

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the City Council
Austin, Texas, June 15th 1896.

Hon. Lewis Hancock, Mayor, presiding.

Roll called.

Present Aldermen Fischer, Glass, Both, Haynes, Horton, Sawless, Sims,
Blatt, Powell, Rosenzweig, Shelley, Shunk, Taylor and Townsend. 14.

Absent Aldermen Brady, Chascock, Kitchin, Redd, Roberdeau, Schneider,
Sobin and Zilker. 8.

Alderman Dyer, moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes
and that they be adopted as printed. Carried.

Petitions

Pet. of Chas. Stenzing for remission of Pound fees

By Alderman Fischer, Petition of Charles Stenzing asking to have
Pound fees on cow refunded. Read and on motion of Alderman
Shelley, granted.

Pet. of W.B. Davis to have Alley in Block #16 opened.

By Alderman Glass, Petition of W.B. Davis asking that the Alley
be opened in Block #15 City. Read and on motion referred to the
City Engineer with instructions to have same opened provided
the statements made in the petition are true.

Aldermen Redd and Zilker entered the Council Chamber and
answered to their names.

Pet. of M. Corbitt asking for damages to horse

By Alderman Horton, Petition of M. Corbitt, asking damages to
horse caused by falling through bridge on East Tenth Street,
read and on motion referred to the Committee on Claims and Accounts.

Pet. of East Austin Horse Co. asking for \$276.00

By Alderman Haynes, Petition of East Austin Horse Company
asking that the Council appropriate the sum of \$276.00 to re-
imburse them for amount expended for necessary repairs on their
hall. Read and referred to the Fire Committee.

Communication from Dept. of H & S. read & ordered filed.

The Mayor laid before the Council and had read a communica-
tion from the Superintendent of Water & Light.
On motion of Alderman Taylor the communication was received
and ordered filed.

Report of Fire Com. awarded Appropriating \$68.15 to pay for lumber in S. Austin Fire Co. Bell Tower

Alderman Roberdeau for the Fire Committee, to whom was referred
an ordinance appropriating the sum of \$68.15 to pay for Bell Tower
in South Austin, presented their report recommending the passage
of the ordinance. Report read and laid over to come up with the
ordinance.

Report of Fire Com. on City Marshals reports for month of May

Alderman Powell for the Police Committee, to whom was referred
the City Marshals reports for the month of May, 1896, presented
their report stating that the reports had been examined and found
correct. On motion the report was adopted.
Aldermen Schneider, Sobin and Roberdeau entered the Council
Chamber and answered to their names.

Ord. Law report on Ord. amending Ord. 1183 that of Revised Penal Code.

Alderman Sims for the Ordinance Committee, to whom was referred
an ordinance amending Article 118, Sec. 3, Chapter 3, of the Revised
Penal Code, ordinances of the City, presented their report recommending
the passage of the ordinance. This report was read and adopted.

Ord. Law report on Ord. authorizing redemption of

Alderman Sims for the Ordinance Committee, to whom was referred
an ordinance authorizing the redemption of...

Real Estate sold for taxes & bid in by the City

sold for taxes and bid in by the City, presented their report recommending the passage of the ordinance, which report was adopted.

Ord. Comtee. report on Resolution instructing City Electrician to remove obstructions to wires

Ordinance Committee, to whom was referred a resolution instructing the City Electrician to remove obstructions to Electric wires presented their report, recommending that the resolution do not pass. The report was adopted.

Special Committee on W. & S. system order ask for further time granted

In motion of Alderman Fischer, Superintendent Maddox was excused from further attendance at this session of the Council.

Alderman Fischer, for the special committee to whom was referred an ordinance amending certain sections of an ordinance relating to the Water and Light Systems of the City of Austin presented their report stating that they had the matter under consideration, but had come to no conclusion, and asked for further time in which to report. On motion further time was granted the committee.

Special Com. on Pet of Citizens from 3rd Ward for Street work ask further time granted

Alderman Fischer, for the special committee of one, to whom was referred a petition of citizens from the Third Ward, in regard to certain work on streets of said Ward, stated that he had been unable to give the matter the attention required and asked for further time, which was on motion, granted.

Unfinished Business.

Ord. fixing minimum rates for W & S. read 3rd time & on motion referred to Ord. Comtee.

The Mayor laid before the Council an ordinance fixing minimum rates for Water and Light Meter service.

The ordinance was read third time, and on motion of Alderman Taylor was referred to the ordinance committee.

Pet. of Tex Electric Co to erect Corrugated Iron Shed granted

The petition of the Texas Electric Company for permission to erect a corrugated iron shed on lot 7, Block 48, within the fire limit was read a second time, and on motion the petition was granted.

Ord. appropriating \$750.00 to purchase Reservoir Site read 3rd time & laid over to next meeting

The Mayor laid before the Council an ordinance appropriating the sum of \$750.00 to purchase a reservoir site.

The ordinance was read third time, and on motion was laid over until the next meeting of the Council.

W & S. Com's report regarding Reservoir laid over

The report of the Water and Light Commission in regard to a reservoir was then laid before the Council, and on motion of Alderman Taylor was laid over to come up with the ordinance on the subject at the next meeting.

Alderman Todd moved that the Council now take up the ordinance reported by the ordinance Committee. Carried.

Ord. appropriating \$68.15 to pay for Bell Tower for S. Austin Fire Hall Passed

The Mayor laid before the Council with the report of the ordinance Committee, an ordinance appropriating the sum of \$68.15 to pay for Bell Tower for South Austin Fire Hall.

The ordinance was passed under suspension of the rules by the following vote: Yeas, Fischer, Glass, Coth, Haynes, Horton, Sawyers, Simm, Platt, Powell, Press, Robertson, Rosengren, Schneider, Shelley, Stumpf.

Ord. authorizing... (faint text)

(faint text at bottom of page)

by the following vote:

Yeas Aldermen Fischer, Glass, Booth, Haynes, Horton, Sawless, Simm, Platt, Powell, Redd, Roberdeau, Rosengren, Schneider, Shelley, Stumpf, Taylor, Tobin, Townsend and Zilker 19.
Nays None.

Ord. Amending Ord. 118 Title 3 Chapter 3 Revised Penal Ordinance
Passed

An ordinance amending Article 118, Title 3, Chapter 3, of the Revised Penal Ordinances of the City, was then passed under suspension of the rules.

by the following vote:

Yeas Aldermen Fischer, Glass, Booth, Haynes, Horton, Sawless, Simm, Platt, Powell, Redd, Roberdeau, Rosengren, Schneider, Shelley, Stumpf, Taylor, Tobin, Townsend and Zilker 19.
Nays None.

Mayor's message on the management of the Water and Light Plant

New Business

The Mayor read the following message to the Council:

Mayor's Office, June 15, 1896.

To the Honorable City Council:

Gentlemen: As you have under consideration the important subject of the management of the Water and Light Plant, it is my duty to lay before you such information and suggestions as may be of value to you. I am encouraged to do this by the belief that each and every member of the Council desires to dispose of this most important matter in the wisest and most beneficial way for the City's interests, and is desirous of obtaining from any source information that may throw light upon it. You have a right to hear from me in this spirit, and in this spirit I frankly give you my views, commending them to your ^{attentive} consideration, and feeling confident that when you get all the light possible on the subject, you will exercise your best judgment for the City's good.

The details of the organization of the commission or committee which shall represent you are not so important as the line of policy you may adopt in the management of the Plant. If it is to be managed as an investment, a business enterprise, it must be managed as the best conducted private businesses are managed.

I am convinced that both you and I want to run this Plant on strictly business principles, and the only thing to find out is what business principles are, and I submit to you that if this Plant belonged to a business man or a private corporation, the first thing done would be to put it under the management of a trained Electrical and Mechanical Engineer, a man who had shown by his work in charge of other similar Plants that he was equipped to take this Plant and get the best results out of it.

I do not criticize the present Superintendent or the force under him. So far as I know they have done the best they could, and have been zealous and industrious. But I know that there is not now connected with the City government or the Plant a single person, Indian or white, who has any training, and experience in the management of this kind of a plant. It is not to be considered, until it is managed by a man who has had the proper training and experience.

Mayor's message

Tell us who makes errors in the past and explain how disasters occur after they have happened, as a man who can look forward and prevent them before they occur. Neither the Mayor nor the Water and Light Commission nor the Council possesses this training, nor can they acquire it. They are not elected for that purpose. All they can do is to secure the services of just such a competent man as a business man or a private business corporation would get, and hold him strictly responsible.

There are plenty of such men in the country, for there are plenty of such plants as ours, no better than ours and costing no more money, that are today giving good satisfaction to their owners and their customers, because they are in the hands of trained and skillful engineers. We can get any of these men by paying them what their services are worth. In my opinion, the people of Austin are entitled to as good service as any private plant in the country, but I do not see how we can hope to give it to them unless we put our plant in the same sort of hands. Entertaining these convictions, it is only proper that I should frankly state them to you. You have the power and therefore the responsibility is with you. Having fully given you my views arrived at after much labor and thought, it is for you to meet the responsibility by exercising your best judgment in the City's interest.

Respectfully,
Lewis Harrock, Mayor.

Alderman Linn moved that the message be printed in full in the minutes and that action on the Water and Light matter be deferred until the next regular meeting of the Council, which motion prevailed.

Mov. of 3 appointed to select names of six or more citizens from which to select a Board of Equilization.

Alderman Goeth moved that a committee of three be appointed to select the names of six or more citizens from which to select a board of equilization, which motion prevailed.

Alderman Bobbeden was excused from further attendance at this session of the Council.

Motion to reconsider vote had accepting resignation of the 3 Water and Light Commissioners

Alderman Goeth moved to reconsider the vote had at the last session of the Council, accepting the resignation of the three Water and Light Commissioners.

Motion to table above vote.

Alderman Powell moved to lay the motion on the table. Lost by the following vote.

Ayes Aldermen Glass, Haynes, Horton, Linn, Platt, Powell, Pidd, and Tobin. 6.

Nays Aldermen Fischer, Goeth, Lawless, Rosengren, Schneider, Shelley, Stumbel, Taylor, Townsend and, Zilker. 10.

The motion of Alderman Goeth was then lost by the following vote:

Ayes Aldermen Goeth, Rosengren, Schneider, Shelley, Stumbel, Taylor, Townsend and Zilker. 6.

Nays Aldermen Glass, Haynes, Horton, Lawless, Linn, Platt, Powell, Pidd, and Tobin. 10.

Motion to reconsider vote.

Alderman Schneider moved that the Council now proceed to the election of three Water and Light Commissioners to fill vacancies.

Alderman Taylor moved that a special committee of three be appointed to audit the accounts of the Water and Light Commission.

Alderman Horton moved as a substitute that the remaining members of the Water and Light Commission be authorized to audit the accounts of the Water and Light department and that the Finance Committee be authorized to approve the same after they have been so audited, which motion prevailed.

By Alderman South, An ordinance appropriating the sum of \$575.00 to pay the principal and interest on the one remaining unpaid 10 per cent bond issued prior to May, 1890.

Alderman Powell moved that the ordinance be referred to the ordinance committee.

Alderman Fischer moved as a substitute that the ordinance be referred to the Finance Committee, which motion prevailed.

By Alderman Roberdeau, An ordinance appropriating the sum of \$136.90 to pay for one three horse hitch for Austin Hook and Ladder Company No 1.

The ordinance was passed under suspension of the rules by the following vote:

Ayes Aldermen Fischer, Glass, South, Haynes Horton, Lawless, Linn, Platt, Powell, Redd, Rosengren, Schneider, Shelley, Stumpf, Taylor, Tobin, Townsend and Zilber. 18
Nays None.

By Alderman Townsend, An ordinance appropriating the sum of \$5000.00 out of the Earnings Fund to pay operating expenses of the Water & Light Plant.

The ordinance was passed under suspension of the rules by the following vote:

Ayes Aldermen Fischer, Glass, South, Haynes Horton, Lawless, Linn, Platt, Powell, Redd, Rosengren, Schneider, Shelley, Stumpf, Taylor, Tobin, Townsend and Zilber 18.
Nays None.

By Alderman Townsend, An ordinance appropriating the sum of \$77,687.50 to pay interest due July 1st 1896, on Water Works and Electric Light Bonds of the City of Austin.

The ordinance was passed under suspension of the rules by the following vote:

Ayes Aldermen Fischer, Glass, South, Haynes, Horton, Lawless, Linn, Platt, Powell, Redd, Rosengren, Schneider, Shelley, Stumpf, Taylor, Tobin, Townsend and Zilber. 18.
Nays None.

The Mayor announced the appointment of the following as the special committee to select citizens to be voted for as a board of equalization, viz: Aldermen South, Zilber and Lawless.

On motion the Council adjourned.

Geo. W. Johnson
City Clerk

Remaining Members of W & L Com. authorized to audit bills of W & L Department & Fin. Com. authorized to approve same after being so audited.

Ord. appropriating \$575.00 to pay Principal & Interest on remaining unpaid 10% Bond issued prior to May 1890. Referred to Fin. Com.

Ord. appropriating \$136.90 to pay for three horse hitch for W. H. & L. Co #1. Passed.

Ord. appropriating \$5000.00 out of Earnings Fund to pay operating expenses of Accounts of W & L System. Passed.

Ord. appropriating \$77,687.50 to pay interest due July 1st 1896 on W & L Bonds of City of Austin. Passed.

Names of Special Com. to select citizens to be voted for as a board of Equalization.