

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the City Council.
Austin Texas, Dec. 10th 1898.

Hon. Geo. D. McCall, Mayor, presiding.

Roll called.

Present. Aldermen Beatty, Belvin, Crooker, Fischer, Haynes, Horton, Kuhn, Maddox, McSemore, Miller, Morris, Pilschne, Platt, Powell, Redd, Rosengren, Stumpf and Townsend 18.

Absent. Aldermen Shelley, Taylor and Zilker. 3

Alderman McSemore asked a suspension of the regular order of business, and that he be allowed to offer a resolution, which motion prevailed.

Alderman McSemore offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted by a rising vote.

Whereas, the Honorable B. Platt, after being a member of the City Council of Austin, for a period of more than seventy years, will with tonight voluntarily sever his connection with this body, and whereas, during all of this long period, he has represented his people faithfully, zealously and conscientiously, therefore be it Resolved, that in retiring to private life, Mr. Platt takes with him the best wishes and respect of this Council.

Resolved, further, that until some other member has served a longer period, that Mr. Platt shall have the exclusive honor of being the "Father of Austin City Council," a name that is voted him, with the addition of these resolutions.

Aldermen Shelley and Zilker entered the Council Chamber.

Alderman Morris moved that the Council do now proceed to canvass the vote cast at the election held Dec. 5th 1898, and that the Mayor appoint a Committee for that purpose, which motion prevailed and the Mayor appointed as the Committee, Aldermen Morris, Horton and McSemore.

The Committee reported the following as the result of the canvass:

For Water and Light Commissioners:		
Geo. A. Brush received	1540	Votes
D. W. Doom " "	1574	"
W. B. Wortham " "	1894	"
Aldermen		
For Alderman of the First Ward		
B. W. Powell received	180	Votes.
For Alderman of the Second Ward		
F. M. Maddox received	326	Votes.
For Alderman of the Third Ward		
Francis Fischer received	704	Votes.
For Aldermen of the Fourth Ward		
Long term W. E. Snow received	94	Votes.
" " Geo. Schuler " "	45	"
" " B. L. Walker " "	127	"
For Alderman of the Fifth Ward		
James Bruden received	104	Votes.
O. W. Townsend	108	
For Alderman of the Sixth Ward		
C. W. Johnson received	127	Votes.
Secretary	3	

Resolution of respect, upon the retirement of Ald. Platt from the City Council.

Canvass of Vote of Election held Dec. 5th 1898

W & L Commission

Aldermen

of the City of Austin.
Gentlemen:-

We have met here tonight, to take up the work of caring for the City's business and to legislate as best we can, for the good of our fellow-citizens during the coming year. Let us act harmoniously together, that the City's interest may be advanced, its affairs efficiently, honestly and prudently administered, so that Austin, the beautiful Capital City, of the great State of Texas, may be in the front ranks of Cities, honored for its hospitality, thrift, refinement and integrity of her people.

Finances.

The taxable values for 1898, is \$10,754,843.00

The tax levy for the General fund, is 90 cents on the \$100. valuation, which will bring a revenue of \$96,793.58, provided all the taxes are collected.

The Assessor & Collector estimates, that we can collect of this amount, the sum of \$81,000.00, and from other sources, such as License Tax Fines, Hospital etc., \$19,185.00 making the total amount of General fund available, for the ordinary expenses of the City government, for the fiscal year ending 1899, \$100,185.00.

The estimated expenses, for this fiscal year, are as follows:

Salaries.

Mayor.	\$ 600.00	
Assessor & Collector	1800.00	
Marshal	1500.00	
Attorney	1500.00	
Clerk	1500.00	
Engineer	1200.00	
Recorder	900.00	
Treasurer	600.00	
Physician	600.00	
Sexton	245.00	
Two Assistants in Assessor & Collector's Office.	2100.00	
Assistant Clerk	900.00	
Sanitary Inspector	876.00	
Sound Master	876.00	
Porter.	480.00	\$15,707.00
Serjt. of Police	1080.00	
Day Clerk of Police	900.00	
Quintan Herrera	720.00	
Five Mounted Policemen at \$876.00 each	4380.00	
Eight Foot Policemen at \$720.00 each.	5760.00	\$ 12,840.00
Officers & Employees City & County Hospital,		2040.00
Fire Department.		
Six Drivers and One Fireman at \$600.00 each.		4200.00
Two Drivers Street Sweeps at \$450.00 each.		900.00
Four Drivers and One Fireman Sanitary Department.		2400.00
Oldsmen		2640.00
Drivers, Street Sweeps		1000.00
Fire Department. Seed Expenses etc.		2183.00
Extra Expenses for City & County Hospital		2570.00

Mayor's Annual
Message

Cost of Engine House	\$ 600.00
Meals for City Prisoners	500.00
Supplies for City & County Hospital	3000.00
Printing, Stationery & Postage	1000.00
Charity	1200.00
Water & Lights	15000.00
Third installment of judgement due Old Water Company, say,	17375.00
Expenses of City Election	175.00
Board of Equalization	450.00
Miscellaneous	3000.00
<hr/>	
Making a total of	\$ 83790.33

To this amount should be added the following:

There is now in the hands of the City Clerk, a warrant for \$3660.00 drawn on the fifth day of March 1896, due the Water & Light plant, for the quarter ending February 1896, which has not been paid, the Clerk tells me, for want of funds. In addition to this, there was due on November 30th 1898, \$21967.50, for Water & Light furnished the City, for public uses by her plant, from April 1st 1897, to November 30th 1898.

The City Engineer estimates that it will take \$2500.00 to repair the Bridges over the City, which are in a dangerous condition, making in all, the amount of \$124917.83 to be provided for out of the General fund, for the fiscal year ending December 1899.

It will be seen, that the estimated expenses are greater than the estimated receipts; and while these amounts may vary, careful attention should be given to these estimates. One thing is certain, our expenses must of necessity be controlled by our income. Wherever the pruning knife can be applied without impairing the efficiency of the public service, it should be done.

Every useless expenditure of the tax-payers money, should be avoided.

The Sergeant of Police having resigned, I would recommend to the Council, that this position be abolished.

It will be seen from the report of the City Treasurer, that the amount on hand at the beginning of the year, to the credit of the General Fund was

at the beginning of the year, to the credit of the General Fund was	\$ 5142.54
Receipts during the year	<u>91093.00</u>
Total balance and receipts	\$ 96235.54
Disbursements during the year.	<u>84698.02</u>
Balance on hand Dec. 31 st 1898.	\$ 11537.52

The City Clerk's report shows \$81850.97 drawn against the General fund.

Of this amount, there are in the City Clerk's Office undelivered warrants, amounting to \$587.79. Add this amount to the \$84698.02 reported paid by the Treasurer, and we have a total of \$85285.81, showing that there is included in the payments made by the Treasurer, \$3429.84 which amount was drawn during the previous fiscal year, and not presented for payment during that year, which accounts for the apparent discrepancy in the Clerk's report of warrants drawn, and the Treasurer's report of warrants paid.

Now the balance on hand \$11537.52 should be deducted from \$587.79 in the hands of the Clerk, and also warrants for November 1898 drawn out in the end of the fiscal year, amounting to \$1120.00, leaving a net balance at the end of the year, of \$8328.31. I would also suggest that the amount due by the City, to the Water & Light plant, which is now owing, would be reduced, by the sinking fund, and would be used to reduce the bonded debt.

Mayor's Annual
Message

If this is not done, then it should be set aside to pay the 3rd and last installment of the judgement due the Old Water Company, so as to enable the City, to pay this judgement as soon as possible, and save to the City the interest we are paying on this judgement. It is a matter of congratulation that we have paid this year, the first and second installment of this judgement, amounting to \$23149.90.

If this money could have been used in improving and sprinkling our streets, it would have been more advantageous to the City, and that she has been able to meet and pay this debt, and also pay her current expenses, without a deficiency at the end of the fiscal year, save the amount she owes to her Water & Light plant, is indeed a matter of congratulation.

Assessor & Collector's Report.

Amount of Ad Valorem Taxes collected for 1897 and previous years was,	\$ 74504.04
License Tax	9936.20
Recorder's Court	1546.75
Court fees & sales	546.80
Interest, Costs & Penalties on taxes.	1787.72
Travis County (Hospital Account)	2000.00
Dog Tax	592.00
Miscellaneous	184.99
Water Works Tax	68725.69
Interest on Bonds issued prior to May 1 st 1890.	9236.11
School Tax	<u>25604.63</u>
Total Collections for the year for all purposes	\$ 204659.43

The amount of taxes charged the Assessor & Collector, on the rolls of 1897, on account of General fund, was	\$ 83044.30
Amount collected during the year was	<u>69976.05</u>
Leaving uncollected	\$ 13068.25

The School Tax charged on said roll was	\$ 38439.09
Of this amount there was collected during the year the sum of	<u>32389.79</u>
Leaving uncollected	\$ 6049.30

Water Works Tax charged on said rolls	\$ 71510.20
Of this amount there was collected during the year	<u>60197.41</u>
Leaving uncollected	\$ 11312.79

Interest on Bonds issued prior to May 1 st 1890 charged on said rolls was,	\$ 10100.73
Of this amount there was collected during the year	<u>8510.28</u>
Leaving uncollected	\$ 1590.45

Total Amounts collected on the rolls of 1897.	171073.53
Total Amounts uncollected on the rolls of 1897.	32020.79

General Fund Balance on hand Dec. 1 st 1897	5142.54
Receipts during the year.	<u>91093.00</u>
Total Balance and Receipts	\$ 96235.54

Mayor's Annual
Message

General Fund. Disbursements during the year.	\$ 84698.02
Balance on hand Dec 1 st 1898.	\$ 11537.52
Interest & Sinking Fund, Water & Light Bonds.	
Balance on hand Dec 1 st 1897.	\$ 3607.03
Receipts during the year.	68725.69
Total Balance and Receipts.	105432.72
Disbursements during the year	87273.54
Balance on hand Dec. 1 st 1898.	\$ 18139.18
Bonds issued prior to May 1 st 1890.	
Balance on hand Dec. 1 st 1897	\$ 4037.31
Receipts during the year	9236.11
Total Balance and Receipts	13273.42
Disbursements during the year	11975.00
Balance on hand Dec. 1 st 1898, Cash	\$ 1298.42
and Six 5 percent Water & Light Bonds of \$1000.00 each	6000.00

City Clerk's Report.

Warrants drawn against the General Fund	81850.97
Warrants drawn against Interest Fund, Old Bonds	5925.00
Warrants drawn against the Int & Sinking Fund, W & L Bonds.	77273.54
Warrants drawn for Purchase and Cancellation of W & L Bonds.	10000.00
Total Warrants drawn.	\$ 147504.51

Report of City Recorder.

The report of the Recorder shows 594 Cases tried Convictions 464, Acquitted 100, Dismissed, 27, Appealed to County Court 2. Undisposed of not arrested 37. Fines Assessed \$3610.00

City Marshal's Report.

The report of the City Marshal shows amount of Fines Assessed in the Recorder's Court, to be \$3610.00
 Collected in Cash \$1418.70. Escaped \$242.00. Appealed \$75.00. Laid in Jail and worked out \$1847.80. Remitted by City Council \$15.00 Total \$3610.00
 In addition to this there has been collected from Fines of previous years, in Cash \$440.75.
 There is \$394.00 worth of City property in the hands of the City Marshal as per itemized report.

Report of City Cound.

Number of Cows impounded during the year. 247. Horses 176. Mules 24. Donkeys 4. Hogs 12.
 To redeem these Animals it cost the owners \$960.05. Of this amount \$399.45 was paid the keeper of the Cound, for Feed and care, and \$560.60 was paid as Fines into the City Treasury.

City Physicians Report.

Patients admitted to Hospital during the year	233
Number of Patients who died in Hospital	27
Patients dismissed from Hospital	183
Total number of Visits to Patients during the year	1059
Number of Prescriptions written for Patients	2340
Number of Cases of Diphtheria	15
Number of Cases of Scarlet Fever, None.	

Mayor's Annual
Message

For the past year we have been working together, for the best interests of the City of Austin.

That we have managed the Finances of the City, to the best advantage, is shown by the fact, that we have paid the ordinary expenses of the City government, and also paid the first and second installments of a judgement in favor of the Old Water Company, amounting to \$73149.90, principal and interest; and this has been done without creating a deficiency.

There has been much complaint about the condition of the Streets, and justly so, but to put the Streets in proper condition, it takes money, and the money we have not had, for the reason that we have had to pay some debts, not of our contracting. This year we have said, pay as you contract, and we have done so. There are still other debts to pay, which will keep us back another year, and for this reason, the Tax rate was increased 13 cents on the 100. dollars valuation so as to enable us to pay out this year.

While it is easy to find fault, and complain, yet if those persons who criticize so freely, would take the trouble to inform themselves correctly, they would find much to commend, that they overlook for want of proper examination. There is every reason to believe, and the facts warrant us in saying, that Austin is in a healthy condition, both physically, and financially. Her sanitary condition is first class, her taxes, and Water and Light rates, taken as a whole, are lower than any City that I know of.

I feel that I am justified in saying, that this day two years from now, every Citizen will Austin leading to the front.

That we have a debt, is true, but pause and consider what we have to show for that debt. One of the grandest City Water Works and Electric Light plants, in the world. One that will ~~soon pay~~ pay for itself. It is now bringing in approximately \$100000.00 per Annum.

When the new filtering trench is finished, and new pump in position, which will be by the first of April next, as per contract, the filtered water supply will be completed, then there will be ample filtered water, for all taxers.

If the Citizens, will all patronize their own plant, for Water, Lights and power the plant will pay annually, the operating expenses, Interest and the two per cent Sinking Fund, on the Bonds.

When the debt is paid, the earnings from the plant, will, not only pay the expenses of operating it, but it will also pay, the ordinary expenses of running the City government, without one cent of taxation.

I say unhesitatingly, if these results are not obtained, it is because those who have it in charge, are not capacitated to handle it.

Consolidated Debt.

There is outstanding now, \$52500.00 Six per cent Bonds, that were issued prior to May 1st 1890. \$2500.00 of Sinking Bonds, issued in 1895. \$1,295000.00 of Five per cent Water & Light Bonds; \$200000.00 Six per cent Water & Light Bonds.
Total Consolidated debt. \$1,620000.00

During the year, we have redeemed \$10000.00 Five per cent Water & Light Bonds at par, and accrued interest.

The Water & Light Commission, have directed that \$8000.00, of the earnings of the plant, be turned over to the Sinking Fund.

There has been purchased for the Sinking Fund, of Sinking Bonds, \$6000.00.

Mayor's Annual Message

Water & Light Bonds, bearing Five per cent Interest, as an investment for this fund, this with the \$8000.00 above mentioned, is equivalent to retiring, or reducing our Bonded debt this year, \$14000.00

Conclusion.

In conclusion, I desire to express to each and every member of the City Council, my grateful appreciation of their kind and courteous manner towards me, also to the City Officers and employes, to the members of the Water and Light Commission, the Superintendent, and Clerks, and employes of the City's plant, for considerations shown me.

To all of you gentlemen, and to Mrs. Ritter, the worthy matron at the City Hospital, be due, whatever good has been accomplished in the City's interest. I am sure, we have all had the same aim and object in view, and that is, to work honestly and faithfully for the City's well being. So each of you without exception, I wish to express the heart felt wish, that good health, good fortune and happiness, may attend upon you at all times.

We shall miss from among us, the face of that bold veteran, champion of the people's rights, the Hon. Obediah Platt, the "Father" of the Council, who has represented his Ward, for almost a quarter of a century.

We shall also miss the Honorables, Hon. J. Taylor, of the 4th Ward, and A.W. Townsend of the 5th Ward.

Respectfully submitted,
Jno. D. McCall, Mayor.

Nominations for President of Council

The Mayor declared that nominations for President of the Council for the ensuing year, were now in order.

Alderman Reed nominated Alderman Shelley.

Alderman Shelley declined, and asked that his name be withdrawn which was done.

Alderman Maddox elected President of Council

Alderman Fischer nominated Alderman Maddox of the 2nd Ward, and on motion nominations were declared closed, and Alderman Maddox elected by acclamation of Council.

Resolution to increase Police force and that one of the members be a Colored Religion

Alderman Titschke offered the following resolution:

Resolved, by the City Council of the City of Austin, That the Police force of the City be increased by the addition of one Patrolman, making a total of Fifteen Police Officers, instead of fourteen, as at present; but it further Resolved, that the increase be appointed from the Colored citizenship.

The resolution was lost by the following vote:

Yeas. Aldermen Crocker, Jahr, Fischer, Haynes, Horton, McLamore, Titschke, Powell and Rosenbaum. 9.

Nays. Aldermen Beatty, Belvin, Brady, Brooks, Kuhn, Maddox, Miller, Morris, Reed, Shelley, Stumpf, Walker and Zilker 13.

Election of Aldermen

Alderman Belvin moved that the Council now proceed to the election of Police men for the ensuing year, which motion prevailed, and the Mayor appointed Aldermen Fischer, Haynes and Brady, as Tellers.

Mayor's Message to Council

Alderman Belvin moved, that the recommendations of the Mayor in his message to abolish the position of Sergeant of Police, be concurred in, which motion prevailed, by the following vote:

Yeas. Aldermen Beatty, Belvin, Brady, Crocker, Brooks, Haynes, Horton, Kuhn, McLamore, Miller, Morris, Powell, Rosenbaum, Stumpf, Walker and Zilker 16.

Nays. Aldermen Reed, Shelley, 6.
Aldermen, Crocker, Jahr, Fischer, Haynes, Horton, Kuhn, Miller, Morris, Rosenbaum, Stumpf, Walker and Zilker 16.
Aldermen, Beatty, Belvin, Brady, Brooks, Haynes, Horton, Kuhn, McLamore, Miller, Morris, Powell, Rosenbaum, Stumpf, Walker and Zilker 16.

his list of recommendations for Policemen, which motion prevailed

City Marshal list & nominations

The following is the Marshals list:
J. Hill, M. Rashin, J. Stumery, John Chamerville, J. D. Platt, O. H. Gibson, J. G. Campbell, P. D. Bell, J. E. Isherwood, J. B. Lane, A. S. Corwin, H. Maddox, J. E. Grizzard, Scott Wilson, and Hiram M. Gar.

Aldermanic nominations

Alderman Morris nominated E. C. Folwell.
Alderman Hayes nominated Allen Grimes
Alderman McLenore nominated W. A. Cato.
Alderman Nischke nominated W. M. Sears
Alderman Craty nominated W. E. Singleton
Alderman Horton nominated Jas. McLean

Alderman McLenore moved that nominations do now close, which motion prevailed. The tellers announced the following as the result of the first ballot:

Mc Rashin	received	21	Votes
Stumery	"	21	"
Chamerville	"	15	"
Platt	"	22	"
Gibson	"	17	"
Campbell	"	19	"
Bell	"	21	"
Isherwood	"	11	"
Lane	"	8	"
Corwin	"	21	"
Maddox	"	22	"
Grizzard	"	17	"
Wilson	"	18	"
Mc Gar	"	15	"
Folwell	"	20	"
Grimes	"	7	"
Cato	"	13	"
Sears	"	6	"
Singleton	"	7	"
McLean	"	4	"

Policemen elected for ensuing term

The following named persons having received a majority of all the votes cast, were, by the Mayor, declared elected Policemen for the ensuing term, viz: Mc Rashin, Stumery, Chamerville, Platt, Gibson, Campbell, Bell, Corwin, Maddox, Grizzard, Wilson, Mc Gar, Folwell and Cato.

Ord Amending Arts 229, 237 & 228 to dispense with Office of Sergeant of Police & to select 1 member of the force to be known as Police Captain

By Alderman Shelley. An ordinance Amending Articles 229, 237 & 228. of the Revised Civil Code of the City of Austin, so as to dispense with the Office of Sergeant of Police, and to provide for the selection of one member of the Police force, to be known as Police Captain, and to define his duties.

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

Yeas. Aldermen Shelton, Craty, Crocker, John Fisher, Crook, Hayes, Horton, Huber, Maddox, McLenore, Miller, Morris, Nischke, Powell, Reed, Shelley, Stump, Valner and others. '0.

Nay Aldermen Craty and Crocker, '0.
Alderman Shelley, moved that the Council now proceed to the discussion of

a Porter at the City Hall, which motion prevailed.

Nominations for Porter
at City Hall

Nominations being declared in order Alderman Shelley nominated W. H. Harrison.
Alderman Crocker nominated Chas. Halpin. Alderman Witschke nominated
Tom Hamilton.

Nominations were declared closed, and the Tellers announced the following as
the result of the first ballot:

W. H. Harrison elected
Porter for ensuing
Term

W. H. Harrison received 15 Votes.

Chas. Halpin " 7 "

Tom Hamilton " 5 "

The Mayor declared W. H. Harrison duly elected Porter at the City Hall, for the ensuing
Term.

Alderman Fischer moved that the Council now proceed to elect a Captain of
Police as provided for in the ordinance just passed, and approved by the
Mayor, which motion prevailed.

H. Maddox elected
Police Captain for
ensuing Term

Alderman Morris nominated H. Maddox, Alderman Belvin moved that nomi-
nations be closed and the Clerk be instructed to cast the vote of the Council,
for H. Maddox, which motion prevailed, and the Mayor declared H. Maddox
elected as Captain of Police, for the ensuing year.

On motion the Council adjourned.

J. W. A. Johnson
City Clerk.