

Called meeting of the City Council
Austin Texas Feb 29th 1904
Hon R.E. White, Mayor presiding

Roll Called
Present Aldermen Crooker Haynes Hume Maddox
Miller Moore Nitschke Shelley Shumate Smith Udit 11
Absent Aldermen Macker Redd Schneider 3

Call of Council

The following Call of the Council was read.
A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Austin
is hereby called to meet in the Council Chamber at
City Hall at 8 o'clock P.M. this 29th day of February A.D. 1904,
for the purpose of receiving and acting upon the report of
the special Committee appointed to inspect and report
upon fire escapes etc. from Operahouses and other public
buildings in the City of Austin; and for the further purpose
of extending on behalf of the City of Austin an invitation
to the Odd Fellows to meet in said City on March 5th 1905.
R.E. White Mayor
L.M. Crooker 3rd Ward
J.W. Shumate
L.O. Moore

I hereby certify that the following named Aldermen have
been served with a true copy of this call by having it
read to them in person, viz
H. Redd J.M. Maddox J.P. Schneider W. Shelley L.M.
Crooker Joe Macker Geo. Hume Wm. Udit J.W. Shumate
Harry Haynes L.O. Moore J.D. Smith S. Miller. A true
copy was left at the residence of Mr. J.B. Nitschke
he not being able to be found.

Alderman
Macker excused

H. Montgomery City Marshal
On motion of Alderman Maddox, Alderman
Macker was excused from attendance at this
session of the Council on account of sickness in
his family.
Alderman Crooker for the special Committee, presented
the following report

Report special
committee on
fire escapes

Austin, Texas, Feb 27th 1904
To the Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of Austin, Texas.
Sirs:
Your Committee appointed for the purpose of
investigating the Kansas Operahouse and other places
of public Amusement in the City of Austin as to
fire escapes etc. beg leave to report as follows:
After a thorough investigation of the Kansas Operahouse
we recommend that the owner of said building
be requested to make the following changes and additions
as soon as possible.

First That a steel or Asbestos fire proof Curtain be placed in front of the stage, properly hung and with suitable automatic attachments for operating same

Second, That proper rollers be placed under all main entrance doors.

Third, That an iron platform be built at the exits from first and second floors or galleries on the east side to be of suitable length and not less than four feet wide and connected with proper iron stairs to the street and to be so arranged that they can be used for exits at all times

Fourth, That a suitable fire escape be placed on the west side near the southwest corner to accommodate exit from the first and second floors or galleries

Fifth That three doors be placed in south wall in proper place for exits from second floor or gallery to the roof

With reference to exits from the first floor on the west side, would say that we have petitioned the United States Government, through the Hon. Webster Flanagan, Custodian of the U.S. Post Office and Court House building and grounds asking for permission to remove a certain section of the iron fence running parallel with Opera House building so as to leave a proper opening from said exits on the west side to the streets

We further recommend the passage of an Ordinance providing for a special officer whose duty it shall be to attend each and every performance at the Hancock Opera House or any other place of amusement where fire escapes are necessary and see to it that all exits and fire escapes are kept in proper condition, Also providing for penalty in case they are not so kept by the owner or management of such buildings

With the recommendations made by your Committee carried out, we can unhesitatingly say that the Hancock Opera House will be as safe and as easy for the exit of an audience as any Opera House in Texas.

Respectfully Submitted

L. M. Crocker

C. W. Moore

W. B. Nichols

A. L. South

Geo. Piegel

J. A. H. Foster.

On motion the report of the Committee was adopted. Alderman Crocker offered the following resolution to be resolved by the City Council of the City of Austin: That the report of the special Committee appointed for

Resolution on
fire escapes.

the purpose of investigating the Hancock Opera House and other places of public amusement in the City of Austin, as to fire escapes, etc, be and is, hereby approved: and the recommendations of said Committee concerning contemplated improvements at the Hancock Opera House are hereby specifically adopted, and the Council hereby authorizes said improvements to be made as described in said report of February 27, 1904: and hereby authorizes the Mayor to so advise the owner of Hancock Opera House.

Alderman Ullrich entered the Council Chamber by Alderman Crocker an ordinance providing for the protection of persons and property against fires in the City of Austin.

Ordinance fire
escapes, public
buildings

The ordinance was read the first time Alderman Ullrich moved that it be referred to the Police Committee, which motion prevailed.

Alderman Schneider entered the Council Chamber Alderman Maddox offered the following resolution which was read and adopted.

Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Austin, that the Mayor and the City Marshal of Austin be and are hereby directed to take such action as they deem necessary for the safety of the public attending any place of amusement in the City of Austin, until further action of the City Council on an ordinance now pending before it.

By Alderman Moore petitions of Committee I.O.O.F. asking the Council to invite the Grand body of the State to hold its Annual Meeting in 1905 in this City Alderman Shumate moved that Judge Patterson be invited to address the Council on the subject, which motion prevailed. After the remarks of Judge Patterson Alderman Moore offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

Resolved that a Committee of 3 be appointed by the Mayor to co-operate with the Committee of Odd Fellows in securing proper quarters for the visitors, and that the City Clerk draw up a resolution inviting, on the part of the Council the Grand body of I.O.O.F. here and extending to them a cordial invitation to visit the City and hold their next annual meeting in 1905.

On motion the Council adjourned

J. C. Johnson
City Clerk

Grand I.O.O.F.
I.O.O.F. invited
to hold annual
session for 1905 in
this City