

Nauvoo City Council

Prosecution, & that said Nickerson be Taxed with the Costs of Suit.¹⁶

Passed Feb[ruar].y. 17th. 1842.

John C. Bennett, Mayor.

James Sloan, Recorder.

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Nauvoo, that the Monies resigned by the City Council, or any part of them, if not disposed of by themselves, become a poor Fund, to be appropriated hereafter for the benefit of the Poor of the City of Nauvoo.

Passed Feb[ruar].y. 17th 1842

John C. Bennett, Mayor.

James Sloan Recorder.

It was Ordered, upon Motion of the Vice Mayor, that Bluff Street be opened from Mulholland Street to Munson Street.

Feb[ruar].y. 17th 1842.

John C. Bennett. Mayor.

James Sloan, Recorder

The Vice Mayor, Councillors B[righam] Young, W[illard] Richards, H[eber] C. Kimball & W[ilford] Woodruff Assigned their Fees as Councillors for the City, in favor of the City, until further Notice.

Ald[er]m[an] [Samuel H.] Smith resigned up his Fees for the past Year. Co[uncill]o[r] Wilson Law resigned his Claim to pay, as a City Councillor, up to this time, in favour of the Blind Inhabitants of the fourth Ward of this City, to be equally divided amongst them.

Co[uncill]o[r] W[illiam] Law resigned his pay as Co[uncill]o[r] for the time past, and the present year, except any Fines which may be levied on him.

Feb[ruar].y. 17th 1842.

John C. Bennett, Mayor.

James Sloan, Recorder.

Upon Report of the Comittee it was Adopted, that the City Assessment, amounting to \$140,128.00, be accepted.

Adopted Feb[ruar].y. 17th 1842.

John C. Bennett, Mayor.

James Sloan, Recorder.

An Ordinance concerning Marriages.

Sec. 1. Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Nauvoo, that all Male Persons over the Age of seventeen years, and Females over the Age of fourteen years,¹⁷ may contract and be joined in Marriage: Provided in all Cases where either Party is a Minor, the consent of Parents or Guardians be first had.

Sec. 2. Any Persons as aforesaid wishing to Marry, or be

¹⁶See November 27, 1841.

¹⁷Fourteen years as a legal marriage age was not uncommon in the nineteenth century. In fact, in late-nineteenth-century Illinois, the age of consent was ten. See Mary E. Odem, Delinquent Daughters: Protecting and Policing Adolescent Female Sexuality in the United States (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1995), 14-15.

joined in Marriage, may go before any regular Minister of the Gospel, Mayor, Alderman, Justice of the Peace, Judge or other Person authorized to Solemnize Marriages in this State, and Celebrate or declare their Marriage, in such manner and form as shall be most agreeable; either with or without License.

Sec. 3. Any Person solemnizing a Marriage as aforesaid shall make return thereof to the City Recorder, accompanied by a recording Fee of Fifty Cents, within thirty days of the Solemnization thereof, And it is hereby made the Duty of the Recorder to keep an accurate Record of all such Marriages. The Penalty for a Violation of either of the Provisions of this Ordinance shall be twenty Dollars, to be recovered as other Penalties or Forfeitures.

Passed February 17th 1842.

John C. Bennett, Mayor.

James Sloan, Recorder.

[February 18, 1842; Friday.]¹⁸ I [i.e., Joseph Smith] attended an adjourned city council, and spoke at considerable length in committee of the whole on the great privileges of the Nauvoo Charter, and especially on the registry of deeds for Nauvoo, and prophesied in the name of the Lord God, that Judge [Stephen A.] Douglas and no other judge of the Circuit Court will ever set aside a law of the city council, establishing a registry of deeds in the city of Nauvoo.

[March 5, 1842; Saturday.]¹⁹ Resolved by the City Council of the City of Nauvoo, that when Property is sold at Sheriffs, Marshals, or Constables Sale, under the Ordinances of this City, the Persons having their Property Sold shall have the privilege to redeem the same, by paying the Principal, and fifteen per Cent on Principal, with Cost and Charges, within thirty days after Sale.²⁰

Passed March 5th 1842.

John C. Bennett, Mayor.

James Sloan, Recorder.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Nauvoo, that the Street running South from Parley to Lumber Street, between Charles Hubbard,²¹ Bently, Taylor &c., be opened, and that said Street be

¹⁸This meeting is not recorded in the official city council minutes; it is taken from History of the Church, 4:516. "After some business on roads was performed," Wilford Woodruff recorded, "Joseph the Seer took the floor & followed Gen[eral] [John C.] Bennet Concerning law our rights &c. His speech was truly interesting and powerfull" (2:154).

¹⁹See also History of the Church, 4:543.

²⁰The History of the Church reports, apparently incorrectly, that this resolution passed on Friday, March 4, 1841.

²¹Charles Wesley Hubbard was born in 1810 in Sheffield, Massachusetts. He was baptized in 1833, and died in 1903.