to notify Mr. Joel Bowker to cause the Drain across Fish Street, which has recently been closed by him to be opened immediately, so that the water which now stands on the surface and which is very offensive, may be abated."

A Report from the Committee on Finance with the following order came up and was passed in concurrence.

Ordered- That the City Treasurer be authorised to borrow on the credit of the City under the direction of the Committee on Finance, such sums of money as may be necessary to meet the demands against the City that may be allowed by the Committee on Accounts, provided that the sum so borrowed shall not exceed Ten thousand dollars the same to be repaid out of the first unappropriated money that may be received into the Treasury.

A petition of Fred Howes & others for the prevention of Smoking in the Streets came up referred to joint Committee on the Fire Department- concurred-