



City of Manchester Archives
One City Hall Plaza
Manchester, NH 03101

603.624.6455 – mintranuovo@manchesternh.gov

www.manchesternh.gov/Departments/City-Clerk/Municipal-Archives-and-Records

Collection Summary

Repository: Manchester City Archives. Office of the City Clerk. City of Manchester, NH.

Creator: Common Council. City of Manchester, NH.

Title: Common Council Records

Collection Number: 0100.002

Accession Number(s): 2004.3; 2007.36

Dates: 1846 – 1915

Volume: 8 bound volumes; one oversized folder

Languages: Collection materials are in English.

Related Collections: Board of Mayor and Aldermen Records (0100.001)

Access: Access to collection is open to the public. Please contact the archives for an appointment to view materials. Cite the collection number, box and folder numbers when making an appointment. Materials may be accessible online; please reference the digital note below.

Digital Note: Materials are not accessible online at this time.

Conservation Notes: In 2004 the Manchester City Archives received a grant from the New Hampshire State Library to clean, rebind, and restore seven (7) volumes of meeting minutes. The grant was funded through the Conservation License Plate (Moose Plate) program.

Finding Aid Prepared by: Sally Fellows, 2004; reprocessed Mike Intranuovo, 2015.

Table of Contents

- I. Historical Note ... Page 2
- II. Collection Description ... Page 2
- III. Series Descriptions ... Page 3

Historical Note

The Common Council's primary purpose was to serve as a third tier of government along with the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen. All City resolutions and ordinances required the signature of the President of the Common Council, the Mayor (representing the Board of Mayor and Aldermen), and the City Clerk. Orders would be sent from one governing body to another for their approval. Together, all three branches were termed the "City Council." The Common Council, together with the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen, also administered the fiscal, prudential, and municipal affairs of the City of Manchester.

The Common Council's first meeting was on September 8, 1846 (the first day of city government operation for the City of Manchester). The Board of Aldermen and the members of the Common Council would correspond with each other on various issues. For example, the Board would pass an ordinance and then send a note to the Common Council asking for concurrence. If the Board and the Common Council could not agree with one another, a committee of conference was appointed by each board in order to discuss their differences.

Collection Description

The Common Council records contain bound volumes of the council's official minutes from 1846-1915, and one petition submitted to the council from the citizens of Manchester in 1883.

Topics covered in the minutes include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Rules for the Operation of the City Farm (January 26, 1847)
- Resolution to establish Pine Grove Cemetery (May 27, 1856)
- December 31, 1860: "A message was received from the Board of Mayor and Aldermen which was read, requesting the Board of Common Council to meet in convention at Mr. Campbell's saloon at 9 o'clock, when it was voted to concur in said request."
- Resolution authorizing the payment of a bounty to re-enlisted soldiers fighting in the Civil War (April 12, 1864)
- Invitation to the City Council from Mrs. James P. Eaton to take a ride on the Steam Boat Daisy on Lake Massabesic (June 20, 1876)
- November 11, 1879: A Joint Special Committee of Five (5) (two (2) Aldermen and three (3) Councilmen) to confer with the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company and the Concord Railroad relative to a bridge to be built across the Merrimack River at the foot of Bridge Street.
- Resolution relating to the erection of a monument to General John Stark (May 3, 1887)
- Letter of Mayor William C. Clarke has been transcribed in the notes. The letter states his objections to the Budget of 1899. He does not feel an engine house is needed on Wilson Hill because the area is sparsely populated.
- On August 29, 1910 there was an initiative to purchase 21 acres of land for the Pine Grove Cemetery.

Series Descriptions and Inventory

Series 1: Meeting Minutes, 1846-1915

Official meeting minutes of the Common Council. Eight bound volumes of handwritten minutes are arranged chronologically.

Series 2: Petition, 1883

A petition, from Manchester residents to the Board of Common Council, requesting that the streets of Manchester be sprinkled daily during the "hot and dry season". The citizens felt it was more cost effective for the government to provide this service rather than by private citizens.