

## Adelaide Fire Brigade 1853

*Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 1 January 1853, page 5*

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,

Thursday 30th December.

Present—the Mayor and all the members, except Mr. Alderman Paxton, Capt. Beevor, Mr. Fiveash, Mr. Platts, and Mr. Slatter.

FIRE BRIGADE.

Mr. Alderman Solomon moved, pursuant to notice,—

"That the Corporation establish a Fire Brigade, by the purchase of an engine and fire annihilators, and the engagement of 12 men, to act as firemen in cases of fire, and to attend at least twice every month to practise and exercise the engine and other appliances for extinguishing fire. That the various Fire Insurance Offices be communicated with, requesting them to contribute towards the support of the establishment."

The calculation he had made showed that a rate of one penny in the pound would be sufficient to meet the expenses, thus:—

12 men, at £24 per year ...	£288
1 superintendent ...	100
Repairs to engines, &c. ...	100
3 alarm bells ... ..	60
Payment to water carriers	100
Total ... ..	£648

A rate of one penny in the pound on the assessment taken at £113,000, would amount to £470 16s. To that amount they might fairly add £200 as donations from the Insurance Companies, in addition to the use of the engine, which had already been promised.

A conversation followed relative to the manner of using the fire annihilators, the rights of the patentee, &c.

Mr Young said the expence varied from £3 to £7 each. A shed had been built at Liverpool for the express purpose of trying the efficacy of the invention. It was filled with tar, naphtha, and other combustibles, and set on fire. The annihilator was then successfully employed in extinguishing the flames.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

WATER WORKS.

Mr Haire moved the appointment of a Committee to consider the best and most economical mode of constructing tanks as reservoirs for the supply of water to the city. He found, by calculation, that a cylindrical tank, of 10 feet deep, and a proportionate diameter, would contain 44,052 gallons.

Mr. D. Fisher would readily admit the necessity of supplying the city with pure water, but did not approve of the mode of doing so embodied in the resolution.

Mr. Lawson thought the motion premature. They had received plans and specifications from Mr. Elder and ought not, he thought, to undertake works of a temporary character.

Mr. Haire subsequently withdrew his motion, and then moved—

"That the Council do resolve itself into a Committee of the whole, for the consideration of the best means of supplying the city with pure water in the most efficient and economical manner."

The Council went into Committee of the whole, which was immediately adjourned till Tuesday next, at 3 o'clock. On the motion of Mr. Haire, it was resolved that application be made to the Government for any information in its possession relative to the subject of the proposed Waterworks.

***Adelaide Times (SA : 1848 - 1858), Friday 28 January 1853, page 3***

THE CORPORATION.

Thursday, January 27th.

Absent—Alderman Paxton, and Councillors Haire, Witt, and Slatter.

FIRE BRIGADE.

Mr D. Fisher moved that the Fire Brigade Committee, appointed on the 6th instant, be instructed to take into consideration the best mode of carrying out the resolution passed on the 27th December last.

Mr Alderman Solomon suggested that the twelve men and superintendent should be regularly kept in the pay of the Corporation, and should combine their duties of firemen with those of private watch-men, acting in concert with the Police. He had been informed, by a person in whom he could place reliance, that the town was never at any time so infested by rogues and vagabonds as at present. A Sergeant of Police told him the other day, that he should be afraid to interfere, were he to see a robbery committed that moment in which two or three persons were engaged, as his life would be in danger, there being but twelve policemen on duty throughout the city during the night. He also stated, that it was the boast of an organized band of ruffians, by whom the city was infested, that half of Hindley-street was in their power any night they liked to seize it. He had felt it his duty to throw out this suggestion, as he should be prepared to move it in Committee.

The motion was then carried.