Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the City Council.
Austin, Texas, March 1st 1897.

Hon Lewis Hancock, Mayor, presiding.
Roll Called.
Present Aldermen Beaty, Brown, Haynes, Kinney, Maddox, Miller, Pratt, Powell, Robertson, Shirley, Taylor and Townsend. 12.
Absent Aldermen Fischer, Horton, Lomax, Linn, Nitschke, Redd, Rosengren, Schneider, Shelley and Tilker 10.

Minutes approved as recorded

On motion of Alderman Taylor the minutes were approved as recorded without reading.

Communication from G. W. Brass regarding site for High School Building

A communication from G. W. Brass in regard to a site for a High School Building was read and on motion referred to the School Board.

Alderman Nitschke entered the Council Chamber.

Communication from Bd. of Equalization regarding an Erroneous Assessment of Lots 15 & 16 Block E. Boulders Addn. property of W. D. Miller

The following communication from the Board of Equalization was then read and referred to the Claims and Accounts Committee.

To the Mayor and City Council
of the City of Austin, Texas:

Gentlemen: The undersigned constituting the Board of Equalization for the City of Austin Texas for the year 1896-7, would respectfully represent to your honorable body that said Board committed an error in fixing the valuation of some improvements on lots 15 and 16 Block "E" Boulders Addition, the property of W. D. Miller, at two hundred and fifty ($250.) dollars, for the year 1896, when in fact there were no improvements on said lots 15 and 16.

We therefore, respectfully ask your honorable body to remit to W. D. Miller the sum of four ($4.43) dollars and forty three cents, the amount of taxes charged against him for the year 1896 on account of said improvements.

Very respectfully,
J. L. Wren.
W. H. Randolph.
D. M. Wilson.

Austin, Texas
March 1, 1897.

Alderman Fischer entered the Council Chamber.

Mayor Veto Message of Resolution Awarding Contract for Newspaper Printing to G. W. Mendell Jr.

The Mayor then read the following special message:

Mayor's Office,
Austin Texas, Feb. 25th 1897

To the Hon. City Council:

Gentlemen: Herewith return Resolution passed by you at your last meeting, adopting the report of the Printing Committee recommending acceptance of the bid of G. W. Mendell Jr. for Newspaper printing and authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract for same, with my vote and my reasons therefor.

The provision of the Charter requiring the publication of the Council proceedings and of certain other matters is a wise one and intended to insure to the public information as to the action of the Council and the expenditure of public money.

[illegible]

In this instance it is agreed on all hands that the paper in which it is proposed publication shall be made is not as yet in existence, and it is impossible to say what its circulation will be. I have no doubt that Mr. Mendell is bidding in good faith, but after such investigation as I have been able to make, and in view of the uncertainty always attending newspaper enterprises, I do not think it wise for the City to enter into a contract with a newspaper that has not yet started.

Respectfully,
Lewis Hancock, Mayor.

On motion of Alderman Nitschke the message was laid over to come up under the head of "New Business".

Aldermen Schneider and Shelley entered the Council Chamber.

The Mayor then read the following special message, which was on motion laid over to come up under the head of "New Business".

Mayor's Veto Message of Ordr. Appropriating 150.00 to pay Extra Street Labor.

Mayor's Office
Austin, Texas, Feb. 24, 1897.

To the Hon. City Council:

Gentlemen: Much to my regret I am compelled by what I regard as an imperative duty, to return to you herewith an ordinance passed by you at your regular meeting on Feb. 15th 1897, entitled, "An ordinance appropriating the sum of $150.00 for the purpose of paying extra Street Labor," with my disapproval of same and my reasons therefor. I regret the necessity for this action because, while I do not approve of the present method of doing street work as either economical or effective, it is the only one we have and anything that seriously interferes with it seriously cripples work on the streets and may ultimately result in stopping it altogether. But in my view of the City's financial condition I cannot see that any alternative is left me, and for the reasons following:

As called to your attention in my message to you on the 15th of February last, the estimated revenue for the year is $70,779.00 and the estimated expenditures including $3000.00 on Miscellaneous account are $64,393.51 leaving a balance of $5885.58. Of the 3000.00 estimated for miscellaneous expenses, we had spent, up to the 31st of January, as shown you by an itemized list, the sum of $2880.79.

Our miscellaneous expenses for the balance of the year cannot be less than in the neighborhood of $2500.00 beyond the estimate allowed by the budget. This would reduce the balance applicable to street work, from $5885.58 to $3385.58. But as I further showed you, we had, up to the 31st of January last, already spent $2194.55, leaving only $1191.03 applicable to street expenditures of all kinds, including July 4th drivers and feeding the teams, for the remaining nine months of the fiscal year.

It must be apparent to all, now that the sum, does not justify the employment of extra street labor.

It is further [illegible] to call your attention to the fact that [illegible] $1191.03 is also [illegible] for the [illegible] of the [illegible] Force, it cannot be longer continued, and [illegible] I [illegible] to this [illegible] as [illegible] [illegible] with [illegible] and for [illegible]

necessary to the conduct of the City's business.
It is proper that I should state this, in justice to those who expect to labor for or deal with the City to the end that they may not incur the risk of being unpaid for services rendered. I trust, however, that having had your attention fully called to the matter you will make such disposition of it as will prevent any further disagreement and enable us to work in harmony.

Respectfully
Lewis Hancock, Mayor.

Aldermen Reid and Tilden entered the Council Chamber.

City Officers' Reports. The reports of the City Officers for the month of February were then laid before the Council and on motion were referred to their respective Committees as follows:

Assessor & Collector. The report of the City Assessor & Collector showing collections as follows:

From General Revenue	$ 7861.25
" Interest & Sinking Fund - W & L Bonds	14399.06
" " on Old Bonds	1011.56
" School Tax	45672.96
Total.	$75,834.83

Referred to the Finance Committee

City Clerk. By the City Clerk.

Warrants drawn against the General Fund	$ 8198.80
" " " " Earnings "	3371.34
" " " " Water & Light "	1000.00

Referred to the Finance Committee

City Marshal. By the City Marshal.

Total Amt. of Fines Assessed in the Recorders Court		$375.00
" " Paid in Cash	$99.50	
" " Worked out	157.00	
" " Carried forward.	73.50	375.00
" Collected on back fines		30.00
" Bound fees collected		30.40
" Number of Arrests	48	

Referred to Police Committee

City Treasurer. By the City Treasurer.

Balance to Credit of General Fund March 1st 1897	$ 2,757.14
" " " " Earnings " " " "	5869.97
" " " " Water & Light " " " "	27,431.60
" " " " Int. & Sinking " W & L Bonds " "	34,788.08
" " " " Int. on Old Bonds	7493.41

Referred to Finance Committee

City Engineer. By the City Engineer.

Number of Patients in Hospital February 1st 1897.	11
" " " Admitted " "	8
" " " Discharged " "	13
" " " Remaining March 1st "	16
" Visits made to Hospital by Physicians	1[illegible]
" Days Absence " " "	[illegible]

Number of Cases of Diphtheria during the month 1
No other Contagious diseases

Referred to Hospital Committee

City Sexton

By the City Sexton

Total number of deaths	21
White	18
Colored	4
Male	14
Female	8
Stillborn	1

Referred to Cemetery Committee

City Auditor

The following report of the City Auditor was read and on motion was referred to the Finance Committee.

Austin, Tex. Feby. 27th 1897.

To Hon. Lewis Hancock, Mayor, and the Board of Aldermen of the City of Austin.
Gentlemen:

I have carefully examined the Books of the City Clerk, for the quarter ending Feb. 27th 1897. and find the same to be correct. Also the receipts and deposits with the City Treasurer of the Earning Fund of the Water & Light Fund for the same period, and find the same to be correct.

I have examined the Books and Accounts of Mr. Fred. Sterzing Assessor and Collector for the quarter ending Feb. 27th 1897. I find his Cash Book correct and receipts from the Treasurers of the City and School Board, to cover amounts collected by him, also amounts received by him from License Tax. &c. to be properly entered upon his Books, and accounted for.

Credits to be allowed Assessor & Collector

I respectfully recommend that the following Credits be allowed the Assessor and Collector for uncollected Taxes, the receipts for which are on file in his office, and still unpaid, a list of the same having been furnished the City Attorney for suit, and a small insolvent list which is uncollectable

These amounts are included in the Tax Rolls which have been charged to the Assessor and Collector for the respective years:

For the Year 1893	on	General Revenue	$5850.84
" " " "	"	School	2785.38
" " " "	"	Water Works	7606.70
" " " "	"	Interest	751.31
" " " 1894	"	General Revenue	4744.86
" " " "	"	School	7635.75
" " " "	"	Water Works	7196.77
" " " "	"	Interest	570.68

Debits to be made against Assessor & Collector

and that the following Debits be made against Wm. Fred. Sterzing Assessor and Collector, which amounts were assessed after the Tax Roll was made, and he was so instructed, and not charged to him at the time, the Rolls were changed.

For the Year 1893	on	General Revenue	$116.55
" " " "	"	School	[illegible]

For the Year 1893 on	Water Works	$151.51
" " " " "	Interest	16.35
" " " 1894 "	General Revenue	28.85
" " " " "	School	16.03
" " " " "	Water Works	13.77
" " " " "	Interest	2.00

Erroneous Credits to Taxes of 1892 which should be to Credit of 1893.

I find that there has been Credited to the Taxes of 1892 the following amounts which should have been Credited to the Taxes of 1893.

General Revenue.	$10.46
School.	4.98
Water Works.	13.60
Interest.	1.49

and respectfully recommend that the City Clerk Debit the above accounts for 1892, and Credit the same accounts for 1893 with the amounts above mentioned.

Respectfully submitted,
L. St. M. Wrathey, City Auditor.

Alderman Lawless entered the Council Chamber.

Street Com'r's report for Feb. 1897

The report of the Street Commissioner for the month of Feby. 1897, was read and ordered filed.

Alderman Rosengrun entered the Council Chamber.

Report of W. & L. Supt. for Feb. 1897

The report of the Superintendent of the Water & Light Plant was read showing:

Consumers as follows:

Water	2162
Electric Light	952
No. of Arc Lamps on Commercial Circuit	28

The receipts for the month were as follows:

For Water	$1189.33
" Light	2341.81
" Power	310.02
Total.	$3841.16

There was also collected the following amounts

For Meters	$32.50
" Power Motors	26.30

On motion the report was received and filed

W. & L. Com'r's report on Bids for Constructing Water Trench & New Pumping Station

Alderman Fischer for the Water & Light Committee presented the following report, which was read and adopted.

Austin, Texas, March 1st 1897.

Hon. Mayor and City Council.

Gentlemen: Your Water & Light Committee begs leave to report that plans and specifications were prepared and proposals for extending the Water Trench at the foot of Brackett Street, and for the construction of the New Pumping Station were advertised for, and on this date bids for same were received and opened as follows:

For extending the Water Trench.

[illegible] & [illegible]	$2,288.00
[illegible] & [illegible]	2,400.00

John T. Smith $3,870.00
For constructing New Pumping Station.
R. A. Shaw $7,679.00 and 50¢ per cubic yard extra for rock excavation if blasting is required.
Waterston & Wattinger $7,700.00 and 1.50 per cubic yard extra for rock excavation if blasting is required.
John McDonald & Sons $9500.00 and 1.00 extra per cubic yard for rock excavation if blasting is required, and for extra rock work $6. per cu. yd. and for extra brick work $10. per cu. yd.
C. C. Bradson $8,833.00 and 55 cts. per cubic yard extra for rock excavation if blasting is required.

Com. recommend award of contracts to successful bidders

We respectfully recommend that the bid of Braden & Mullen for extending the ditch, and that of Waterston & Wattinger for construction of the Pumping Station be accepted, and that the Mayor be authorized to enter into contract with the said parties named.

Respectfully submitted,
Francis Fischer
J. M. Maddox
Water & Light Committee.

Alderman Fischer for the Water & Light Committee, presented the following report which was read

Austin, Tex. March 1st 1897.

W. & L. Com's report on Insurance on W. & L. Building.

Hon. Mayor and City Council:
Gentlemen: Your Water & Light Committee begs to report relative to Insurance. Owing to the local insurance Agents insisting upon the Co-insurance Clauses etc., the matter of insurance on the Power Plant has not been placed, and in the mean time negotiations have been opened with the Industrial Mutual Agencies of Boston, Mass. who have covered the property during from February 25th at the standard rate of one per cent with rebate at the end of the year, which last year amounted to seventy per cent. This, should they make the same rebate this year as they did last, will bring our insurance to $110.00 against $875.00 as demanded by the standard Companies.
We therefore recommend that the Superintendent have these Policies written up at once.

Respectfully submitted,
Francis Fischer
J. M. Maddox
Water & Light Committee.

Upon motion the report was adopted by the following vote:
Yeas Aldermen Beck, Fischer, Stehn, Sanders, Maddox, Miller, Mitschke, Powell, Rotenbery, Rosenquist, Shelley, Stump & Townsend 13.
Nays: Aldermen Davis, Haynes, Pratt, Pedd, Schneider, Seiders & Davis 8.
Alderman Rotenbery for the Fire Committee to whom was referred [illegible] from Bro. W. Boyden in regard to [illegible] reported [illegible] Fire Department [illegible] was [illegible] [illegible] was [illegible]

Fire Com'n report on Communication of C. A. Brush regarding a non Fireproof Building

Austin Texas, March 1, 1897

To the Honorable Lewis Hancock, Mayor, and Board of Aldermen of the City of Austin:

Gentlemen: Your Committee on Fire Dept. to whom was referred a petition from Geo. A. Brush, calling attention to the fact that a structure had been erected back of Rainey's Drug Store in violation of the Fire Ordinance's beg leave to report, that upon examination find that said structure is not Fire proof and that no building permit was issued for its erection.

Your Committee would recommend that the owner be required to make the building Fire-proof or remove the same, and that the Police be instructed to carry out these recommendations.

G. C. Robardeau
F. M. Beaty, Committee

Claims Accts Com. report on Claim of R. N. Austin

Alderman Platt for the Claims and Accounts Committee to whom was referred the Claim of R. N. Austin for work done at Dam Park made a verbal report stating that he had been unable to get a meeting of the Committee hence he returned the claim to the Council for such action as they might see proper to take.

Alderman Platt moved that Mr. Austin be allowed to address the Council and state his case which motion prevailed and Mr. Austin explained his account.

Alderman Redd moved that the account of Mr. Austin be allowed which motion prevailed.

Claims Accts Com. report on Erroneous Assessment of Dr. R. K. Smoot's Homestead

Alderman Platt, for the Claims and Accounts Committee to whom was referred a communication from the Board of Equalization in regard to erroneous assessment of Dr Smoot presented the following report:

To his Hon. the Mayor, and Board of Aldermen of the City of Austin:

Gentlemen: Your Committee to whom was referred a communication from the Board of Equalization of the City of Austin stating that an error was committed in fixing the value of three acres, south part of lot 5 out-lot 3 Division Z, homestead of R. K. Smoot asking the City Council to remit $15.96 from his taxes for the year 1896.

Your Committee have carefully considered the same and beg leave to report that we can find no authority in the City Charter to grant the relief asked for, we therefore refer the matter back to the City Council, that they may take such action as they may deem just and proper.

Respectfully,
A. Platt,
A. C. Silver.

Unfinished Business

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

motion prevailed by the following vote:
Yeas, Aldermen Beaty, Belvin, Haynes, Kuhn, Nitschke, Powell, Rosengren, Schneider Taylor, Townsend and Zilker. 11
Nays Aldermen Fischer, Lawless, Maddox, Miller, Platt, Redd, Robertson, Shelly and Stumpf 9.

New Business.

Action on Mayors Veto of Printing Resolution.

The Mayor laid before the Council, the message of the Mayor, vetoing the resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with S. W. Merdell Sr., for newspaper printing.
Alderman Platt, moved that the resolution do now pass notwithstanding the Mayor's objections. Lost by the following vote:
Yeas Aldermen Belvin, Haynes, Miller, Nitschke, Platt, Redd, Robertson, Schneider, Shelley, Stumpf and Townsend. 11
Nays, Aldermen Beaty, Fischer, Kuhn, Lawless, Maddox, Powell, Rosengren, Taylor and Zilker 9.

Action on Mayors Veto of $150.00 Ord. to pay Extra Street Labor

The Mayor then laid before the Council the message of the Mayor vetoing an ordinance appropriating the sum of $150.00/100 to pay extra Street laborers.
Alderman Robertson moved that the ordinance do now pass notwithstanding the Mayors objections, which motion prevailed by the following vote:
Yeas, Aldermen Beaty, Belvin, Haynes, Kuhn, Lawless, Maddox, Miller, Nitschke, Platt, Powell, Redd, Robertson, Rosengren, Schneider, Shelley, Stumpf, Taylor, Townsend and Zilker. 19
Nays, Alderman Fischer 1.

Ord. Amending subdivisions 13 & 14 of Section 31. of W. W. & E. L. & Power Plant management. Ord.

By Alderman Platt, An ordinance amending subdivisions 13 & 14 of section 31, of an ordinance entitled "An ordinance providing for the management and operation of the Water Works, Electric Light and Power Plant, of the City of Austin passed — day of — 1896.
The ordinance was read first time and on motion was referred to the Water & Light Committee.

Ord. making it a misdemeanor for Lewd Women or Prostitutes to appear on Streets after night

By Alderman Schneider, An ordinance making it a misdemeanor for Lewd Women or Prostitutes, to stand, walk or loiter on the streets or Alleys at night, and providing a penalty therefor.
The ordinance was read first time and on motion referred to the ordinance Committee.
Alderman Haynes introduced the following resolution which was read and adopted.

Resolution regarding Newspaper Printing

Austin, March 1, 1896.
Resolved by the City Council of City of Austin, that the Printing Com. be instructed to ask for bids for printing the proceedings of the City Council, Advertisements, and such other matter as may be ordered by the Council, and that the City Clerk be instructed to discontinue the printing, under the contract for last fiscal year.
H. C. Hanna

[illegible]

contract had heretofore been awarded having failed to enter into contract. Alderman Pratt moved as a substitute for the motion of Alderman Nitschke, that the contract be awarded to the next highest bidder. Alderman Robenderan moved to table the substitute which motion was lost. The question was then put on the motion of Alderman Pratt and the motion lost by the following vote:

Yeas Aldermen Milton, Pratt, Redd, Stumpf and Zilker 5

Nays Aldermen Beaty, Belvin, Fischer, Haynes, Kuhn, Lawless, Maddox, Nitschke, Powell, Robenderan, Rosengren, Schneider, Shelley, Taylor and Townsend 15.

The vote was then taken on the motion of Alderman Nitschke and the motion adopted.

On motion Aldermen Nitschke, Lawless and Linn were excused from further attendance at this session of the Council.

Report of City Engineer on Cost of work to repair W. 10th St. from N. Roe to Shoal Creek.

The report of City Engineer as to cost of work to repair West 10th Street from West Avenue to Shoal Creek was read and on motion was laid on the table subject to call.

Ord. Appr. 9,13.10 to pay Approved accts. Acct. Earnings Fund

By Alderman Fischer An Ordinance appropriating the sum of $913.10 out of the Earnings Fund to pay approved accounts.

The ordinance was read first time and on motion the rules were suspended and the ordinance placed on its second reading by the following vote:

Yeas Aldermen Beaty, Belvin, Fischer, Haynes, Kuhn, Maddox, Miller, Pratt, Powell, Redd, Robenderan, Rosengren, Schneider, Shelley, Stumpf, Taylor, Townsend and Zilker 18.

Nays None.

The ordinance was read a second time.

Ord. Amended by Adding 30.50 unit of C. N. Austin Claim

Alderman Fischer moved to amend the ordinance by adding the amount of $30.50/100 being claim of C. N. Austin for balance due him for work done at Dam Park. The amendment was adopted, and the ordinance as amended was then passed by the following vote, under a suspension of the rules:

Yeas Aldermen Beaty, Belvin, Fischer, Haynes, Kuhn, Maddox, Miller, Pratt, Powell, Redd, Robenderan, Rosengren, Schneider, Shelley, Stumpf, Taylor, Townsend and Zilker 18.

Nays None.

Ord. ordering an Election of W. & L. Commissioners

The Mayor then laid before the Council an ordinance ordering an election for Council Water & Light Commissioners for the City of Austin, said election to take place on Monday, March 27th 1899.

The ordinance was read first time and a motion made to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its second reading which motion prevailed by the following vote:

Yeas Aldermen Beaty, Belvin, Fischer, Haynes, Kuhn, Maddox, Miller, Pratt, Powell, Redd, Robenderan, Rosengren, Schneider, Shelley, Stumpf, Taylor, Townsend and Zilker 18.

Nays None.

The ordinance was read second time and the question was put to pass

of holding the election, and judges of election were filled, after which the ordinance was passed under suspension of the rule by the following vote:

Yeas; Aldermen Beaty, Belvin, Fischer, Haynes, Kuhn, Maddox, Miller, Platt, Powell, Redd, Roberdeau, Rosenstein, Schneider, Sheney, Stumpf, Taylor, Townsend and Zilker 18.

Nays None.

Recommendations of Bd of Equalization adopted regarding assessment of Dr. R. H. Smoot for 1894

Alderman Maddox moved that the recommendation of the Board of Equalization in regard to the assessment of Dr. R. H. Smoot, for the year 1894, in which they recommend that the Council remit the amount of $15.96/100 assessed in error be adopted and the Credit be allowed on said assessment, which motion prevailed.

On motion of Alderman Powell the Council adjourned.

Geo. O. Gotzhausen
City Clerk.