

Who Do You Think Would Make A Good Mayor for Jamestown? - - S. A. Carlson?

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The name of Samuel A. Carlson, mayor of Jamestown for 26 years and now mayor emeritus, has been suggested as a man who would still make a good mayor for Jamestown.

His name was suggested by Henry E. Carney, 11 West Eleventh Street, who writes: "I think former mayor Carlson would make a good mayor for Jamestown. I think a lot of other people in Jamestown think so too. I hope he will be a candidate this November."

Former Mayor Carlson is now a resident of Lakewood but he still maintains a voting address at 101 Forest Avenue, the home of his brother, D. Lawrence Carlson, which retains for him his legal status as a Jamestown citizen.

Samuel A. Carlson entered public life in Jamestown 56 years ago upon his election as an alderman from the Fourth Ward on the Republican ticket, with endorsements by the Democratic and People's (Populist) parties. With the exception of three intervals covering about seven years, he has held office in the city government ever since, serving successively as a member of the Council, member of Board of Public Works, mayor and member of the Board of Public Utilities. It is a record for length of service in municipal government seldom equalled in this country.

Mr. Carlson was born Oct. 28, 1868, son of John F. and Louise Carlson. Shortly after leaving high school he engaged in the furniture manufacturing business on lower Willard Street, near Winsor for a few years, then acquired an interest in the Vart Land Publishing Company, publisher of a Swedish weekly. He served as manager of that publication until some time after becoming mayor.

It was in 1893 that Mr. Carlson was elected to the Common Council. Then only 25 years old, he at once entered actively into its work. Municipal ownership of public utilities was a comparatively new question in the early 90s and Mr. Carlson immediately took a position of leadership in the movement here. As an alderman he became an ardent advocate of the extension of the city's small electric plant then used exclusively for street lighting purposes. From that time until now when he is serving on the Board of Public Utilities, Mr. Carlson has been an important factor in the development of Jamestown's municipally owned electric and water plants.

A few months after his election for a second term as alderman, Mr. Carlson resigned from the Council to accept an appointment from Mayor Ele-



SAMUEL A. CARLSON

azer Green as a member of the Board of Public Works. That board of three members was charged with the responsibility of supervising paving and sewer construction and Mr. Carlson served as its secretary for the ten years of his membership under Mayors Green, Oscar F. Price, Henry H. Cooper and J. Emil Johnson, retiring in the third term of the Johnson administration.

Out of public life only a few years, Mr. Carlson came back in 1908 when he won the Republican nomination for Mayor over former Mayor Price, H. E. V. Porter, then president of the Council, and John C. Swanson, a contractor.

One of the first recommendations of Mr. Carlson as mayor was publication of the city's assessment roll for distribution to the taxpayers. He early secured a change in the city's paving work from the contract basis to direct municipal construction. An advocate of a municipal milk plant from his early years as mayor, a project which he has advocated from time to time throughout the intervening years, he is still pursuing it as one of the leaders in the current movement. Once Mr. Carlson persuaded the Council to submit the issue to a vote of the taxpayers. A bond issue was authorized by referendum but only one bid was received for the bonds. The Council authorized the sale to an outside firm which later withdrew its offer and the project was dropped.

Construction of Jamestown
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