

WILL VOTE ON CHARTER AM'DT.

CITIZENS TO BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO RELIEVE PRESENT CONDITIONS.

COST OF PAVING EXTENSION

SUIT OF ISAAO ABRAHAMSON SETTLED AT LAST.

Too Late to Relay Superior Street Crossings—Salaries are Fixed.

The council last night adopted the resolution calling upon the charter commission to submit to a vote of the people at the coming election the charter amendment adding \$50,000 to the permanent improvement revolving fund, and allowing 75 per cent of the cost of improvements to be assessed against the property benefited as soon as the contracts are let for street or sewer work. The resolution in its original form provides for an 80 per cent levy on letting the contracts, but was amended.

A further amendment was made by Alderman Swenson, that in cases where street improvements are absolutely necessary, and the property owners neglect to petition for them the work may be ordered done by a vote of seven-eighths of the council. In support of his amendment he said that in some parts of the city, particularly in West Duluth, where a large amount of property was held for speculation, it was next to impossible to get the owners to petition for improvements, and something should be done to give residents the accommodations they are entitled to.

Alderman Moore did not approve of the amendment, not that he did not think it a good thing, but he feared that it might endanger the adoption of the whole amendment when it came before the people. The amendment carried, however.

Estimates for paving Superior street from third avenue east to Twenty-fifth avenue East, and the avenues between Michigan and First street from Second avenue East to Sixth avenue West, were submitted by City Engineer Patton. The estimates give \$166,716.81 as the cost of laying asphalt on Superior street and \$136,004.33 for vitrified brick. The cost of paving the avenues with sandstone is estimated as follows: Second avenue East, \$6,903.05; First avenue East, \$7,326.22; Lake avenue from the viaduct, \$5,937.41; First avenue West, \$6,091.03; Second avenue West, \$7,050.89; Third avenue West, \$5,959.91; Fourth avenue West, \$6,877.91; Fifth avenue West, \$5,800.02; Sixth avenue West, \$7,324.57.

The suit of Isaac Abrahamson against the city was ordered settled on compromise. The demand was for \$493.40, and a settlement was effected at \$400. The bill was for clothing furnished by the Hub Clothing company to the health department for patients, and was held up on the ground that William Abrahamson, a member of the board of fire commissioners, could not legally sell goods to the city. The matter went to court, with Isaac Abrahamson as plaintiff, and a decision was given against him by a jury. An appeal was about to be taken, and it was deemed best to settle, as the goods were admitted worth the price paid, and the city had been in part reimbursed for them by the state.

The personal injury suit of Mary La Valley was settled for \$75. She had begun action for \$2,000 for injuries received by falling on an icy walk on Fifteenth avenue West last winter.

The committee to which was referred the petition for relaying the Superior street crossings in the newly paved district with sandstone, reported that there was no hope of doing anything with the matter this winter. The report suggested that one of the crossings might be thus relaid as an experiment. It also recommended that if the property owners on the avenues were not willing to petition to have them paved the coming season, it would be a good thing to amend the charter so as to have the pavement laid without the necessity of petition.

The salaries fixed by heads of departments for employes were reported as follows:

Engineering department per month: Assistant city engineer, \$125; assistant in charge of surveys, \$100; sub engineer, \$75; draughtsman and first assistant, \$100; second assistant, \$75; transitman, \$65; level rodman, \$65; rodman, chainmen and axmen, \$50; cement tester, \$25; bookkeeper, \$25.

City clerk's office, per year: Deputy, \$1,020; stenographer, \$840.

Inspector of buildings, per year: Deputy, \$900; clerk, \$120.

Two street extensions at Grassy Point, West Duluth, were named Le-Seur street and Chapin street, on resolution by Alderman Barnes. The Barnes ordinance changing the fire limits in West Duluth was also adopted.