

Regular Meeting of City Council
 Meeting Texas November 17th 1878
 Mayor C. W. De Cress presiding. Roll called.
 Present: Aldermen Crow, Crooker, Walz,
 Raven, Sheehan, Strong and Vaughan.

Quorum present.

Petition of Peter Schmidt for refunding
 of tax to send butchers meat. Laid on the
 table.

Petitions of Wm. D. Little and Ed. Muller
 for licenses to retail liquors.

Petitions granted.

Petition of Louis Gault to open a butcher
 stall outside the Market limits on Congress
 Avenue, granted.

Petition of G. Ludens to have his license
 for sale of malt liquors extended so as
 to include the sale of spirituous liquors.
 Granted.

Petition of H. L. Lestergette for permission
 to open a meat market outside the Market
 limits.

Petition granted.

Petition of John Eagle to have his Cotton
 Warehouse, situated on lots 19 & 20 in
 Block 1 of Connors addition on East Avenue
 recognized as such.

Petition granted.

Petition of Drs. J. W. McLaughlin, J. J. Dohin,
 R. M. Sweeney and C. D. Weissberg, asking
 for aid and cooperation in the creation of
 a hospital.

Received and referred to a special
 committee consisting of Aldermen Vaughan,
 Crooker and Crow.

His Honor the Mayor submitted the
 following report

Mayor's Office

Austin Texas Oct. 24. 1878.

To the Hon. Board of Aldermen
 of the City of Austin
 Gentlemen:

In compliance with the City

Ordinances, I have the honor to submit the following report.

The financial condition of the City

Amount of warrants outstanding Oct. 24. 1878	12 710 10
Cash in the City Treasury " " "	4 560 15
Bonded indebtedness of the City " " "	94 900 00
No bonds have been sold during the fiscal year.	
Ad valorem taxes collected, due prior to the year 1877	2 317 20
" " " for the year 1877, to Oct. 24. 1878	52 611 24
" " " " 1878. " " "	461 45
" " " uncollected " " 1878 (now due)	51 684 29
Licenses collected for the fiscal year ending Nov. 4. 1878	10 419 94
Income from Market House for the fiscal year	2 018 04
" " Cemetery " " "	324 00
Premium on exchange	5 55
Income from fines in Mayor's Court for the fiscal year	3 369 40
" " Grounds Rent " " "	485 10
" " Dog Tax " " "	147 45
" " Miscellaneous sources " " "	323 93
Received from Mr. Jas. R. Johnson late City Treasurer	3 038 15
Total amount received from all sources to Oct. 24. 1878	45 521 98
Expenses of the City during the fiscal year.	
Cor. Fire Department	6 166 99
" Streets and Bridges	8 283 34
" Miscellaneous (the different items will be seen in Clerk's reports)	2 872 98
" Market House	714 56
" Printing, Postage & Stationery (including ^{new City Ordinances} printing & binding)	1 238 60
" Charity	1 674 54
" Police	8 622 81
" Sanitary	1 910 81
" Salaries & Commissions of Assessor & Collector	9 624 71
" City Cemetery	586 57
" Street Lamps	519 21
" Water Rents	6 456 65
" Fuel, Lights &c	327 20
" Interest	10 386 27
Total Expenditures	64 063 18
" Receipts	45 521 98
Showing total amount of Receipts over Expenditures	11 458 80

The expenses of the City government, - while largely inside of the income, - are heavier than I expected at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Warrant #639, bearing ten per cent interest, - the last year of Col. Wheeler's administration - issued to the Dilsey Manufacturing Company for Engine #1, for \$1500⁰⁰ with one year interest \$150⁰⁰ has been paid; also the judgment against the City, which was held by Messrs Wallow and Shelly of \$1415⁴² has been settled, making in all \$3065⁴² which is not properly chargeable to this Administration.

The codifying and printing of the City Ordinances amounting to \$470²⁵ and the cost of quarantines including pay of officers and disinfectants, amounting to \$1263⁵² - was not foreseen at the time my estimates were made for this fiscal year. Taking these amounts from the regular expenses of the City government, it will be seen that the reduction of taxation, as recommended in my message to your Honorable body on May 6th 1848, for current expenses was correct.

The City has built four bridges during the fiscal year; one iron bridge over Waller Creek on Cedar St., one wooden bridge over Waller creek on Chestnut St. and two bridges over small branches in the 5th Ward; the iron bridge over Waller creek on Pecan St. has also been re-floored.

The bridge on Chestnut street to be made available for travel, will require a small additional outlay of money, stone abutments should be built and the street east of Waller creek be cut down more; when this is done, the street will be one of the best in the City.

I would respectfully recommend that Aldermen examine the streets and bridges in their respective Wards, and see what work may be necessary to put them in good condition, so that the necessary estimates and appropriations may be made.

I find among the unimproved business before the Council, petitions from nearly every Ward, asking for lamps, this matter should receive your earnest attention and lamps should be placed at such points where necessity requires.

Section 17 of Article 6 of the City Charter authorizes the establishment of sewers. I called attention to this matter in a communication to the City Council on July 31st 1877, which I here insert and make part of this report.

"My attention has been called to the uncleanly condition of the City, by the Health Inspector and citizens generally.

The only way in my opinion, to remedy this evil and place the City in a good sanitary condition, is by the construction of a sewer.

The alley immediately east of Congress Avenue seems to be the most desirable and practicable place to locate such sewer, the head of which should be located upon the premises where the County buildings are situated, and to be carried to the Colorado river. The sewer should be built deep enough, so as to enable the City to have smaller sewers constructed from different parts of the City, running to the main sewer.

The County is interested in this improvement, as her privies and the filth accumulating in her cesspools have to be emptied, and this should be done without detriment to the health of our citizens. So far the County has been unable to do this, but on the contrary, this emptying and cleaning process has not only been annoying and offensive to the citizens living near the County buildings and the streets through which this filth was hauled, but they have actually been compelled to remove their families in the middle of the night, to avoid these dangerous and sickening odors.

The County could save thousands of

dollars by assessing on the construction of this sewer and it is believed, the Commissioners will cheerfully aid the City in this enterprise so necessary to both.

I would therefore suggest, that your Honorable body meet and consult with the Hon. County Court, now in session regarding this matter, also request the citizens to appoint a committee for the purpose of assisting your Honorable body and the Hon. County Court in raising funds for the construction of said sewer, and begin work as soon as practicable.

When the Legislature meets, the City Council and the County Court, could represent to that Honorable body, the benefits to be derived by the State, by the extension of said sewer to the sinks &c. on the Capitol grounds, and if assistance be granted by the Legislature, the sewer could be extended north of the Capitol and thereby give the City complete drainage, with but little additional expense.

The same recommendation made at that time holds good now. In recommending the alley east of the Avenue, I was actuated by a desire not to disturb that beautiful street.

I also desire to call your attention to the law, "authorizing the cities of Texas to maintain Public Schools approved March 15th 1875"

Several cities in the State have taken advantage of this law, and established a system of free schools. I do not see why the Capital City of the State should remain behind in so important and great an enterprise.

The cost would be trifling compared with the results, especially to the mechanics and laborers, who are unable to pay the tuition exacted at private schools.

A good system of public free schools will do more towards bringing good and thrifty people to our City than any other measure. Capitalists are more apt to invest their money in Cities having these advantages, as their investments have been used to free

schools in other States, and it is almost the first question asked by people visiting this City "Where are your good schools here?"

The Fire Department, under its able Chief, Capt. J. W. Hazler; his Assistant Chief, Capt. W. H. Willitt and the Recorder Mr. W. M. Neuhuman, has made such a reputation for efficiency, that insurance has been reduced to but a trifling amount. While the cost of keeping up this organization is large, its great saving to our people of property and money, has more than quadrupled that amount. The people of this City are greatly indebted to this organization, composed of brave men who risk their lives without remuneration for the benefit of our people. The report of the Chief is hereto attached.

The Department is now composed of five companies, two Engine companies and three Hook and Ladder companies; the Hose Company is for the present under the charge of Protection Hook and Ladder Co. No. 3; its active members are 179 officers and men.

The report of the City Marshal is herewith submitted. The Police force consists of nine men, one of whom guards the prisoners, another is in charge of the Police Station, one mounted officer patrolling the streets at night, the others perform patrol duty. During this year 1287 persons were arrested, of which number 982 were fined, 288 were discharged and 17 appealed to the County Court, \$3369⁷⁰ in fines were collected, and \$2704³⁰ in fines were worked out on the streets.

I think the above shows that the Marshal and his small force have performed their whole duty.

All the work on Streets and Bridges has been paid for to date.

The ordinance requiring the registration of City Merchants and paying interest thereon

at the rate of six per centum per annum has caused the City a large amount of money, warrants have not been sold below ninety-five cents, since the passage of this ordinance.

The checks of the City are due Col. J. D. Brackemidge, President of the National Bank for his assistance in keeping the City's paper at that figure. While any person could invest in this paper, he has by his action prevented its depreciation.

Inventory of City property.

Two Engine Houses	3051 00
One House for Protection H. & L. Co. No. 3.	250 00
Two Steam Fire Engines	13000 00
One Fire Extinguisher	2788 00
One Horse Carriage	250 00
2000 feet of Hose	2500 00
Two Hook and Ladder Trucks	3000 00
Mounting of Engine Houses	300 00
Market House & Improvements	13616 29
Street Lamps	1500 00
One Clock	1200 00
Furniture of Court Room & offices including 2 safes	725 00
One Horse & Cart	125 00
Hospital Block	2215 20
Total	47585 69

My report and the City Treasurer's will differ in an item of \$417¹⁵ which was paid to the Assessor & Collector, after his report had been made out.

The City Clerk's report is hereto attached.

Very respectfully
(Signed) J. C. De Cress
Mayor.

Report received and ordered filed
The monthly reports of City Marshal, City Physician and City Sexton were presented and ordered filed
The annual reports of City Physician, City Marshal, City Clerk, City Assessor & Collector, City Treasurer, City Sexton and Chief of Fire

Department were presented, and on motion they were received and ordered filed,

The committee to whom was referred the petition of the Water company asking to be relieved from their contract with the City for flagging the inside slopes of the Reservoir and substituting in lieu thereof, a floating crib on this or the other side of the river for cleaning the water; reported adversely thereon and recommended its rejection.

Report read and adopted.

Resolution appropriating the sum of \$250⁰⁰ or so much thereof as may be necessary for the purpose of removing the fire alarm bell from its present situation and to erect the same on the Market House, was read the second time and on motion the rules were suspended and the resolution placed on its third reading by the following vote:
Yeas. Aldermen Crow, Crooker, Hosty, Raven, Sheehan, Strong^{2d} & Vaughan.

Nays. None.

Read third time and passed by the following vote. Yeas. Aldermen Crow, Crooker, Hosty, Raven, Sheehan, Strong^{2d} & Vaughan.

Nays. None.

Alderman Crooker moved that the Mayor appoint a committee of three to prepare resolutions relative to the resignation of J. W. Eagle, Chief of the Fire Department. Motion carried and Aldermen Crooker, Vaughan^{2d} & Raven appointed upon said committee.

Resolution appropriating the sum of \$500⁰⁰ or so much thereof as may be necessary for the purpose of building a bridge over a branch on west Bois d'Arcy Street, between Rio Grande and San Antonio Street.

Read second time.

Alderman Crow moved to amend the resolution by adding \$300 to be expended in grading on Duquesne and Hickory streets under the supervision of the Street Committee.

and Alderman of the 2^d Ward.
 Amendment laid on the table.
 Alderman Crooker moved to amend the
 resolution by striking out \$500 and
 substituting \$200 in addition to the amount
 already appropriated for that purpose.

On motion, the further consideration of
 the resolution was postponed until the next
 meeting.

The following Resolution was then introduced
 Resolved by the City Council of the City
 of Austin, That the sum of Fifty dollars
 be and the same is hereby appropriated
 to purchase badges for the five police of
 this City. Read first time and on
 motion the rules were suspended and the
 resolution placed on its second reading by
 the following vote. Yeas Aldermen Crow,
 Crooker, Kostz, Raven, Sheehan, Strong and
 Vaughan.

Yeas none. Read second time and
 on motion the rules were further suspended
 and the resolution placed on its third
 reading by the following vote. Yeas
 Aldermen Crow, Crooker, Kostz, Raven,
 Sheehan, Strong and Vaughan

Yeas none
 Read third time and passed by
 the following vote. Yeas, Aldermen Crow,
 Crooker, Kostz, Raven, Sheehan, Strong
 and Vaughan.

Yeas none
 On motion the Council then adjourned.

Approved
 Dec. 2^d 1878