

protest is a bar to all further proceedings for the period of six months. Should no such protest be filed, the Council advertises for bids for doing the work, in accordance with such specifications as they may adopt, and the contract must be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. Notice of the award must be published for the period of five days. Within this period, the owners of property fronting upon the street to be improved may, by agreement among themselves, do the work ordered, which must be at the price charged by the lowest bidder. When a contract has been completed to the satisfaction of the City Engineer and the City Marshal, a warrant is issued to the contractor, authorizing him to collect from the property holders the amounts due from them for their proportion of the improvements.

An official grade has been adopted for the portion of the city within Market and Fourteenth streets, and for several streets in the western part of the city. According to this grade, most of the blocks are to be above the level of the streets, and there is to be but a small amount of filling in. The official grade was adopted by the Council, by ordinance, December 21st, 1867.

The almost perfect natural grade of Oakland has rendered the improvement of her streets a matter easy of accomplishment. There are no sand hills to be dug away, and no rocky cliffs to be undermined and removed. The only method as yet adopted for making the streets more convenient for horses and vehicles is that of macadamizing them. At a distance of five miles from the city are inexhaustible quantities of rock suitable for the purpose. After being exposed to the winter rains and becoming packed and firm, it in many cases equals a pavement of asphaltum. If proper care were to be taken to keep the macadamized streets in a state of cleanliness and repair, they would not be inferior to the cobble stone pavements of most American cities. The first experiment in improving the streets of Oakland was in macadamizing the section of Broadway between Fourth and Tenth streets, the contract for this work being let December 2d, 1864. The price per square foot then