Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the City Council.
Austin, Texas, Sept. 19th 1898.

Hon. Jno. D. McCall, Mayor, presiding.

Roll Called.

Present. Aldermen Beaty, Belvin, Crooker, Fischer, Haynes, Horton, Kuhn, Maddox, McLemore, Miller, Morris, Nitschke, Platt, Powell, Reed, Rosengren, Shelley, Stumpf, Taylor and Zilker 20.

Absent. Aldermen Robergeau and Townsend 2.

Minutes adopted as recorded.

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

Petitions, Memorials, etc.

Pet. of H.W. Oatman to erect wooden addition to Building on Lots 8&9

By Alderman McLemore. Petition of H.W. Oatman, to erect a wooden addition to building on lots 8 & 9 Block 68, within the Fire limits.

Alderman McLemore moved to grant the petition.

Alderman Crooker moved as a substitute, that the petition be referred to the Fire Commissioners, which motion prevailed.

Pet. of W.G. Eyres to occupy part of Colorado St.

The Mayor laid before the Council a petition from W. G. Eyres, Architect, asking permission to use a part of Colorado Street, opposite the Christian Church building, for the purpose of moving frame building now in rear of old building, to be used as a tool house, during the erection of the new Church building. On motion of Alderman Taylor, the permit was granted.

Pet. of Lone Star Ice Co. to erect corrugated iron roof building

By Alderman Powell. Petition of the Lone Star Ice Co. for permission to erect a frame corrugated iron roof building on West 1st and Colorado Streets in Block 5, within the Fire limits.

On motion of Alderman Powell, the petition was granted.

Alderman Townsend entered the Council Chamber.

Pet. of Mrs L.H. Randolph looking to compromise of a suit for damages for certain lands overflowed

By Alderman Maddox, A communication from R. G. West, Esq. Attorney for Mrs. L. H. Randolph, asking the Council to take action looking to a compromise of a suit for damages to certain land, occasioned by the erection of the Dam.

On motion, the communication was referred to the Claims and Accounts Committee with instructions to investigate the matter and report to the Council, said Committee to be allowed their necessary expenses in making the investigation.

Res. directing Sanitary Insp. to drain Pond of Water in Hyde Park

By Alderman Belvin. Resolution directing the Sanitary Inspector to drain and have drained, a pond of water near the residence of Miss. Ney, in Hyde Park. The resolution was adopted.

Reports of City Officers.

Report of W&L Com. for quarter ending Aug. 31st 1898.

The following reports from the Water & Light Commission, were presented, read and on motion, were referred to the Water & Light Committee, and were ordered printed in full in the minutes.

Austin, Texas, August 31st 1898.

To the Hon. City Council,
City of Austin, Texas.

Gentlemen:-

Complying with section 60 of the amendments to the Charter of the City of Austin, we submit herewith a statement of the Receipts and Disbursements of the Water, Light and Power Plant for the quarter ending August 31st 1898; and as the report of this Commission for said period, we herewith transmit

W&L Commission Report

The report made to us by Mr. H. C. Patterson, Superintendent, which also contains a statement of the amount due by the City to this Department.

Light Consumers.

Incandescent Light Consumers to May 31st 1898.	1111
New Applications 46, Renewals 43.	89
Cut off, for Non-payment 20, By request 40 Vacancy 12.	72
Showing an increase of 17 Consumers for the quarter and Total of,	1128

Number of Incandescent Lights.

Number of 10 C.P. Incandescent Lamps Installed	4
" " 16 " " " " "	13772
" " 25 " " " " "	114
" " 32 " " " " "	179
" " 50 " " " " "	61

Arc Lamps

Arc Lamps in use by private consumers May 31st 1898.	40
New Applications 1 No cut offs, making a gain of	1
	41
Arc Lamps in use by the City (one added in July), Total,	192
Total.	233

Water Consumers.

Number of Water Consumers to May 31st 1898.	2431
New Applications 92 Renewals 133	225
	2656
Cut off, for Vacancy 87, Non-payment 30, by request 31	148
Showing an increase of 77 for the quarter, and total of,	2508

Pump Record

(For twenty-six days of June, no record kept in July & Aug.)

Total Gallons pumped 26 days of June, 1898.	120,349,630
Minimum " " during this month per day	2 960,450
Maximum " " " " " " "	6,426,430
Average " " " " " " "	4 628,831

Motors on Three-Phase Circuit.

There are 45 motors on the Three-Phase Circuit, ranging from ¼ ~~to 30~~ H.P. each, used by private consumers aggregating 210¼ H.P.

Statement of the Receipts and Disbursements of the Water Works, Electric Light and Power Plant of the City of Austin, for the quarter ending August 31st 1898, to-wit:-

Receipts.

Water.	June	$3510.09	July	$1835.09	August	$1805.63	Total	$7150.81
Light	"	2779.52	"	2653.60	"	2607.69	"	8040.81
Power	"	1315.15	"	1413.96	"	1352.69	"	4081.80
Meters	"	56.55	"	111.65	"	10.35	"	178.55
Motors	"	11.90	"	15.30	"	47.65	"	74.85
Water Extensions (Fire Hydrants sold D & D Institute)								21.50
Miscellaneous Receipts for the Quarter								3.10
Total Cash Receipts " " "								$19.551.42

Amount due by the City for Water and Light from April 1st 1897 to August 31st 1898, per bills $21,204.00

W&L Commissioner's Report

Operating Expenses: Including Salaries, Maintenance, Repairs, etc.

Electrical Expenses.	
H.&T.C. Ry. Co., Freight Bills.	$ 9.28
I&G.N. Ry. Co. " "	62.35
Dr. F. O. McLaughlin, Attention to Lineman	19.00
S.W. Tel & Tel. Co.,	3.25
Austin Electrical Supply Co.	173.98
Contingent Fund, Miscellaneous Items.	80.90
" " Labor,	46.50
Austin White Lime Co.	.50
Jno. H. Chiles	8.70
Commercial Electrical Supply Co.	72.00
D & W. Fuse Co.	25.20
Fischer & Bro.	.40
General Electric Co.	80.63
Leonard & Ellis	5.90
Malone Oil Co.	13.14
Jno. A. Webb & Bro.,	2.53
Walter Tips	6.25
W. J. Glass.	1.00
Pay Rolls, May, June & July	3309.15
Austin Furniture Co.,	2.00
Total Electrical Expenses.	$ 3922.66
Water Expense.	
S.W. Tel & Tel. Co.	$ 3.25
Contingent Fund, Miscellaneous items!	64.80
" " Labor,	94.81
Austin White Lime Co.,	.50
Ludlow Valve Co.,	6.30
Leonard & Ellis	5.90
Malone Oil Co.,	13.14
Jno. A. Webb & Bro.,	1.28
H&T.C. Ry. Co.,	19.05
Frank Hirdman & Bro.,	51.97
Jno. H. Chiles	12.70
Pay Rolls, May, June & July	2045.45
I.&G.N. Ry. Co.,	138.49
Total Water Expenses.	$ 2457.64
Office Expenses.	
Contingent Fund. Miscellaneous items,	$ 53.57
Pay Rolls. May, June & July.	1511.00
Austin Book & Stationery Co.,	5.35
Tragarden & Brugmate	2.75
Total Office Expenses	$ 1572.67
Total Operating Expenses for the Quarter	$ 7952.97

W&L Commissioners Report

Extensions of the Plant

Electrical Extensions		
I&G.N. Ry. Co., Freight Bills,	$ 52.00	
H. L. Brendman	16.00	
W. A. Glass	20.00	
Moreland Paint Co.	2.45	
P. Thomson,	146.30	
Austin Electrical Supply Co.,	171.29	
W. A. Burke,	61.75	
J. O. Buaas	54.90	
J. P. & Ray McDonald	9.85	
Contingent Fund, Labor	95.50	
" " Miscellaneous	13.07	
Austin White Lime Co.,	8.00	
Calcasieu Lumber Co.	90.49	
Fischer & Bro.,	3.70	
Wagner Electric Mfg. Co.,	28.00	
Walter Tips	106.41	
General Electric Co.,	833.69	
Whiting Foundry & Equipment Co.,	422.50	
Frank Heirman & Bro.,	228.61	
Jno. H. Chiles	8.70	
Pay Rolls, May, June & July.	282.71	
Western Electric Co.	174.38	
Total Electrical Extensions		$ 2830.30
Water Extensions.		
I&G.N. Ry. Co. Freight Bills.	$ 29.16	
H. L. Brendman,	16.00	
B. Thomson,	72.45	
J. O. Buaas,	81.00	
J. P. & Ray McDonald	18.75	
Contingent Fund, Labor,	129.25	
" " Miscellaneous items,	5.12	
Austin White Lime Co.,	8.00	
Jno. A. Webb & Bro.,	587.89	
Walter Tips	138.02	
Whiting Foundry & Equipment Co.,	422.50	
Jno. H. Chiles,	2.00	
W. A. Glass.	10.50	
Pay Rolls, May, June & July.	324.49	
Total Water Extensions		$ 1845.13
New Pumping Station.		
H&T.C. Ry. Co., Freight Bills	$ 54.66	
Contingent Fund, Labor,	73.00	
" " Miscellaneous items.	4.50	
Austin White Lime Co.,	8.00	
Pay Rolls, May, June & July,	795.10	
Chattanooga Foundry & Pipe Works.	225.00	

W&L Commissions Report

Amts. Bro't. Forward	1160.26	4675.43
R. D. Wood & Co.,	95.17	
C. H. Lamar,	29.50	
Falls Rivet & Machinery Co.,	400.00	
General Electric Co.,	150.00	
Walker Co.,	413.00	
Frank Heierman & Bro.,	56.16	
Jno. H. Chiles	3.85	
W. A. Glass,	22.65	
Ross Valve Co.,	360.00	
P. Thomson.	59.10	
Total New Pumping Station.		$ 2749.69
Filtering Trenches.		
Calcasieu Lumber Co.,	$ 49.38	
C. J. Martin.	2.50	
Frank Heierman & Bro.,	26.14	
P. Thomson.	2.50	
Total		$ 80.52
New Filtering Trench. Pay Roll July		10.00
Meters. Refunded to Consumers for Meters Returned.		172.70
Henry R. Worthington. Amount paid on Pump this Quarter		2038.32
Interest: Paid H. R. Worthington " " Contract		30.59
Total Extensions for the Quarter		$ 9757.25
Total Operating Expenses for the Quarter		7952.97
Total Disbursements, this Quarter,		$ 17710.22

Recapitulation.

Receipts		
Balance on hand per report May 31st 1898	$ 2235.69	
Receipts for the Quarter	19551.42	
Disbursements		
For Operating Expenses		$ 7952.97
" Extensions of the Plant		9757.25
Balance on hand, August, 31st 1898.		4076.89
	$ 21,787.11	$ 21787.11

Respectfully
Jno. D. McCall.
Vice President, Water & Light Commission.
City, Sept. 19th 1898.

G. A. Brush's minority report of W&L Com'n

To the Honorable City Council, of the City of Austin.
Gentlemen:—

In presenting to you this minority report for the quarter ending August 31st from the Water and Light Commission, of which I am a member. I do so with that keen sense of my sworn duty in accepting this office. The report presented by the Superintendent for the Commissions to accept and present to you, was so far short of a true statement of expenditures in the expense of soundings and figures showing what was considered by them to be a correct explanation of this expense that they have been to, in boring tubes into the sand beach, to find [illegible] and water bearing sand, that

G. A. Brush's Minority report of the W&L Commission

I voted no, when the report was acted upon, and asked them to inform me if expense of such soundings, blue prints and plans, that they presented in this first report was correct. Upon further probing I learned that this amount was charged to "New Pumping Station."

You all know how false this entry would be to any one in finding out the cost of the new pumping station. It was then suggested that all the expense be found, and charged to work done on the sand beach, which I claim from reports and labor vouchers read, to be in July 292.00 and in August 268.00 in all $560.00, and their report furnished you to-night shows $10.00 with a difference of $550.00. I claim it should be correct to the cent. If the clerical force the Superintendent keeps in the office, at the expense of the tax payers, is not sufficient to do the business, I think we had better quit altogether, as I think we have double the number needed.

You will notice by this report that no account of pump register has been made for July and August, but this has been left off. I ask why? Is our Superintendent too busy or is it a fact, that after all this time he has not learned to keep a correct register of daily amount pumped, which he admitted to the Commission, after the new pump had been started and he had been presenting reports for about a year, that he must be wrong. He did not think the pumps were pumping as much water as he had been reporting. In other words gentlemen, I am as positive as I can be that he knows nothing about hydraulics and the boring for water and running pumps and running an office like the Water and Light Commission control through him. To satisfy yourselves upon this charge, I ask of you, to exact of him testimonials of his past hydraulics, and I guarantee you will never get them. In my judgment of over twenty-one years experience in matters pertaining to water and the handling of men, that the expenses enumerated in this quarterly report, can easily be reduced at least $800.00 per month, and that when the opportunity presents itself to get a large consumer like the Driskill Hotel, the Commission act so arbitrarily that we lose the business entirely, except for power (and the small receipts in this report proves it.) And how when an opportunity presents itself wherein we can get, according to our published rates, $1800.00 for Water and light annually, from the State for the Capitol Building, our Board follows the suggestion of this Superintendent, and advises him to ask $4000.00 This, as I informed them was wrong, and a shame that should not be perpetrated upon the tax payers of Austin, for in all likelihood it will be refused, and we will lose this $1800.00 (by asking the exorbitant rate of $4000.00 per year) that we could make without any extra expense to us, and thereby let our plant go on, day by day, leech-like, draining the blood from our prosperity, and leaving so much more for the tax payers to continue paying to keep up the Interest and in direct violation of the amendment of the Charter (See Sec. 99 f for rates)

When the opportunity presented itself, not long since, to have the second [illegible] of soldiers located here, why did Gov. Culberson refuse to sign his name to the telegram that would have brought them, and the [illegible] to our citizens and our works? Because, the Superintendent told Gov. Culberson that he'd be dammed if he would give him water until he paid for it. In this [illegible] that upon that we should have standing, to our [illegible]

Minority report of G. A. Brush of the W. & L. Com.

increase its popularity? No, gentlemen, the Old Company is getting it. My own personal water and light tax is about $27.00 per month, and can you tell me that this amount is easy to get, and do not each one of you know that you are already taxed to the limit of your purse. So, gentlemen what I do say in presenting this minority report is that, if I am not mistaken, that this report is incorrect in the amount spent at the New Pumping Station, and the amount for borings, plans and blue prints is incorrect, and if so, the book-keeping in the office is done by incompetent clerks, or they are following the instructions of the Superintendent in making false entries and I insist that they are wrong.

If this be true, should not your Honorable body, step in and notify this most august body, of which I am a member, that they cannot further disregard the laws that they were elected to carry out, but that they must make all possible efforts to increase our income with getting new consumers and thereby relieve the tax payers of this enormous debt.

At the meeting Sept. 8th the Board held, that I could not go into the filtering trenches, unless I went in person to the Superintendent and got him to go with me, and that I could not, according to Capt. Listnaver's speech to the Board, take a citizen or expert with me, for the purpose of learning things connected with the workings of the plant.

I ask in stupendous awe, what right does Captain Listnaver think the citizens have, and what right has a Commissioner, and why these Star Chamber proceedings? What is wrong, that I cannot inspect the works only in company with the Superintendent. If I have no confidence in the Superintendent's ability, as I have none whatever in Mr. Patterson, in hydraulics, and desired to take an expert with me into the filtering ditches, to find out the exact flow of water, and how much harm the shallow wells were doing our new and expensive pump by pumping sand through them, so I could inform myself and maybe open the eyes of the Commission, would I not be a public benefactor, and would I not be doing the citizens a good, by locating existing errors.

When Mr. Patterson told the Commission that the new pump had furnished the water for four days except in the night, when he was running the pump at the Dam, did I not know that he was pumping water from the Lake into the filtering ditches at night, and pumping it out in the day time? Did I not wager the Commissioners to close down the pumps at the Dam and let the pump at the new station work a day and then go into the filtering ditches and I would guarantee there would be no water there and none supplied to the City either.

Now gentlemen, after this Commission has spent over $20,000.00 on the two ditches, and they are advertising for bids to put in a third one 1200 feet up the sand beach and propose to conduct the water to the present ditches with 20 inch earthen pipe laid in the sand. Is it not time to call a halt and stop this lavish expenditure, when I have every reason to know that a properly constructed filtering bed could have been put in not to cost to exceed $10,000.00 and enough to supply 100,000 people. Are not these Commissioners sinking the tax payers' money in the sand beach? What do they know about sinking test wells. I have all the time

Minority report of G.A. Brush of W. & L. Commissioner

asked for a practical hydraulic Engineer to be employed, and until such time comes, I would not care to have my rail roads run by a shoe maker, or my law business attended to by a doctor.

Respec't. yours,
Geo. A. Brush
Water and Light Commissioner.

The report of the Mayor acting as Auditor for the quarter ending Aug. 31st 1898, was presented and ordered filed.

Pet. of A.H. Yarrington for correction of Assmt. for year 1897

By Alderman Belvin, Petition of A.H. Yarrington asking correction of Assessment for the year 1897. On motion of Alderman Taylor, the petition was referred to the Claims and Accounts Committee.

Reports of Standing Committees.

Claims & Accts Comt. report on pet. of Mrs. Blair

Alderman Platt, for the Claims and Accounts Committee, to whom was referred the petition of Mrs. Blair, asking a correction in Assessment for taxes for 1897, presented a report recommending that the petition be granted. The report of the Committee was adopted.

St. Comt. report on cost of grading 2 Blocks of 6th St.

Alderman Nitschke for the Street Committee to whom was referred the resolution of Alderman Maddox directing the Street Committee to ascertain the cost of grading 6th Street for two blocks on each side of Congress Avenue with material the same or similar to that used by the Street Car Company, presented a report estimating the cost to be $1244.30/100

On motion, the report was laid over to come up with a resolution on the subject.

Unfinished Business.

Ord. granting right of way to E.A. Ellis et. al. along certain Streets

The Mayor laid before the Council, An ordinance granting the right of way to E.A. Ellis et. al., to construct, maintain and operate, Street Railways along certain Streets in the City. The ordinance was read the second time, and on motion of Alderman McLemore, further action was postponed until the next regular meeting of the Council.

New Business.

The Mayor laid before the Council the following veto message, which was read:

Mayor's Office
Austin, Texas, Sept. 8th 1898.

Mayor's Veto message of Resolution continuing Hal. Mason as Dog Catcher.

To the Honorable City Council
of the City of Austin.

Gentlemen:

I herewith return without my approval, the following resolution passed by your Honorable body, on Sept. 5th 1898:

"Resolved, that Hal. Mason be continued in the service of the City, as Dog Catcher during the present and succeeding month," for the following reasons:

The amount collected from the Dog tax last year, was as follows:
May $21.00. June $355.00 July $95.00 Aug. $44.80 Sept. $33.00 Oct. $1.00 Nov. $1.00 making a total for the year, of $550.00

For this year, we have collected as follows:
June $331.00 July $122.00. Aug. $64.00 making a total, to Sept. 1st of $517.00

Taking last year as a basis, we cannot expect to collect over $40.00 for the month of Sept., and should be through by October 1st.

We already have one Dog Catcher, for the months of Sept., and Oct. at $40.00

per month, and the record does not bear us out, as being able to realize enough to pay his salary, from the tax.

For these reasons, I cannot approve the resolution.

Respectfully,
Jno. D. McCall, Mayor.

Mayors objections sustained

The motion was then put, shall the resolution pass notwithstanding the objections of the Mayor, and the motion lost by the following vote:

Yeas. None.

Nays. Alderman Beaty, Belvin, Crooker, Fischer, Haynes, Horton, Kuhn, Maddox, McLemore, Miller, Morris, Nitschke, Platt, Powell, Redd, Rosengren, Shelley, Stumpf, Taylor, Townsend and Zilker. 21.

Reconsideration of vote, refusing to purchase W & L Bonds.

Alderman Platt moved to reconsider the vote had at the last meeting of the Council, whereby the Council refused to pass an ordinance appropriating the sum of $9150.00 to purchase Water & Light Bonds for the Sinking Fund, which motion prevailed.

Ord. Appr $10,150.00 to purchase 10 W & L Bonds for Sinking Fund.

Alderman Taylor moved that the ordinance do now pass which motion prevailed by the following vote:

Yeas. Alderman Beaty, Belvin, Crooker, Fischer, Haynes, Horton, Kuhn, Maddox, Nitschke, Platt, Powell, Rosengren, Taylor and Townsend 14.

Nays. Alderman McLemore, Miller, Morris, Redd, Shelley, Stumpf & Zilker 7

Ord. Appr $720.00 to pay per diem of the Bd. of Equalization for the year 1898.

By Alderman Morris. An ordinance appropriating the sum of $720.00 to pay the per diem of the Board of Equalization for the year 1898.

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

Yeas. Aldermen Beaty, Belvin, Crooker, Fischer, Haynes, Horton, Kuhn, Maddox, McLemore, Miller, Morris, Nitschke, Platt, Powell, Redd, Rosengren, Shelley, Stumpf, Taylor, Townsend and Zilker. 21.

Nays. None.

Ord. Appr $16312.50 to pay Int. due Oct. 1st 1898, on W & L Bonds.

By Alderman Morris, An ordinance appropriating the sum of $16312.50 to pay Interest due Oct. 1st 1898, on $1,305,000.00 Water & Light Bonds of the City.

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

Yeas. Alderman Beaty, Belvin, Crooker, Fischer, Haynes, Horton, Kuhn, Maddox, McLemore, Miller, Morris, Nitschke, Powell, Redd, Rosengren, Shelley, Stumpf, Taylor, Townsend and Zilker. 20.

Nays. Alderman Platt. 1.

Ord. Apprn $2175.00 to pay Int. due Oct. 1st 1898 on Funding Bonds

By Alderman Morris. An ordinance appropriating the sum of $2175.00 to pay Interest due Oct. 1st 1898, on $72,500.00 Funding Bonds.

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

Yeas. Alderman Beaty, Belvin, Crooker, Fischer, Haynes, Horton, Kuhn, Maddox, McLemore, Miller, Morris, Nitschke, Powell, Redd, Rosengren, Shelley, Stumpf, Taylor, Townsend and Zilker 20.

Nays. Alderman Platt 1.

City Council to meet hereafter at 8 instead of [illegible]

By Alderman McLemore Resolved, That hereafter the City Council meet at 8 o'clock instead of 8:30. The resolution was adopted.

[illegible]

Alderman Maddox called up the report of the Street Committee upon the resolution to grade 6th Street etc, and moved that the whole matter be re-referred to the Street Committee, with instructions to confer with the Finance Committee, and if found that the finances of the City will justify the expenditure, then in that event, they be directed to report plans and specifications for the work, and an ordinance appropriating money to pay for same, which motion prevailed.

Resolution requesting W&L Commission to furnish Council with an itemized report of Operating Expenses.

Alderman McLemore offered the following resolution, which was read and adopted.

Whereas, The operating expenses of the Water & Light plant, according to the report of the Water & Light Commission, seems to be rather large, approximating a sum of thirty thousand dollars Annually, therefore be it, Resolved, by the City Council, that the Water & Light Commission be requested to furnish this body, with a seperate itemized statement of said operating expenses, at the next regular Council meeting.

On motion, the Council adjourned.

Jno. O. Johnson
City Clerk.