

Called Meeting of City Council
January 18th 1898

Council called to order at 4:30 P M
Mayor De Gress in the chair

Roll called and the following members answered

Aldermen Crow, Metz, Nalle and Shukan.
Absent, Aldermen Crooker, Miller, Millitt, Markley
Platt and Strong No Quorum

Alderman Nalle moved a call of the Council
Roll sustained and the Marshal was directed to
bring in the absentees

Aldermen Platt, Strong and Millitt came
in answered and took their seats. Quorum present
On Motion of Alderman Nalle the call of the
Council was suspended

On Motion of Alderman Millitt the reading of
the Journal of last meeting was dispensed with

His Honor the Mayor stated to Council that he
had called them together at the request of the Com-
mittee appointed January 7th to examine the Reservoir
of the City Water Company as said Committee wished
to submit their report, and to receive reports from
standing committees, and to lay before them for their
action Petitions from A. J. McCreary & Co and Hope
Hook and Ladder Company, Also to present to the
his message vetoing a resolution passed January 7th
in relation to the closing of certain Culverts over
the Houston and Texas Central Railway between
East Avenue and their Round House

Petition of Hope Hook and Ladder Company
stating that there was not sufficient room in their
Truck House to properly handle their apparatus
and asking that the house be lengthened fifteen
feet, as recommended by the Chief of Fire Depart-
ment

On Motion of Alderman Metz the petition
was received and referred to Committee on Fire
Department

Petition of A. J. McCreary & Co asking
permission to change the location of a certain
stairway attached to their building situated on Congress
Avenue

On Motion of Alderman Platt the petition

was received and referred to the Street and Fire Committee

His Hon the Mayor presented the following Message.

Mayor's Office Austin Texas
January 10th 1848

To the
Hon. Board of Aldermen
City of Austin
Gentlemen

I have the honor to return herewith a Resolution appointing the Street Committee a special committee with authority to fill up certain Culverts on the Central R.R. near their freight depot, passed by your Honorable Body on the 7th inst, with my objections thereto.

I do not believe the City has the power to interfere in any way with the property of citizens or corporations, this Resolution confers this power on the Street Committee, if the Central R.R. refuses to comply with the directives of said Committee

In my opinion the City would be liable for damages if by closing any of the Culverts of said R.R. their property should be damaged

Articles 446 and 486 of the City Ordinances can be invoked to do away with this evil which the Resolution is designed to cover

Very Respectfully
J. C. De Gress
Mayor

On motion of Alderman Kalle the message from the Mayor was received and referred to the Ordinance Committee

The Special Committee appointed to examine the Reservoir of the City Water Company submitted the following report

Austin January 18th 1848
Hon Mayor & Board of Aldermen
City of Austin

In obedience to your resolution passed on the 7th inst appointing us a Committee to examine the Reservoir of the Austin City Water Company, and report whether the said Company

has complied with its contract with the City of Austin in having completed a Reservoir of certain described capacity and in working order on the first day of January A. D. 1848. We have the honor to report that we have visited the Reservoir and found it filled with about eight feet of water, which prevented us from seeing the finish of the bottom and sides that had been excavated, but the President of the Company, Capt. Mc Heather, who was present at the time, told us how the work had been completed, and we were satisfied his statements as to its completion were true, we were not inclined to cause the Company the trouble or expense of having the water drained off, which would also have caused your Committee several days delay in making their report, and taking his statement as true, we find the ground has been excavated to the depth of about eight feet from the surface and the dirt packed around the excavation forming an embankment of about twenty five feet at the base and eight feet at the top and about nine feet high, making seventeen feet from the bottom of the excavation to the top of the embankment, its capacity we discard from this report, as we had no way of measuring it, but from information we get from the City Engineer, we have no doubt of its capacity is sufficient and the contract in that particular has been complied with, but in the fact that we find no masonry of any kind used for lining the excavation, or any protective made to prevent the constant filling in from the washing of the embankment which would in a very short time greatly less in its capacity or else it would constantly require cleaning out, at which times it would be a great inconvenience to the water consumers, therefore while we disclaim being experts in deciding upon such work, we can not come to any other conclusion than that the Reservoir is incomplete and that the Austin City Water Company has failed to comply with its contract with the City of Austin in having completed a Reservoir and in working operation by the first day of January A. D. 1848

Respectfully submitted

