

Minutes of a Called Meeting of the City Council.
Austin, Texas Sept. 10th 1897.

Hon. Lewis Hancock, Mayor, presiding.

Roll called.

Present, Aldermen Beatty, Haynes, Kuhn, Maddox, Platt, Powell, Robert-
son, Rosengren, Schneider, Shelley, Stump, Taylor and Zilker 13.

Absent Aldermen Belvin, Fischer, Horton, Lawless, Linn, Miller, Nitschke,
Reed and Townsend. 9.

Roll of Council read

The following call of the Council was read.

Austin, Texas Sept. 10th 1897.

I hereby call a special meeting of the City Council, to meet in Council
Chamber at 8.30, tonight, for the purpose of acting upon an ordinance
levying an occupation tax for the ensuing year, and to appropriate
money to pay salaries of Officers and Employees and Aldermen for
the months of August and September.

Lewis Hancock, Mayor.

Austin, Texas, Sept. 10th 1897.

Marshals Certificate
of serving of call

5. p.m. I hereby certify that the following Aldermen have been
served with the above call by having it read to each of them in
person, viz: Beatty, Belvin, Fischer, Haynes, Kuhn, Lawless, Maddox,
Miller, Nitschke, Platt, Powell, Reed, Robertson, Rosengren, Schneider,
Shelley, Stump, Taylor, Townsend and Zilker and that Aldermen Horton
and Linn have been served by having a true copy left at each of their
respective places of business, they being out of the City.

James E. Luey, City Marshal, M^c

On motion of Alderman Maddox the Council took a recess of ten minutes.
At the expiration of the recess the Council was called to order.

Aldermen Miller and Reed entered the Council Chamber.

Ord. levying Occupation
Taxes

By Alderman Shelley. An Ordinance levying an occupation tax.
The ordinance was read first time, and on motion of Alderman
Taylor was referred to the Finance Committee and the City Attorney
and was ordered published in full in the Austin Statesman on Sep-
tember 11th 1897.

Alderman Belvin entered the Council Chamber.

Alderman Taylor moved that the City Clerk be directed to purchase for the
use of the Aldermen twenty-two copies of the State Laws passed at the
special session of the Legislature, which motion was lost by the following vote:
Yeas, Aldermen Belvin, Kuhn, Nitschke, Powell, Schneider, Stump & Taylor 7.
Nays, Aldermen Beatty, Haynes, Maddox, Miller, Platt, Reed, Robertson,
Rosengren, Shelley and Zilker 10.

Alderman Taylor moved that the Clerk be directed to purchase five
copies of the State Laws for the use of the Council.

Alderman Maddox moved to lay the motion on the table, which motion
prevailed.

Order appointing the Mayor and Vice Mayor, the Council on ordinance introduced by New Council
member of Saltonstall and of Sept. 10th 1897, which ordinance was introduced in the Council Chamber, and
delivered to the Council Chamber, and published in the Austin Statesman, Sept. 11th 1897.
The ordinance was introduced and delivered to the Council Chamber, and published in the Austin Statesman, Sept. 11th 1897.

Deas, Aldermen Beatty, Belvin, Haynes, Kuhn, Maddox, Miller, Nitschke, Platt, Powell, Redd, Robertreau, Rosengren, Schneider, Shelley, Stumpf, Taylor and Zilker. 17.
Ayes None.

Ord. for \$80.00 to pay 2 Dog Catchers

The Mayor then laid before the Council an ordinance appropriating the sum of \$80.00 to pay salaries of two Dog Catchers for the month of August, 1897. The ordinance was read first time and a motion made to suspend the rule and place the ordinance on its second reading, which motion prevailed by the following vote:

Deas, Aldermen Beatty, Belvin, Haynes, Kuhn, Maddox, Miller, Nitschke, Platt, Powell, Redd, Robertreau, Rosengren, Schneider, Shelley, Stumpf, Taylor and Zilker 17. +
Nays None.

The ordinance was read second time

Ord. amended by inserting \$120.00 instead of \$80.00

Alderman Powell moved to amend the ordinance by striking out \$80.00 and inserting the sum of \$120.00 to pay salaries of two Dog Catchers for the month of August, and one Dog Catcher for the month of September, 1897. The amendment was adopted by the following vote:

Deas, Aldermen Beatty, Belvin, Haynes, Kuhn, Miller, Platt, Powell, Redd, Robertreau, Rosengren, Schneider, Shelley, Stumpf, Taylor and Zilker 15.
Nays Aldermen Maddox and Nitschke 2.

The ordinance as amended was then passed, under suspension of the rules by the following vote:

Deas, Aldermen Beatty, Belvin, Haynes, Kuhn, Maddox, Miller, Platt, Powell, Redd, Robertreau, Rosengren, Schneider, Shelley, Stumpf, Taylor and Zilker 16.
Nays Alderman Nitschke 1.

On motion Alderman Belvin was excused from further attendance at this session of the Council.

City Engineer directed to turn over to Travis County, four of the City teams, to be used by them in grading a part of the upper Georgetown road inside the City limits, the County to furnish drivers, and to feed said teams, and have good care of same. The City Engineer was authorized and directed to turn over to Travis County, four of the City teams, to be used by them in grading a part of the upper Georgetown road inside the City limits, the County to furnish drivers, and to feed said teams, and have good care of same.

The Mayor laid before the Council an ordinance appropriating the sum of \$300.00 to pay salaries of Aldermen for the months of August and September 1897.

The ordinance was passed under suspension of the rules, by the following vote:

Deas, Aldermen Beatty, Haynes, Kuhn, Maddox, Miller, Nitschke, Platt, Powell, Redd, Robertreau, Rosengren, Schneider, Stumpf, Taylor and Zilker 15.
Nays Alderman Shelley 1.

On motion the Council adjourned until 8 o'clock Tuesday, September 14th 1897.

Geo. A. Johnson
City Clerk.

Minutes of an adjourned called meeting of the City Council.
Austin, Texas Sept. 14th 1897.

Hon. Lewis Hancock, Mayor, presiding.

Roll called.

Present, Aldermen Beatty, Alvin, Blatt, Powell, Redd, Robertson, Rosengren, Schneider, Stumpff and Taylor 10.

Absent, Aldermen Fischer, Holmes, Horton, Kuhn, Sawless, Linn, Maddox, Miller, Kitchner, Shelley, Townsend and Zilner 12.

No quorum being present the Council took a recess of five minutes.

Aldermen Haynes, Kuhn and Maddox entered the Council Chamber, and the Council called to order. On motion the Council took another recess of fifteen minutes. At the end of the recess the Council was called to order.

The Mayor laid before the Council the following special message:

Mayor's Office

Austin, Tex, Sept. 14th 1897.

To the Honorable City Council:

Gentlemen:- I consider it my duty to call ~~your attention~~ to your attention certain omissions in the Occupation Tax Ordinance now before you for consideration. This ordinance, following the state law upon the subject, levies a searching tax upon almost every known business, occupation or profession, with the exception of lawyers and doctors. I do not know of any reason why these professions should not be taxed, while every principle of justice and common sense dictate that they should be. In comparison with other occupations theirs are the most profitable in this community. That is a matter of common knowledge, not to be disputed. Their occupation requires the investment of little or no capital, and they therefore do not contribute by direct taxes to the support of the Government whose benefits they receive. The claim that doctors should be exempt from taxation because of the charity practice they do, while equally applicable to lawyers, is no more applicable to either than to those engaged in other occupations. The charitably disposed, in all occupations contribute about alike to relieve suffering humanity, and neither doctors nor lawyers, have a monopoly of good works. Both cheerfully pay occupation taxes to the State and County. The amount of revenue involved is not large, but the principle is important, involving, as it does, justice and equity in apportioning the burdens of supporting Government. To exempt these professions, while taxing practically all other occupations, is flagrant favoritism and injustice.

I therefore recommend that the ordinance under consideration be so amended as to levy an occupation tax of Two and ⁵⁰/₁₀₀ Dollars, upon each person practicing either of these two professions.

Respectfully,

Lewis Hancock, Mayor.

Alderman Shelley, for the majority of the Committee to whom was referred the occupation tax ordinance, presented a verbal report recommending the passage of the ordinance.

Alderman Zilner presented in his own name, verbally, a report.

Hon. Lewis Hancock, Mayor, and City Council of the City of Austin.

Mayor's special message
on Occupation Tax Ord.

City Council, Sept. 14, 1897.

Gentlemen:- As the minority of your Finance Committee, to whom was referred an ordinance regulating licenses and occupation taxes in the City of Austin, I beg leave to report that while I do not believe in the principle of taxing any one to pursue a legitimate business, yet until some better method of taxation is reached I will concur in the recommendations of the majority of the Committee to adopt this ordinance, with the following amendments, viz:

At the end of section 12 add: "From every local practicing physician, surgeon, dentist, veterinary surgeon, or any medical or surgical specialist, an annual tax of \$2.50."

Section 12 a. From every person practicing law, and from every conveyancer or other person drawing deeds or other legal instruments for pay an annual tax of \$2.50."

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas F. Taylor.

Aldermen Fischer, Miller, Kitcher, Shelley and Zilker entered the Council Chamber.

Ord. regulating licenses and Occupation taxes.

The Mayor then laid before the Council, an ordinance regulating licenses and occupation taxes in the City of Austin. The ordinance was read the second time.

Ord. Considered section by section.

Alderman Maddox moved that the ordinance be considered by sections which motion prevailed by the following vote:

Yeas, Aldermen Beatty, Kuhn, Maddox, Miller, Kitcher, Powell, Redd, Proberdau, Schneider, Shelley, Stumpf, Taylor and Zilker 13.

Nays, Aldermen Belvin, Fischer, Haynes, Platt and Rosengren 5.

Section 1 was read and adopted.

Alderman Platt moved that when a section is read if no amendment is offered, it shall be considered as adopted. Carried.

Sections 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 were read and adopted.

Section 7 inserted

Section 7 having been omitted in the original ordinance, Alderman Taylor moved to insert the following:

Sec. 7. From every person practicing law, and from every conveyancer or other person drawing deeds or other legal instruments ^{for pay} an annual tax of \$2.50.

The amendment was adopted.

Section 8 amended

Section 8 was read.

Alderman Rosengren offered the following amendment, which was adopted: "After the word 'called,' in section 8, insert the following: 'On any one soliciting for any establishment not located in Austin for exchanging photographs or artist work of any description.'"

Alderman Paulsen entered the Council Chamber.

Sections 9, 10 and 11 were read and adopted.

Section 12 was read.

Sec. 12 amended

Alderman Taylor moved to amend section 12 by adding, to it the following: "From every local practicing physician, surgeon, dentist, veterinarian, surgeon, or any medical or surgical specialist, an annual tax of \$2.50." The amendment was adopted.

Sections 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18 were read and adopted.

Section 19 was read.

Sect. 19 amended.

Alderman Beatty offered the following amendment: "Strike out all after the word City in ninth line down to and including the word government in line ten."

The amendment was adopted.

Sections 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34 were read and adopted.

Sect. 35 amended.

Section 35 was read.

Alderman Haynes moved to amend by adding after the word cotton, the words "cotton seed buyer." The amendment was adopted.

Sections 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41 and 42 were read and adopted.

Section 43 was read.

Alderman Zilker moved to amend section 43 by adding after the word "steam," the words "or other." The amendment was lost.

Sections 44 to 65 were then read and adopted.

Sect. 51 amended.

Alderman Shelley offered the following amendment to the ordinance:

Sect. 51, From every person, firm or association of persons acting as general adjuster of losses, or agents of life, fire, marine and accident insurance companies, who may transact any business as such in this City, an annual occupation tax of twenty-five dollars; By "general agent" as used in this section, is meant any person or firm representative of any insurance company in this City, or who may exercise a general supervision over the business of such insurance company in this City; provided that when such a general agent acts as local agent he shall pay an additional tax as local agent, as provided herein.

Sect. 53 amended.

Sect. 53, From every fortune teller, ten dollars; from every clairvoyant or mesmerist, who plies his or her vocation for money, ten dollars.

Amend the numbers of the remaining sections of the ordinance to conform to these amendments. These amendments were adopted.

Alderman Taylor moved to amend section 52 by striking out 50.00 and inserting 5.00.

Alderman Platt moved to table the amendment, which motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes, Aldermen Beatty, Deloit, Haynes, Kuhn, Maddox, Miller, Platt, Powell, Robertson, Rosengren, and Shelley 11.

Nays, Aldermen Fischer, Sadowski, Schneider, Stumpf, Taylor and Zilker 8.

Alderman Fischer moved that the rules be suspended and the ordinance be placed upon its third reading and final passage, which motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes, Aldermen Beatty, Deloit, Fischer, Haynes, Kuhn, Sawles, Maddox, Miller, Sadowski, Platt, Powell, Redd, Robertson, Rosengren, Schneider, Shelley, Stumpf, Taylor and Zilker 19.

Nays, None.

On read 3rd time passed. The ordinance was then read third time and passed.

On motion the Council adjourned.

Geo. A. Johnson
City Clerk.