

Minutes of a Called Meeting of the City Council.
Austin, Texas, Feb. 5th 1897.

Hon. Lewis Hancock, Mayor, presiding.
Roll called.
Present, Aldermen Babin, Madden, Platt, Brown, Schneider and Stump.
Absent Aldermen Beatty, Belvin, Fischer, Haynes, Horton, Lawless, Sam Miller, Stitscher, Padd, Robertson, Rosengren, Shelley, Saylor, Townsend and Zilmer. 16.
A motion was moved a call of the Council which was seconded.
Roll called.
Absent Aldermen Beatty, Belvin, Fischer, Haynes, Horton, Lawless, Sam Miller, Stitscher, Padd, Robertson, Rosengren, Shelley, Saylor, Townsend and Zilmer. 16.
The Marshal was ordered to bring in absentees.
Aldermen Babin, Haynes, Miller, Stitscher, Robertson, Shelley, Townsend and Zilmer entered the Council Chamber and answered to their names.
Alderman Belvin moved to suspend the roll, which motion prevailed.
The following call of the Council was read:

Roll of Council
for Special Meeting

Austin, Texas, Feb. 5, 1897.
A special meeting of the City Council is hereby called to meet in the Council Chamber at the City Hall on this day February 5th 1897, at 4:30 o'clock p.m. for the purpose of further considering the budget adopted by the Council on February 1st and making same to conform to sections 106 to 109 of the City Charter, and considering the necessary ordinances and resolutions to carry into effect said budget.
Lewis Hancock, Mayor.

Marshals Certificate

Austin, Texas, Feb. 5th 1897.
3 p.m. I hereby certify that the following named Aldermen have been served with the above call by handing it read to each of them in person, viz: Beatty, Belvin, Fischer, Haynes, Huhn, Lawless, Madden, Stitscher, Platt, Powell, Padd, Robertson, Rosengren, Schneider, Shelley, Stump, Saylor, Townsend and Zilmer, and that Aldermen Horton, Sam and Miller have been served by a true copy having been left at each of their respective places of business, they being out of the City.
James C. Lacy, City Marshal. M.

Mayor's Special Message
The Mayor has read the following special message:

Mayor's Office
Austin, Texas, February 5th 1897.

To the Hon. City Council:

Gentlemen: Section 106 of the City Charter requires that the City Government shall be so conducted that no obligations shall be incurred by account of the financial revenue beyond the estimated receipts. In order to make these restrictions effective, such as the carrying of the Council, Section 106 requires the Council to give notice of the expenditure of the City property and of the estimated receipts of the City and of the estimated expenditures of the City for the next year. The Council has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the same and to report the same to the City Council.

Mayor's Special Message

regular employees, and of the amount required to meet the other ordinary expenses of the City Government, not including work on the streets and other public improvements.

This clearly makes it the duty of the Council to adopt an itemized schedule of disbursements which shall provide for the payment of all officers and regular employees, and of the other known and foreseen expenses of the City, which schedule in its total shall not exceed the estimated revenues, and so, not bring the City in debt at the end of the fiscal year; and it is specially declared that work on the streets shall not be included in this schedule, so that expenditures of that character can only be made out of any money that may be left over, after fully paying the ordinary, that is the known, expenses of the City Government. It is equally clear that the budget adopted by you at your last regular meeting in view of the necessity it not with all your hands, violated these requirements in several particulars;

1st in not providing for the salaries of various regular employees whose services may or not be dispensed with by you;

2nd in not providing for any compensation of Aldermen, when the Charter requires that they shall be paid at least five Dollars per month, and

3rd in including estimates for work on the streets and bridges; that therefore it is not such an estimate as is required by the Charter, and the result is the same as if no estimate at all had been adopted.

The Charter not only makes it the duty of the Council to adopt such an estimate of expenditures as is outlined above and to be governed by the same in all appropriations, but it wisely goes further and in Section 108 provides that, after two months from the beginning of any fiscal year, unless such estimate shall be in force, no appropriations shall be made for any purpose other than to pay the regular salaries of officers and employees and expenses of the Hospital.

The inhibition against appropriations is an inhibition against the incurring of obligations which would be liquidated by these appropriations. Under these circumstances the operation of the City Government in many departments, brought to a standstill. The purchase of fuel for the City, teams, the hiring of teamsters and hands, by the Street Commissioner, and Sanitary Officer, the printing of the Council proceedings, the purchase of stationery, stamps, coal, &c. &c. are unauthorized, and are done at the peril of those dealing with the City. Not only so, but such purchases and services cannot be paid out of the revenue of next year; they must be paid out of the revenues of this year; and the result will be that if a proper estimate is not speedily adopted, the City may never be lawfully authorized to pay such obligations, however willing the Council may be to do so. It is hardly necessary for me to urge upon you the necessity for immediate action. That has been repeatedly done heretofore.

Suggestions for bringing the expenditures within the revenues have been made to you by me, by various committees, and lastly by a special committee, who upon their annual report, most earnestly recommended, and for action will have been helped without the assistance of any other.

Our result has been, that the City is now in a position where we cannot now carry on, it is almost impossible to carry on the business.

Mayor's Special Message Officers and regular employees, and the expenses of the City Hospital, can be paid, but no obligations for any other purpose can be lawfully incurred or, if incurred lawfully paid. This is a wise and salutary provision of our Charter, and it must, will receive your immediate attention.

Respectfully,
Lewis Hancock, Mayor.

Aldermen Swainson and Taylor entered the Council Chamber.

Resolution of vote Alderman Schneider moved to reconsider the vote by which the Council adopted last Adopting Budget presented by Special Committee motion prevailed.

Substitute Budget for budget prepared by the Council.

Fiscal Year ending Nov. 30, 1897 Estimated expenditures out of the General Fund of the City of Austin for the fiscal year, December 1st 1896 to November 30th 1897.

Estimated Expenditures

Salaries of Officers	13,875.00
Salaries of Police	13,750.50
Penitentiary Department	783.07
Sanitary Department	3,564.53
Fire Department	8,105.50
Walls City Prisoners	420.50
City and County Hospital	4,277.54
Printing, Stationery and Postage	1,467.11
Charity	1,053.81
Salary Pound Master	876.00
Salary City Auditor	750.00
Salary Aldermen	2,640.00
Salary Porter	480.00
Pay Old Water Company	10,760.00
Miscellaneous	2,000.00
Total	\$64,343.51

Estimated Receipts

Estimated receipts as found by the budget Committee \$5,229.09
Leaves a balance of \$5,885.58

Out of this sum the Council must pay the street force and for reflooring bridges across Colorado River.

Adoption item by item

Alderman Taylor moved the adoption of the substitute budget.
Alderman Maddox moved that the substitute be considered item by item adopted.

The first item, Salaries of Officers, was read and adopted by the following vote:
Yeas Aldermen Davis, Haynes, Kuhn, Swainson, Maddox, Miller, Pratt, Powell, Townsend, Schneider, Taylor, Townsend and Taylor 14
Nays Aldermen Kitchin and Kump 2

The second item was read and adopted.
Alderman Kump moved to reconsider the vote adopting the second item.
Lost, by the following vote:

Yeas Aldermen Davis, Haynes, Maddox, Kitchin, Powell, Schneider, Kump and Townsend 8.
Nays Aldermen Davis, Haynes, Miller, Pratt, Townsend, Taylor, Taylor and Taylor 9.

The third and fourth items were then adopted.

The fifth item, Fire department, was read. Alderman Taylor moved to reduce the amount of rent for Washington Fire Company's Hall from \$600.00 to \$360.00. Alderman Belvin moved to table the amendment offered by Alderman Taylor which motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes, Aldermen Belvin, Holmes, Kuhn, Sawless, Kitchner, Powell, Robertson, Schneider, Stumpf, Ziker 10

Nays, Aldermen Maddox, Miller, Platt, Shelley, Taylor and Townsend 6.

The item of the Fire department was then adopted.

The remaining items were then read and separately adopted, after which Alderman Shelley moved the adoption of the budget as a whole, which motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes, Aldermen Belvin, Holmes, Kuhn, Sawless, Maddox, Miller, Platt, Powell, Robertson, Shelley, Stumpf, Taylor, Townsend and Ziker 14.

Nays, Aldermen Kitchner and Schneider 2.

On motion of Alderman Powell the Council adjourned.

Geo. B. Robinson
City Clerk.

Adoption of Budget as a
Whole