

dates, foreshadowing primary elections by approximately 25 years. F. E. Hardwick, after a year's absence, was elected mayor in 1876.⁵

Henderson Hix, the challenger in 1874, was chosen mayor in 1875. J. C. Tipton was elected mayor in 1877 and served three years, the longest tenure of the period. In 1879 Tipton won over challenger F. E. Hardwick by 174 to 136 votes. Tipton was reputedly supported by Democrats, while Hardwick received most of the black votes.

Tipton was the father of W. S. Tipton, city recorder (1873-1876), and editor of the local Republican newspaper, the *Weekly Herald*. Feelings about the mayoral race ran so high that a petition was presented to the state legislature to repeal the charter for Cleveland. The possibility of a repeal was voiced as early as 1877.⁶ The bill abolishing the charter passed the third and final reading on March 17, 1879, with the repeal to take effect January 1, 1880. The town continued until December 31, 1879, and ceased to exist. Editor Tipton described the town's demise—"The corporate lights went out at 12 p.m. last night. The debt is paid—the city owes nothing, and we stand together a wiser people."⁷ A formal obituary was carried in the newspaper of January 8, 1880. He wrote, "She was aged about 20 years, and had spent her life in benefitting her subjects—ever ready to show her power when the unruly were to be dealt with. But alas! She is gone, perhaps nevermore to return." After a two-year hiatus, Cleveland was resurrected in 1882, granted another charter, and given a new lease on life.

Recorders who served during the decade were John F. Rogers (1871), W. S. Edwards (1872), W. S. Tipton (1873-1876), W. L. Sharp (1878-1879), and T. I. Gaut (1879). Treasurers were A. J. White (1871-1876), D. B. O'Neil (1877-1878), and M. S. Slaughter (1879). Marshals included Powell H. Lowe (July 1870-1874), Ed Burgess (1875-1876), Merida Wolf (1877, Feb. 1878), J. Lark Taylor, (1 week, 1878), A. P. Maples, Jr. (1879), and Henderson Hix (November 1879).

Aldermen through the decade included a wide range of business and professional men. In 1879 Joseph H. Bristol was elected as alderman from the Sixth Ward by a slim majority of