

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the City Council
Held in session Dec. 6th 1897

Hon. Lewis Hancock Mayor, presiding.

Roll called.

Present Aldermen Dealy, Fischer, Haynes, Horner, Huber, Vardolo, Nicholas, Platt, Powell, Roeggen, Schneider, Chellay, Clump, Jones and Jones, 15.
Absent Aldermen Delvin, Linder, Linn, Miller, Ridd, Robertson and Townsend 7.

Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

On motion, the minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as printed without reading.

Petitions - Etc.

Det. of S. J. Munn + R. L. Pollard By Alderman Taylor. Petition of S. J. Munn and R. L. Pollard, requesting Council to refund the Council to refund to them, Occupation Tax paid in error, from Occupation Tax paid, and referred to the Claims and Accounts Committee and the City Attorney.

City Officers reports

Alderman Delvin entered the Council Chamber.
The Mayor laid before the Council the monthly reports of City Officers for November 1897. On motion, they were referred to their appropriate Committees without reading, except the reports of Assessor & Collector and Treasurer, which were read.

Assessor & Collector

The following is a synopsis of the reports:
By the Assessor and Collector.

So collections as follows:

Account of General Revenue	\$ 4,709.41
" " License Tax	1,736.30
" " Fines Recorder's Court	157.75
" " Pound Fees and Sales	44.50
" " Interest & Profit on Taxes	157.53
" " Dog Tax	1.00
" " Day Patients City Hospital.	189.16
Total Account General Revenue	\$ 6,995.65
Interest & Sinking Fund Water & Light Bonds	11,881.70
" on Old Bonds	1,169.60
Account School Tax.	4,250.62
Total Collections	\$ 24,297.57

Referred to Finance Committee.

By the City Treasurer.

City Treasurer

Balance on hand Nov. 1 st 1897. Account General Fund	\$ 2471.74
" " " " " " " " Interest on Old Bonds	2867.71
Received from Assessor & Collector during month of Nov. General Revenue	4,709.41
" " " " " " " " License Tax	1,736.30
" " " " " " " " Fines Recorder's Court	157.75
" " " " " " " " Miscellaneous	397.19
" " " " " " " " Int. on Old Bonds	1,169.60
" " " " " " " " Total	\$ 13,504.70

Disbursements

Balance on hand Nov. 1 st 1897. Account General Fund	\$ 4,274.85
Disbursements Nov. 1 st 1897. Account General Fund	\$ 147.51

Minutes of an adjourned Regular Meeting of the City Council.
Austin Texas, Dec. 11th 1897

The Council was called to order by His Honor, Mayor Lewis Hancock.
Roll called.

Present Aldermen Quate, Calvin, Fischer, Haynes, Horton, Huber,
Laurless, Linn, Madge, Miller, Kitchner, Platt, Powell, Oberdane,
Rosenberg, Schneider, Shelley, Shump, Taylor, Townsend & Zilner 21
Absent Alderman Codd.

Committee appointed to
canvass Election returns
of Election held Dec. 6 1897.

Alderman Powell moved to suspend the regular order of business
and that a Committee be appointed to canvass the returns of the
election held on Monday December 6th 1897, which motion prevailed,
and the Mayor appointed Aldermen Powell, Laurless and Kitchner as
the Committee.

Alderman Codd entered the Council Chamber.

Alderman Calvin moved that the Mayor be requested to lay before
the Council his Annual Message, while the Committee were canvass-
ing the election returns, which motion prevailed.

Mayor Hancock's Annual
Message read.

The Mayor then laid before the Council the following message:

Mayor's Office.

Austin Texas Dec. 1st 1897.

To the Honorable City Council:

Gentlemen:- I herewith submit to you my Annual report for
the fiscal year ending November 30th 1897, together with the reports
of the City Officers, the Superintendent and Treasurer of the Public
Schools and the Water, Light and Power Commission, covering the
same period.

The City has not escaped the effects of the industrial depression which
has prevailed throughout the State and Nation, during the past year,
and it has been a period of anxiety to many of us. Our local diffi-
culties were increased by the high rate of taxation rendered nec-
essary by the construction of the Water and Light Plant.

Everything pointed to economy as an imperative duty on the part
of the City Government, and I am gratified to be able to say that this
duty was fairly well performed.

The expenditures of the City on account of Public Schools and bonded
indebtedness, are fixed, the one by law and the other by the amount
of the debt. It is in the expenditures on account of General Revenue
alone that economy may be exercised. That this has been done
may be seen by a comparison of the expenditures of the year just
closed, as compared with preceding years:-

Expenditures on Account of General Revenue.	
Year ending November 30 th 1897	61,963.82
" " " 1896	79,782.94
" " " 1895	83,048.30
" " " 1894	91,804.45
" " " 1893	97,216.89
" " " 1892	106,274.61
" " " 1891	108,121.21

Mayor Hancock's Annual Message

Year ending November 30 th 1890	\$98,257.36
" " " " 1889	81,610.30

The expenditures for the past year, as shown above, were \$61,963.87 and one the lowest for any of the years back to 1889, beyond which year I have not information at hand. There is no floating indebtedness, properly chargeable to this year, except the current expenses for the month of November just passed, the bills for which have not yet been approved for payment, and an ample balance amounting to \$51,472.54 is in the hands of the City Treasurer to pay them.

The amount due the Water and Light Commission for the Water and Light service from April 1st 1891, to November 30th 1891, amounting to about \$10,000, is provided for especially in the estimate upon which the tax for General Revenue purposes for the present fiscal year was based. There is an outstanding claim of a troublesome nature and of ancient date, which has not received the attention it demands. It arose out of the relations between the City and the Austin Water, Light and Power Company, and is based upon a claim for water and light furnished the City by the Company, during the years 1893, 1894 and 1895.

The City, failing to pay for water and light used the Receiver of the Company, brought suit and recovered judgment in the Federal Court for \$30,544.00. By agreement, this sum was to be paid in three annual installments of about \$10,000.00 each. The first installment was payable out of the taxes of 1896 but it was not paid. A second installment will be due out of the taxes of 1897. As the Company will doubtless seek the aid of the Court in enforcing payment, the matter requires serious attention.

There has been some complaint, and I think justly so, at the small amount of street work done during the year. It was possibly consistent with a liberal administration of the City government, to further cut down expenses and to devote the money thus saved to street work, and I so recommended to the Council, suggesting specific economies. My recommendations were not adopted, with the result, that the sum available for street work was very scanty. I am still of the opinion that the expenses of the City can, and should be further reduced, saving from five to eight thousand dollars a year to the tax payers or for needed street work and other public improvements. With this reduction and the ample tax levy for the General Fund, the City should find itself in no difficulties during the coming year, though strict economy must be exercised. The tax levied is presently two cents upon the hundred dollars upon a valuation of \$11,513,845.00, amounting to \$23,027.899.68.

In addition the Assessor and Collector, estimates the receipts from miscellaneous sources at \$21,825.00, making a total of \$103,903.70. The City is approaching the end of a session of litigation involving the payment of taxes to a large amount, and it is probable the General Government will be forced to pay the same. It is probable the General Government will be forced to pay the same. It is probable the General Government will be forced to pay the same.

If necessary the City should take possession of property bought in for taxes and sell same. It is unjust that the burden of maintaining the government should be thrown on those who pay willingly, while other tax payers rely upon the bounty of the City to escape their just burdens.

One of the items in the estimate upon which the above levy was based is the sum of \$24,500 for Water and Light for public use from April 1st 1897, to November 30th 1898. This is an extremely low price for the service rendered, and should be promptly paid. It is only just that the tax payers should contribute through the General Revenue to the support of their plant, to the extent that it furnishes Water and Light for public purposes. It is pertinent also to remark that this sum of \$24,500 is relied upon by the Water, Light and Power Commission as so much revenue in estimating the surplus which may be turned in by the Commission to the payment of Interest and Sinking Fund on the Dam Bonds for this year. Including this amount, the Commission estimated that they would have a surplus of \$36,500 to so apply. And relying upon that estimate, the Council levied a tax of sixty-two cents for Interest and Sinking Fund, instead of ninety-four cents levied last year. It is evident that if the amount due from the General Revenue to the Commission is not promptly paid, the Interest and Sinking Fund will suffer to that extent, and the credit of the City be materially affected. I feel it my duty to again call attention to the costly, extravagant and unsystematic method employed by the City in working its streets.

During the fifteen years ending November 30th 1896, the City has spent, approximately 300,000 for work on its streets and bridges, and it is undeniable that there is little to show for it. In my opinion this is due to two causes: 1st a failure to separate repairs from new and permanent improvements, and 2nd, an effort to make new and permanent improvements by means of a permanent street force instead of by contract. The street force has always been and always will be a creature of politics, pulled around from one locality to another, wherever it could do the most good politically, and never allowed to stay long enough on any one piece of work to finish it in a permanent manner. In most cases work done one year is only an excuse for doing it over again next year.

My opinion is positive that the City will never receive a commensurate return for its expenditures, till repairs are distinguished from permanent work, and the latter is undertaken only upon proper plans and specifications, and when there is money available to complete each piece of work undertaken.

I am happy to be able to state that the other departments of the City government have been satisfactorily administered. The yellow fever scare in the coast region of the State caused some anxiety here, but did no harm, and may have done some good in inspiring new efforts to sanitation.

The sum of \$400.00 appropriated for extra sanitary work, to be expended under the direction of the Mayor, was disbursed as follows:

Oct. 12 th 1897. San. Nat. extra sanitary, laborers.	\$158.75	
Nov. 1 st " " " " " "	84.00	
Dec. 1 st " " " " " "	156.00	\$398.75
Total disbursement \$398.75 remains in the treasury unexpended.		

Mayor Sturges's Annual Message

The City is to be congratulated on the flourishing condition of its public schools. During the last two years, the schools have been kept open for the full period of nine months. The West Austin school building, has been remodelled, a new building erected for Colored children, in the First Ward, and a considerable reduction made in the debt to the Allan Fund, incurred for the erection of buildings. This debt will probably be extinguished in another year. I also take much pleasure in calling your attention to the Manual Training School recently established, and maintained out of the income of the Fund generously bequeathed by the late John S. Allan, for this purpose. The Fund was originally all in Real Estate. It has been judiciously managed, by the School Board till in the summer of 1895, the income was deemed sufficient to warrant the putting into effect the testator's wishes. The School was, therefore established, under the direction of Mr. C. J. Humden, in connection with the City High School, and has completed one very successful year. An additional teacher was employed this year, the school fully equipped for a second year's course, and opened to all white men and youths desirous of taking advantage of it. It has passed beyond the experimental stage, and will be of much benefit to our community. It has attracted attention among all progressive school communities of the State, and is doubtless only the forerunner of many similar institutions. It should be cherished by the people of this City, and the benefits of similar training extended to Colored youths as soon as possible.

The Water, Light and Power Plant has continued to be the most important part of the public business, and has received the largest share of my time and attention. The control of the plant, since its inception, has been exercised through various agencies: First, through the Board of Public Works; then through the Water and Light Commission of the City Council; then through the Water and Light Committee of the City Council, all exercising their powers, as representatives and under the control of the City Council. The State Legislature, at its last session, passed an act amending our Charter by the establishment of a Water, Light and Power Commission, and vesting in it the entire control of the plant.

In pursuance of this act the Commission was elected and organized, and assumed control of the plant on April 1st last. The two elections held since the passage of the act, are very encouraging, in demonstrating that the people take a deep interest in the selection of the Commissioners, and that there is no lack of good citizens who are willing to assume the laborious and serious responsibilities of the position. It is proper here that I should express my high appreciation of the patience, industry and zeal displayed by the Commission, and of its successful efforts to operate the plant upon strictly business principles, solely in the interests of the people.

The Commission, in operating and completing the plant, has in the main carried out the policies and plans begun by the Council, making only minor changes where necessitated by unforeseen contingencies.

The conduct of the plant may therefore be recommended for the whole year as satisfactory and successful.

The most troublesome problem to deal with has been that of supplying pure water. The original plan of the Board of Public Works was, to use the Lake water, in connection with a reservoir of large capacity, to be located among the hills on the opposite side of the river.

Early in my administration this plan was abandoned, because of, First, the cost, estimated at about \$100,000.00; and Second, because it was not believed that this plan would supply pure drinking water. It was then determined to utilize the flow of water from the Spring in the Power house. Two pumps having each a daily capacity of 1,500,000 gallons, had already been placed in the north wheel pit in the Power House and supplied with water from the Spring. Experiments showed that the Spring could supply all the water needed by the City, and the only limitation upon an ample and healthful supply of water seemed to be the size of the main leading from the Power house to the City. This limitation it was proposed to remove by the construction of a reservoir at some point north of the City, and beyond our system of pipes, and Mr. Allen Hazen, of Boston, prepared plans and specifications for such a reservoir. Before these plans could be carried out, the Spring showed unmistakable signs of a direct connection with the Lake, and, contrary to its preceding history, became muddy whenever the water in the Lake became muddy, and has exhibited this characteristic ever since.

- This being the case, it was evident that the water from the Spring would be no more wholesome than the water from the Lake, and it became necessary to abandon this plan. Three alternative sources for securing pure water had been recommended by Mr. Hazen; first, Canton Springs; second, Otisian Wells, and third; Filtering Apparatus located in the sand beach south of the City. The first plan was rejected because of its cost, the second on account of the uncertainty as to cost and possible supply, and the third plan was adopted. In pursuance of this plan, a filtering ditch or canal, 180 feet long and 10 feet wide, has been sunk, and another of the same capacity is nearly completed, a pumping house built, and foundations provided for two pumps, connected by 24-inch suction pipe with the filtering ditches and by 20-inch discharge pipe with the water mains of our system, and a contract made with the Henry O. Worthington Company of Brooklyn, N. Y., to furnish a new pump of a daily capacity of 4,000,000 gallons. The necessary wire to connect the Electric Motor, with the Power house has been run, and the motor itself, is ready to be set up at very small cost to the City. It only remains to complete the second filtering ditch and install the new pump, which will probably be done in sixty days. The cost of these extensions to November 30th 1892, has been as follows, as shown by the Annual Report of the Water, Light and Power Commission:

Filtering Ditches	\$ 6950.58
Land for Pump House	1000.00
Pipe, Wire, Cast Iron work, etc.	6054.52
Labor, laying pipe etc.	2803.58
Pump House and Foundations	9930.31
The Stillwell & Ginner Co. Skane, etc.	010.00
The Construction Co. Water	400.00
Miscellaneous	
	<u>\$24,448.99</u>

Mayor Hancock's Annual Message. The further expenditures will be about as follows:

New 4,000,000-gallon pump	\$ 11,800.00
Completion of Second Filtering ditch	2300.00
Transferring one Stillwell-Bierce Pump from Power house to new Pump house, and necessary gearings and valves.	2000.00
New Motor for same,	4000.00
Total	\$ 20100.00

bringing the entire cost of the new plant, for the supply of pure water to \$56,045.97

The City will then have two complete pumping plants, two 20-inch mains, leading to its system of pipes, and a pumping capacity of twelve million gallons per day, exclusive of the Gould pump.

There had been expended besides, in making water service connections, the sum of \$1609.99, as shown in detail by the report of the Commission. The report further sets forth in detail the nature and cost of extensions of the Electrical Department for the year, which may be summarized as follows:

Two 750 H.P. Power Machines	\$ 9830.72
One 1700 H.P. Turbine Wheel	3099.20
To St. Wayne Company, One 80-Light Arc Generator	1500.00
" " " " 39 Commercial Arc Lamps, etc.	660.00
Freight on Machinery	1735.66
" Austin Cable Transit R.R. Company 2 Generators	1400.00
" Walter Pipe Mine Hardware etc.	4645.75
" Falls River Machine Company, Shafting, Pulleys, etc.	365.14
Extra Labor setting Machinery	771.05
Miscellaneous	2257.50
Total	\$ 26,265.06

The operating expenses of the plant have been \$36,709.07, for the year, which is higher than they will be when the plant is entirely completed. The Commission estimate that they will be \$32,000.00 for the next fiscal year, which is probably about as low as they can be kept, taking into account the repairs necessary to keep the plant up to its good condition when perfected.

The total expenditures on account of the plant for the year as shown above, have been as follows:

Water Service Connections	\$ 1609.99
New Pumping Station, Filtering Ditches and Connections	29945.97
Electric Extensions	26265.06
Total Extensions	57821.02
Operating Expenses	36709.07
	\$ 94530.09

Of the \$57,821.02 expended for extensions, \$28,431.60 was taken from the Water and Light Fund. The proceeds of the sale of Bonds, thereby exhausting this fund. The balance of extensions, amounting to \$29,389.42, and all the operating expenses were paid for out of the Earnings of the New Plant.

The receipt of the plant for the year, as shown by the Commission's

report, were as follows:

Water	\$ 27,844.04
Light	28,718.35
Power	9,130.70

No payments were made during the year, by the City for the use of Water and Light for public purposes. Acting under the Charter, the Commission fixed the prices of Water and Electricity for public purposes as follows:

For each Fire hydrant, per Annum	\$ 24.00
" Flushing gutters, Fire Company buildings, other City buildings and City Cemetery, per Annum	600.00
" each public watermain, trough, per Annum	30.00
" " Arc Light, per Annum	30.00
" Incandescent Lights and Power for the City Hall, and City public buildings, per Annum	600.00

These rates are practically the same as those established by the Council when the plant was first put in operation, and will amount to about \$1275.00 per month or \$14,700 per year, and for the twenty months from April 1st '97, when the City became indebted to the Commission for Water and Light to Nov. 30th 1898, to \$24,500.00. The Commission estimates the receipts from private consumers for the year at \$72,000.00 making a total of \$96,500. The estimated cost of extending is \$28,000 and operating expenses \$32,000, a total of \$60,000.00, leaving the sum of \$36,500.00 as surplus to be applied to the Interest and Sinking Fund of the bonded debt.

The above estimates contemplate the practical completion of the plant and in a few months from now substantially all necessary extensions and improvements will be made. The plant will be equipped to furnish an ample supply of pure water and satisfactory service in Lights and Power. It is therefore proper at this time to consider the probable earning capacity of the plant in the future. The Commission estimates the receipts from private consumers for the next year at \$72,000.

This is a conservative but fair estimate. The payment by the City of \$14,700.00 for Water and Lights for public purposes brings the total estimated ordinary receipts for the year to \$86,700.00. With estimated operating expenses of \$32,000.00 this would leave a surplus of \$54,700.00 per year as the net revenue of the plant. The bonds issued to build the plant and now outstanding are \$200,000.00 of 6% bonds and \$1,305,000.00 of 5% bonds, Interest and Sinking Fund on which amount annually to \$107,350.00. If the net revenue of the plant is \$54,700.00, as above estimated there will be a deficit of \$52,650.00 which must be raised by taxation.

That is, the City after paying \$14,700.00 per year for Water and Light for public purposes, will have to raise by taxation, a further sum of \$52,650.00 annually to meet the requirements of the debt contracted for the construction of the plant. It is evident therefore, that the plant is not now self sustaining. What are the chances for it becoming so?

On Nov. 30, 1896, the number of Water consumers was 7117, on Nov. 30, 1897 the number was 7051 a decrease of 66, caused partly by a more regular cutting off of delinquent accounts, and partly by the poor quality of water furnished. The number of Light consumers on Nov. 30, 1896, was 930, and on Nov. 30, 1897,

Major Hancock's Annual Report

1080 showing an increase of 150. It may be seen therefore that the Water and Light business has not greatly increased during the past year, and it is fair to assume that the increase will be still less this year. What increase of business may be expected as the result of supplying pure water, it is impossible to estimate, but it will not be great. We have now nearly all the Water and Light business in the City. Definite knowledge on the subject is not at our disposal, but Supt. Patterson estimates that if we should get all the Water and Light business of the Old Water Company, it would, at present prices, increase the receipts of our plants only about \$13,000.00. This would still leave the deficit \$39,650.00. The receipts from Power for the year ending Nov. 30th 1896, were \$3,843.19 and for the year ending Nov. 30th 1897, \$9,130.20, showing a substantial increase. This was mainly due, however, to getting the business of the Austin Rapid Transit R. Co., and of course that source of increase is exhausted. The power supplied to private consumers on Nov. 30th 1896, was 105.5 Horse power, on Nov. 30th 1897, it was 161.5 Horse power, an increase of only 56 Horse power for the year. There is a wide field in the sale of Electric power for the development of the business of the plant, but this development will come slowly, and cannot be relied upon for immediate relief. The use of our surplus water power for manufacturing purposes was expected to yield a large revenue, but has not done so, and there is nothing now in sight to indicate that it will do so in the near future. It remains therefore to consider what treatment the business we now have in possession or in immediate prospect should receive, in order to render the plant self sustaining.

After very carefully studying the situation, I am of the opinion that the following course should be pursued:

First. Meters should be used in the sale of all products of the plant. The present policy of selling by flat rates, is an invitation to extravagance and works injustice and hardships in every direction. Everybody should be willing to pay for what he gets. In most cases at present, and especially among the larger consumers in the Water Department, the consumer does not pay for more than a third or a fourth of what he gets. The use of meters would benefit the plant in two ways, 1st by reducing operating expenses, and 2nd by enforcing payment for all products used. The meters should be owned and furnished by the City, and a stand pipe erected to insure evenness of water pressure and regularity in the operation of meters. The equipment of the plant with meters, and the erection of a stand pipe would necessitate considerable outlay, which must come out of the Earnings, but it would be money well expended.

Second. In case the use of meters did not bring the plant to a self sustaining basis, the Water and Light rates should be raised sufficiently to do so. This could be done without imposing any hardships on the people. The rates now in force are lower than in any other City, and they would remain so after a reasonable increase sufficient to bring them up to the cost of production. Every consideration of justice and good government recommends this. The Citizen should not want the City to furnish him Water and Light below cost, and to do so puts an undue burden on somebody else. As long as the plant furnishes the products below cost,

Wright, December 10, 1901

it cannot be self sustaining, is an unequal burden upon the taxpayers, a menace to the solvency and credit of the City, and a stumbling block in the way of other and desired municipal improvements. The greatest obstacle to getting manufacturers and other foreign capitalists to come among us and invest, is their knowledge that our plant is not self sustaining, and that the great debt incurred in its construction is a menace to every form of industry in our City.

The spring in the Tower House, has been at times, a cause of uneasiness and still demands attention. I am convinced that it is not a genuine spring, but an outlet from the Lake. Whether or not it is eating away the foundation of the Dam, the head gate masonry, or the Tower House, it is impossible to say. The indications are that if it is doing so at all, it is so slowly, that no immediate danger need be apprehended. The sudden increase in the flow of water which occurred in the Spring of this year caused great uneasiness at the time and the Commission made an effort to discover the cause. This seems to be found in the bogging away and falling into the runnels of certain obstructions which have been placed in the way of the flow, when the contractors were seeking to control it, and to save the foundation of the Tower House. The flow has apparently not increased since. It is, however, an unnatural outlet for water under great pressure, its situation is under and around important masonry foundations, and if erosion is now taking place, or should take place in the future, the consequences would be disastrous beyond calculation. For this reason the flow should be stopped as soon as the City is in a financial condition to do so.

From the best information obtained the flow can be stopped without encountering extraordinary engineering difficulties.

The case of the Penn Mutual Life Insurance Co., against the City now pending before the Supreme Court of the United States, has been argued and submitted to the Court, which now has it under advisement.

The City's interests were ably represented by Mr. S. O. Fisher, and a favorable decision is looked for, almost any day.

In conclusion I desire to express my high appreciation of the services of Mr. H. C. Patterson, as Superintendent of the plant and of his unremitting industry and zeal in directing and carrying out most important changes in its construction. His task has been a difficult one, involving radical changes which had to be made with limited means, and by degrees as the earnings came in, and that too, while the continued operation of the plant was not interfered with. Only those thoroughly informed as to his work, know how arduous it has been, and of what importance to the plant, but in a few months, when the improvements now being made are completed the future operation of the plant will testify to the value of his services.

In conclusion, gentlemen of the City Council, as I am about to retire from the important Office I occupy, allow me to assure you, that welcome as the relief from official cares will be, I feel a sincere regret at severing our official connection and in separating myself from the labors which have given me so much of our time and thought during the last two years.

But it gives me much pleasure in saying, I am, I hope, to thank you for the pleasant and profitable work which I have done, and the interest which you have shown in my work, and the interest which you have shown in the work of the City.

Mayor Hancock's Annual Message

I have occasionally been called upon by a sense of duty, to disapprove of the action of a majority of your body, and my reasons for doing so, have always received earnest and respectful consideration at your hands.

As your presiding officer it has frequently become my duty to interpose summarily in your deliberations and to rule off hand upon intricate points of order. Such action on my part, was always received by you in a spirit which evidenced to me your confidence in my impartiality. The recollection of these things I shall always cherish.

To each of you I wish to express my hearty wishes for your personal happiness and good fortune and to those of you who remain in office my interest in all you may undertake for our City's good, and my earnest desire for your success.

I wish also, to express my thanks to all the City officers for their courtesies to me, and the valuable assistance they have rendered me in my labors. Without any exception, I have found them efficient and pains taking officials, animated by a high sense of honor in the discharge of their official duties.

To my successor in this important office, I extend my best wishes for a successful administration of the City's affairs. He will encounter arduous duties and difficulties, but I am convinced that he approaches the task imposed on him with an eye single to the best interests of the City, and being well equipped for the performance of the work assigned to him, by our people, he will acquit himself of the undertaking, with credit to himself, and to the satisfaction of the Citizens.

Respectfully,

Lewis Hancock, Mayor.

Report of Committee appointed to canvass returns of Election held Dec. 6 1897

The Committee to canvass the vote, presented the following report:
Austin, Texas Dec. 11th 1897.

To his Honor, Mayor Hancock.

Your Committee, appointed to canvass the vote, of election held December 6th 1897, for the election of a Mayor, School Trustees, Water and Light Commissioners and Aldermen, beg leave to report, that they have checked the returns as filed by the officers in charge of the polls and report the following as the votes cast, as per their reports:

For Mayor

Jno. D. McCall received 2100 votes

Jno. L. Beeler " 1875 "

McCall's majority 225 "

For School Trustees.

R. W. Eastman received 2349 votes

J. W. Graham. " 2643 "

H. J. Mathews " 2632 "

A. D. Thweatt " 1243 "

For Water and Light Commissioners

Geo. Fiegel received 2066 votes

Randolph Lawrence " 1624 "

Ab'l. Litzner " 2250 "

For Alderman 1st Ward.

Milton Morris received 277 votes

For Alderman 2nd Ward

D. M. Drake received 289 votes

For Mayor

For School Trustees

For Water and Light Commissioners

For Alderman 1st Ward

For Alderman 2nd Ward

For Alderman 2nd Ward

J. B. Kingsbury received 137 votes.
 Skatje Majority 150 "

" " 3rd "

For Alderman 3rd Ward
 J. H. Patterson received 117 votes
 W. D. Sheller " 161 "
 Sheller's Majority 44 "

" " 4th "

For Alderman 4th Ward
 R. L. Robertson received 158 votes

" " 5th "

For Alderman 5th Ward
 L. M. Crooker received 180 votes
 J. W. Hill " 115 "
 Crooker's Majority 65 "

" " 6th "

For Alderman 6th Ward
 Joseph Stunkel received 397 votes

" " 7th "

For Alderman 7th Ward
 C. Q. Horton received 583 votes

" " 8th "

For Alderman 8th Ward
 Ed. Rosengren received 286 votes
 J. H. Karmoth " 157 "
 Rosengren's Majority 129 "

" " 9th "

For Alderman 9th Ward
 J. L. Sannaway received 32 votes
 H. J. Houston " 19 "
 Jeff McDemore " 189 "
 W. M. Shumate " 128 "
 McDemore's plurality 59 "

" " 10th "

For Alderman 10th Ward
 L. H. Kreisk received 140 votes
 A. G. Zilker " 364 "
 Zilker's Majority 224 "

" " 11th "

For Alderman 11th Ward
 W. C. Oredt received 146 votes
 H. B. Wilson " 50 "
 Oredt's Majority 96 "

Alderman Edwin moved that the report of the Committee be received and that the newly elected Mayor and Aldermen be sworn in, which motion prevailed, and the Mayor declared the following, named, as the Officers elected for the ensuing term of two years:

Mayor Elect McCall and
 Clerk of Aldermen Elect
 for ensuing term of two years

For Mayor	Hon. Geo. D. McCall
For Alderman	First Ward, Milton Morin
For Alderman	Second Ward, J. M. Oredt
For Alderman	Third Ward, W. D. Sheller
For Alderman	Fourth Ward, R. L. Robertson
For Alderman	Fifth Ward, L. M. Crooker
For Alderman	Sixth Ward, Joseph Stunkel
For Alderman	Seventh Ward, C. Q. Horton
For Alderman	Eighth Ward, E. Rosengren
For Alderman	Ninth Ward, Jeff McDemore

For Alderman Tenth Ward A. J. Zilker.

For Alderman Eleventh Ward H. R. Redd.

The Mayor appointed Aldermen Powell Maddox and Belvin a Committee to escort the Mayor-elect into the Council Chamber.

Mayor-elect McCall takes oath of office, administered by Recorder.

The Hon. John D. McCall, Mayor-elect, was presented by the Committee, and the oath of office administered to him by Recorder Carleton.

Oath of office administered to Aldermen-elect by Recorder Carleton.

Alderman Maddox moved that the Aldermen-elect now come forward and take the oath of office, which motion prevailed, and the following named Aldermen were then sworn in by Recorder Carleton, viz: Milton Morris, F. M. Beatty, H. D. Shelley, A. R. Roberdeau, L. M. Crocker, Joseph Stumpf, R. Q. Horton, J. E. Rosengren, Jeff McDemore, A. J. Zilker and H. R. Redd.

Mayor McCall presiding.

Mayor McCall after a short address, declared the new Council ready for business. Alderman Fischer moved to suspend the regular order of business, and take up an ordinance fixing salaries of Officers and employees for the ensuing two years, which motion was lost by the following vote:

Aye Aldermen Belvin, Fischer, Horton, Kuhn, Maddox, Miller, Kitchner, Redd, Roberdeau, Shelley, Stumpf, Taylor and Townsend 13.

Nay Aldermen Beatty, Crocker, Haynes, McDemore, Morris, Platt, Powell, Rosengren and Zilker 9.

Nominations for President of the Council in order.

The Mayor declared that nominations for President of the Council were in order. Alderman Maddox nominated Alderman Shelley. There being no further nominations, Alderman Powell moved that nominations be closed, and that the City Clerk be directed to cast the vote of the Council for Alderman Shelley, which motion prevailed, and the Mayor declared Alderman Shelley duly elected President of the Council for the ensuing term.

Alderman Shelley nominated & elected by acclamation.

Alderman Maddox moved that the Council now take up the ordinance fixing salaries, which motion prevailed by the following vote:

Aye Aldermen Beatty, Belvin, Fischer, Horton, Kuhn, Maddox, Miller, Kitchner, Redd, Roberdeau, Shelley, Stumpf, Taylor and Townsend 14.

Nay Aldermen Crocker, Haynes, McDemore, Morris, Platt, Powell, Rosengren and Zilker 8.

Ord. fixing salaries of Officers & Employees for term ending Dec. 1899.

The ordinance was read first time, and on motion the rule was suspended and the ordinance placed on its second reading by the following vote: Aye, Aldermen Beatty, Belvin, Crocker, Fischer, Horton, Kuhn, Maddox, McDemore, Miller, Kitchner, Platt, Powell, Redd, Roberdeau, Rosengren, Shelley, Stumpf, Taylor, Townsend and Zilker 20.

Nay Aldermen Haynes and Morris 2.

The ordinance was read second time.

Ord. to be acted on Section by Sections.

Alderman Taylor moved that the ordinance be acted upon by sections, which motion prevailed.

Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, were read and adopted.

Section 7 was read, and a motion made to strike out \$1080. and insert \$12. which motion prevailed by the following vote:

Aye Aldermen Beatty, Belvin, Fischer, Kuhn, Maddox, McDemore, Miller, Powell, Redd, Shelley, Stumpf, Taylor and Zilker 13.

Nay Aldermen Crocker, Haynes, Horton, Morris, Kitchner, Platt, Roberdeau, Rosengren and Townsend 8.

Ord. section on salaries of Officers and Employees adopted.

Sections 8 and 9 were then read and adopted.

Section 10 was read, and a motion made to strike out \$500 and insert \$12 instead, which motion prevailed by the following vote:

Yeas Aldermen Beatty, Belvin, Fischer, Horton, Kuhn, Maddox, McLenore, Miller, Morris, Nitschke, Powell, Pidd, Roberdeau, Rosengren, Shelley, Stumpf, Taylor, Townsend and Zilker 19.

Nays Aldermen Crocker, Haynes and Platt 3.

Section 10 as amended, was then adopted.

Sections 11, 12 and 13 were read and adopted.

Section 14 was read. Alderman Shelley moved to strike out this section, which motion prevailed by the following vote:

Yeas Aldermen Beatty, Belvin, Crocker, Fischer, Kuhn, Miller, Nitschke, Powell, Pidd, Roberdeau, Shelley, Stumpf and Taylor 15.

Nays Aldermen Haynes, Horton, Maddox, McLenore, Morris, Platt, Rosengren, Townsend and Zilker 9.

Sections 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25 were read and adopted.

Section 26 was read. Alderman Horton moved that this section be struck out, which motion was lost by the following vote:

Yeas Aldermen Beatty, Horton, Nitschke, Stumpf, Taylor and Zilker 6.
Nays Aldermen Belvin, Crocker, Fischer, Haynes, Kuhn, Maddox, McLenore, Miller, Morris, Platt, Powell, Pidd, Roberdeau, Rosengren, Shelley and Townsend 16.

Section 26 was then adopted.

Section 27 was read. Alderman Roberdeau moved to strike out this section, which motion prevailed by the following vote:

Yeas Aldermen Belvin, Crocker, Fischer, Haynes, Horton, Kuhn, Maddox, McLenore, Miller, Morris, Nitschke, Platt, Powell, Pidd, Roberdeau, Shelley, Stumpf and Townsend 18.

Nays Aldermen Beatty, Rosengren, Taylor and Zilker 4.

Section 28 was read. Alderman Maddox moved to strike out this section, which motion was lost by the following vote:

Yeas Aldermen Maddox, Pidd and Taylor 3.

Nays Aldermen Beatty, Belvin, Crocker, Fischer, Haynes, Horton, Kuhn, McLenore, Miller, Morris, Nitschke, Platt, Powell, Roberdeau, Rosengren, Shelley, Stumpf, Townsend and Zilker 19.

Section 28 was then adopted.

The remaining sections of the ordinance were then read and adopted.

Alderman Taylor moved to further suspend the rule, and place the ordinance on its third reading and final passage, which motion prevailed by the following vote:

Yeas Aldermen Beatty, Belvin, Crocker, Fischer, Haynes, Horton, Kuhn, Maddox, McLenore, Miller, Morris, Nitschke, Platt, Powell, Pidd, Roberdeau, Rosengren, Shelley, Stumpf, Taylor, Townsend and Zilker 21.

Nays None.

The ordinance was then read third time, and passed by the following vote:

Yeas Aldermen Beatty, Belvin, Crocker, Fischer, Haynes, Horton, Kuhn, Maddox, McLenore, Miller, Morris, Nitschke, Platt, Powell, Pidd, Roberdeau, Rosengren, Shelley, Stumpf, Taylor, Townsend and Zilker 21.

Final Passage of Ordinance.

Resolution regulating the order of
election of City Officers

May/Nov.

Alderman Powell offered the following resolution, which was read and adopted:
Be it resolved, by the City Council of the City of Austin, That the City Council now
proceed to the election of City Officers in the following order:

- First. Assessor and Collector
- Second City Marshal
- Third City Clerk
- Fourth City Attorney
- Fifth City Recorder
- Sixth City Treasurer
- Seventh City Engineer
- Eighth Street Commissioner
- Ninth City Physician
- Tenth Sanitary Inspector
- Eleventh Resident Physician
- Twelfth City Sexton
- Thirteenth Surg. of Police
- Fourteenth Pound Master
- Fifteenth Matron of the Hospital
- Sixteenth Bridge Keeper
- Seventeenth Porter

Nominations for Assessor & Collector

The Mayor appointed Aldermen Morris Delvin and Zilker as tellers, and
announced that nominations for City Assessor and Collector were in order.
Alderman Morris nominated Fred. Stenzing.

Fred. Stenzing declared elected
Assessor & Collector of Taxes.

Nominations for City Marshal

There being no other nominations, on motion nominations were closed and
the City Clerk was directed to cast the entire vote of the Council for Fred.
Stenzing. The Mayor declared Fred Stenzing duly elected Assessor and
Collector of taxes, for the term of two years.

Jas. E. Lucy elected Marshal

The Mayor announced that nominations for City Marshal were now in order.
Alderman Powell nominated Capt. J. E. Lucy.
No further nominations being made, it was moved that the City Clerk
be directed to cast the vote of the Council for Capt. Lucy, and the
Mayor declared Jas. E. Lucy duly elected as City Marshal for the
ensuing two years.

Nominations for City Clerk

The Mayor announced that nominations for City Clerk were now in order.
Alderman Fischer nominated Jas. O. Johnson.

No other nominations being made, it was moved that nominations close
and that the Assistant City Clerk be directed to cast the vote of the
Council for John O. Johnson, which motion prevailed.

Jas. O. Johnson elected City Clerk

The Mayor declared John O. Johnson duly elected City Clerk, for the
ensuing two years.

Nominations for City Attorney

The Mayor announced that nominations for City Attorney were now in order.
Alderman Delvin nominated T. B. Cochran.

Alderman Miller nominated W. G. Swain.

Alderman Horton nominated G. W. Maddox.

Alderman Crocker nominated Gardner Pugh.

Alderman Morris nominated O. Archer.

The Mayor announced the following as the result of the ballot:

J. B. Cochran received 17 votes.

O. Archer " 1

Sandner/Quigley " 3

H. G. Swain " 3

J. H. Maddox " 3

J. B. Cochran, Elected City Attorney

Nominations for City Recorder

The Mayor announced that J. B. Cochran, having received a majority of all the votes cast, was duly elected City Attorney for the ensuing two years.

Nominations for City Recorder were declared in order.

Alderman Fischer nominated Fred Carlston.

Alderman Arlin nominated S. H. Mendell Sr.

Alderman Platt nominated B. A. Rutherford.

Alderman Robinsan nominated J. O. Caldwell.

Alderman Horton nominated H. M. Brown.

The tellers announced the following as the result of the first ballot:

Carlston received 9 votes

Mendell Sr. received 2

Rutherford received 4

Caldwell received 1

Brown received 6

No one having received a majority, a new ballot was ordered, and the tellers announced the following as the result of the second ballot:

Carlston 8

Mendell Sr. 1

Rutherford 4

Caldwell 2

Brown 7

No one having received a majority, a new ballot was ordered.

The tellers announced the following as the result of the third ballot:

Carlston 11

Mendell Sr. 1

Rutherford 2

Caldwell 1

Brown 7

No one having received a majority, a new ballot was ordered.

The tellers announced the following as the result of the fourth ballot:

Carlston 10

Mendell Sr. 1

Rutherford 3

Brown 8

No one having received a majority, a new ballot was ordered.

The tellers announced the following as the result of the fifth ballot:

Carlston 13

Rutherford 1

Brown 8

Fred Carlston having received a majority of the ballots cast was duly elected City Recorder for the ensuing two years.

Nominations for City Treasurer were declared in order.

Alderman Fischer nominated W. B. Smith.

Fred Carlston, Elected City Recorder

Nominations for City Treasurer

Alderman Zilker nominated J. S. Myrick.
No other nominations being made, nominations were closed, and the tellers announced the following as the result of the ballot:

Hamby 10 votes
Myrick 12 "

J. S. Myrick having received a majority of all the votes cast, the Mayor announced that he had been duly elected City Treasurer, for the ensuing two years.

Nominations for City Engineer were declared in order.

Alderman Zilker nominated J. H. P. McFall, and as there were no other nominations the City Clerk was directed to cast the vote of the Council for McFall.

The Mayor declared J. H. P. McFall duly elected City Engineer for the ensuing two years.

Nominations for Street Commissioner were declared in order.

Alderman Horton nominated E. M. Sawyer.

Alderman Bodd nominated Mrs. Jackson.

Alderman Robertson nominated Joe Schuber.

The tellers announced the following as the result of the ballot:

Sawyer 15 votes
Jackson 5 "
Schuber 1 "
Lee 1 "

E. M. Sawyer having received a majority of all the ballots, was declared duly elected Street Commissioner, for the ensuing two years.

Nominations for City Physician were then declared in order.

Alderman Robertson nominated Dr. Denton.

Alderman Morris nominated Dr. Graves.

The tellers announced the following as the result of the ballot:

Dr. Graves 15 votes
Dr. Denton 6 "

Dr. D. D. Graves having received a majority of all the votes cast, the Mayor declared him duly elected City Physician for the ensuing term.

Nominations for City Sexton being declared in order.

Alderman Zilker nominated H. S. Kitchner, and there being no other nominations the City Clerk was directed to cast the vote of the Council for him.

The Mayor announced that H. S. Kitchner, having received a majority of all the votes cast, was duly elected City Sexton for the ensuing two years.

Nominations for Sergeant of Police, being next in order, Alderman Powell nominated H. Montgomery, and moved that the Clerk be directed to cast the vote of the Council for him, which motion prevailed, and the

Mayor announced that H. Montgomery, having received a majority of all the votes cast, was duly elected Sergeant of Police for the ensuing term.

Nominations for Resident Physician being next in order, Alderman Kitchner nominated Dr. Hamilton.

There being no other nominations, the City Clerk was directed to cast the vote of the Council for Dr. Hamilton.

Dr. E. V. Hamilton having received a majority of the votes cast, the Mayor declared him duly elected Resident Physician, for the ensuing two years.

Nominations for Sanitary Inspector being next in order, Alderman

J. S. Myrick elected City Treasurer

Nominations for City Engineer

J. H. P. McFall elected City Engineer

Nominations for Street Commissioner

E. M. Sawyer elected Street Commissioner

Nominations for City Physician

Dr. D. D. Graves elected City Physician

Nominations for City Sexton

H. S. Kitchner elected City Sexton

Nominations for Sergt. of Police

H. Montgomery elected City Sergt. of Police

Nominations for Resident Physician

Dr. E. V. Hamilton elected Resident Physician

Nominations for Sanitary Inspector

Bowell, nominated H. W. Calhoun
 Alderman Roberdeau nominated Guy A. Collett
 Alderman Haynes nominated O. J. Blunt
 Alderman Zilker nominated W. C. Murphy
 Alderman Fischer nominated Geo. Holdstock
 Alderman Townsend nominated John Skelton

Nominations were then closed, and the tellers announced the following as the result of the first ballot:

Calhoun	8 votes
Collett	5 "
Holdstock	1 "
Murphy	3 "
Skelton	3 "
Blunt	2 "

No one having received a majority, a new ballot was ordered, and the tellers announced the following as the result of the second ballot:

Calhoun	9 votes
Collett	3 "
Holdstock	1 "
Murphy	5 "
Skelton	4 "

No one having received a majority, a new ballot was ordered and the tellers announced the following as the result of the third ballot:

Calhoun	9 votes
Collett	4 "
Murphy	5 "
Skelton	3 "
Blunt	1 "

No one having received a majority, a new ballot was ordered, and the tellers announced the following as the result of the fourth ballot:

Calhoun	9 votes
Collett	5 "
Murphy	6 "
Skelton	2 "

No one having received a majority, a new ballot was ordered, and the tellers announced the following as the result of the fifth ballot:

Calhoun	12 votes
Collett	3 "
Murphy	4 "
Skelton	3 "

H. W. Calhoun having received a majority of all the votes cast, the Mayor declared him elected Sanitary Inspector, for the ensuing term.

Nominations for Board of Market being in order,

Alderman Skimpf nominated J. W. Powell
 Alderman Miller nominated H. Hutchinson
 Alderman Quinn nominated John Linsme

Nominations were then closed, and the tellers announced the following as the result of the ballot:

H. W. Calhoun elected Sanitary
 Inspector
 Nominations for Board of Market

J. H. Powell received 12 votes.

H. Hutchison received 6 "

Geo. Sensing received 4 "

J. H. Powell elected Board Master

J. H. Powell having received a majority of all the votes cast, the Mayor declared him elected as Board Master for the ensuing term.

Nominations for Matron at City & Co. Hospital

Nominations for Matron of the Hospital being in order.

Alderman Horton nominated Mrs. Ritter

Alderman Taylor seconded the nomination and moved that the City Clerk be directed to cast the entire vote of the Council, for Mrs. Ritter, which motion prevailed.

Mrs. J. M. Ritter elected Matron at City & Co. Hospital

Mrs. J. M. Ritter having received the entire vote of the Council, the Mayor declared her duly elected Matron of the Hospital for the ensuing term.

Nominations for Bridge Keeper

Nominations for Bridge Keeper being in order.

Alderman McLeomore nominated Thurlow Reed.

Alderman Powell nominated J. D. Schneider

Alderman Miller nominated Mrs. Malone

Alderman Padd nominated W. Badger.

Alderman Kuhn nominated Capt. Dunn.

The tellers announced the following as the result of the first ballot:

Schneider 7 votes

Malone 5 "

Badger 3 "

Dunn 1 "

Reed 6 "

No one having received a majority, a new ballot was ordered, and the tellers announced the following as the result of the second ballot:

Schneider 5 votes

Malone 5 "

Badger 6 "

Reed 6 "

No one having received a majority, a new ballot was ordered, and the tellers announced the following as the result of the third ballot:

Schneider 9 votes

Malone 4 "

Badger 4 "

Reed 4 "

No one having received a majority of the votes, a new ballot was ordered and the tellers announced the following as the result of the fourth ballot:

Schneider 9 votes

Malone 3 "

Badger 3 "

Reed 7 "

No one having received a majority, a new ballot was ordered, and the tellers announced the following as the result of the fifth ballot:

Schneider 11 votes

Malone 3 "

Badger 3 "

Reed 11 "

No one having received a majority of the votes of the Council, a new ballot

was ordered, and the tellers announced the following as the result of the sixth ballot

Schneider	13 votes
Malone	1 "
Need	8 "

J.D. Schneider elected Bridge
Keeper.
Nominations for Porter.

J.D. Schneider having received a majority of the votes cast, the Mayor declared him duly elected Bridge Keeper for the ensuing term.

Nominations for Porter being made in order.

Alderman Robideau	nominated	W.H. Harrison
Alderman Horton	nominated	D. Larrington
Alderman Zilker	nominated	J.H. Bennett
Alderman Platt	nominated	Ellie Monroe
Alderman Crocker	nominated	Geo. Johnson
Alderman Kitcher	nominated	Geo. Holland

The applications of Jacob Thomas and J. F. Kavanaugh for the position of Porter, were read, and on motion, nominations were closed and the ballot ordered. The tellers announced the following as the result of the first ballot:

Harrison	11 votes
Larrington	5 "
Bennett	3 "
Monroe	2 "
Johnson	1 "

No one receiving a majority, a new ballot was ordered, and the following announced as the result of the second ballot:

Harrison	11 votes
Larrington	4 "
Bennett	3 "
Monroe	2 "
Johnson	3 "

No election, and a new ballot ordered.

The tellers announced the following as the result of the third ballot:

Harrison	15 votes
Larrington	3 "
Bennett	3 "
Johnson	1 "
W.B. Evans	1 "

W.H. Harrison having received a majority of all the votes cast, the Mayor declared him elected Porter at the City Hall for the ensuing term.

On motion, the Council adjourned.

W.H. Harrison elected Porter
at City Hall.

Geo. O. Johnson
City Clerk.