

Regular meeting of the City Council
Austin, Texas, Feb. 2nd 1903.

Hon W. S. Shelley, President of the Council presiding,
Roll Called

Present Aldermen Crooker Davis Low Mortimer Nitschke
Redd and Shelley

Absent Aldermen Hume Maddox Schneider Thumate
Stumpf & Meit 7
6

On motion of Alderman Mortimer the Council
adjourned until Friday Feb 6th at 8 o'clock PM

J. O. Johnson
City Clerk

Adjourned Regular meeting of the City Council
Austin, Texas, Feb 6th 1903

Hon R. E. White Mayor presiding

Roll Called

Present Alderman Crooker Davis Low Maddox Mortimer
Nitschke Redd Schneider Shelley Thumate Stumpf & Meit 12
Absent Alderman Hume 1

On motion the minutes were approved as recorded by
the Clerk, without reading

Petitions, Memorials etc

Not Returned
Conveyance for
drain pipe in
Cemetery

By Alderman White Petition of the Beth Israel Congregation
asking for a drain pipe to be put in the City addition to the City
Cemetery

On motion of Alderman Nitschke the petition was granted

Reports of City Officers

Reports City
Officers

The Mayor laid before the Council the reports of City officers for the
month of Jan'y 1903, except that of the Marshal, which were
on motion referred to their appropriate Committees without
reading

Comm reports
of the Finance
Committee

Reports of Standing Committees

Alderman Nitschke to whom was referred the petition of
Citizens of South Austin to have the bridge on fifth street not
now in use, removed and placed across Walker Creek
on fourteenth street, presented a report recommending
that the petition be granted. On motion the report of the
Committee was adopted.

Finance
Committee

Alderman Maddox for the Finance Committee to whom
was referred the reports of the assessor & collector, the
treasurers and the clerk for the month of Dec 1902, presented
a report stating that they had examined same and found
them correct. On motion the report was adopted

Reports of Special Committees

Alderman Nitschke for the special Committee
appointed to visit other Texas cities and investigate

their street work, to present the following report.

Austin, Tex., Feb 10, 1903

To the Honorable R. E. White, Mayor, and Board of Aldermen
City of Austin

San Antonio,
Committee

The San Antonio Committee appointed to visit San Antonio, Houston, Texas, Fort Worth, and Dallas, and meet with the City officials of said cities, and learn from them their experience and practice, and what would be the best material for street paving, beg to report as follows, viz:

The first Austin to San Antonio on the evening of January 20th, and spent Monday, January 26th, in going over the streets of San Antonio with Engineer Truckenbrot, examining the streets and storm sewer work of that City.

San Antonio has streets paved with three mile blocks, asphalt, and vitrified brick. The block paving cost \$3.00 per square yard. The asphalt paving cost \$1.90 per square yard. The vitrified brick paving cost \$2.10 per square yard, the asphalt used being the Uvalde, or rock asphalt and the sheet asphalt. (The City has quit using block paving, and we found the same as to other cities; therefore we will not further consider the block paving.)

Both the asphalt and brick paving are laid on from four to six inches concrete, and a cushion of one and a half to two inches of sand on the concrete. Where asphalt is used it is laid to a thickness of two inches.

The City has several miles of asphalt streets which have been laid from one to four years. Our observation and information obtained from the City officials convinces us that streets paved with asphalt require constant care to keep them in order, which is necessarily expensive. The City, in making the contract for asphalt paving, requires a ten years guarantee, and in all contracts for such paving, retain fifteen per cent of the contract price for security.

The brick paving done in San Antonio has given entire satisfaction, and thus far has given very little trouble in any way. The only objection to the brick is the noise, but our observation is that with the exception of wheel vehicles with iron tires the noise is about the same as that on a street paved with asphalt. San Antonio has only a limited amount of storm sewers, but feel the need of more.

From San Antonio we went to Houston where we spent Tuesday, January 27th, going over the streets, the paving done and material used being the same as in San Antonio except they used four mile blocks instead of three mile.

Houston like San Antonio, has done considerable paving with both asphalt and brick, and requires the contractor to give a guarantee of from five to ten years, retaining as security from ten to fifteen per cent of the contract price. Houston has a considerable number of storm sewers and

is putting in more, using brick for construction. The streets paved with asphalt are wearing in holes and where water stands shows deterioration. It requires constant care and attention to keep in repair one street on which the five year guarantee will expire in March, and is in such condition that the contractors have been given notice to relay it, and they are now at work doing so.

The brick paving laid with vitrified brick has given entire satisfaction and requires little or no repairs. Some paving done with common brick has been down several years and shows considerable wear.

Houston has adopted the plan of widening sidewalks. On all streets in the residence part of the city the side walks are from twenty to twenty two and a half feet wide, which leaves a roadway of thirty five to forty feet. On main streets the side walks have been widened to eighteen feet which leaves a roadway of fifty four feet.

We spent Thursday January 29th, at Waco. This city, like Austin, has done little in street work. She has one street paved with rock asphalt which has been down about one year. This is the best asphalt paving we saw. She has some little storm sewers and is a strong advocate of same.

We spent Friday January 30th, 1903, in Fort Worth. This city has done and is doing much street work, using vitrified bricks. This work is well done and as a whole is far the best street paving we saw. She has considerable storm sewerage constructed out of concrete, and strongly advocates this carrying for storm water before paving, the cost of paving being \$1.85 per square yard. Saturday, January 31st, we spent in Dallas. This city has done much street work, a great deal of which is asphalt, but it wears in holes and takes constant care and patching to keep in repairs. What brick work she has done gives satisfaction. Her storm water is carried off by storm sewers, which method is highly favored by the officials.

The work done in San Antonio and Houston is paid for by the city out of funds from sale of bonds. At Waco, Fort Worth, and Dallas the work is paid for by the abutting property owners and the street car lines, the city paying for the street crossing. The cost of asphalt paving is about the same in all the cities. The vitrified brick paving being from \$1.85 per square yard paid in Ft Worth to \$2.10 per square yard paid in San Antonio.

We make the following recommendations: 1st Put in crested storm sewers. 2nd Do not use asphalt. 3rd When paving is done we will strongly favor vitrified brick. 4th For the present after the construction of the storm

show, that the avenue and Sixth Street be macadamized with cement gravel, Walsh or as good gravel, said work to be done in such manner as to make the foundation and to admit of paving thereon with vitrified brick when the City is financially able to so pave.

The work to be paid for as follows:

A. The City to pay for putting in the storm sewers and setting out the curbing and filling in between the old and the new curb lines and the street crossings.

B. - The Street Car line to pay as required by its charter the work along its line.

C. The abutting property owners to pay for the work between the new curb line and the street car work.

Fifth In our opinion the side walks can be materially widened and greatly reduce the cost of carrying for the streets, and at the same time add much to the beauty of our streets.

From information obtained we estimate the cost of the work outside of work done by the street car line and the City to be approximately as follows, viz:

For vitrified brick laid on cement gravel \$125.00 for 23 foot front or \$3000.00 per block.

For vitrified brick laid on concrete \$175.00 for 23 foot front, or \$4200.00 per block.

For cement or Walsh gravel \$30.00 for 23 foot front or \$720.00 per block.

In concluding we desire to thank the officials of the various Cities for their generous courtesies and information given your Committee. We desire to especially thank City Engineer E. H. Trueheart of San Antonio, P. L. Dormant of Houston, Gen. W. Gurley of Tracy, John W. Hawley of Fort Worth and Hugh Raines of Dallas.

We have an unexpended balance of \$28.25 out of the \$200.00 appropriated, which amount we have deposited to the credit of the General Revenue fund with City Assessor and Collector Fred Storging, and attach his receipt hereto for same. All of which is respectfully submitted.

E. L. Conrad City Engineer

J. B. Kitchie

J. M. Shumate

J. M. Maddox

} Special Committee

} en fraving

Alderman Reed moved to adopt the report of the Committee which motion prevailed.

Alderman Maddox moved to reconsider the vote by which the report of the special Committee was adopted which motion prevailed.

Alderman Morrison moved that the report of the special Committee be submitted in full in the minutes of the Council, which motion was adopted.

On motion of Alderman Maday the report was ordered published in the Daily Statesman, provided they charge the regular price now paid for newspaper printing. Alderman Mortimer moved that the thanks of the Council be extended to the Committee for the able manner in which they have discharged the duty imposed upon them.

The motion was adopted by a rising vote.

New business

\$1500. for
Stone Culvert
5th & Lucas
Sts

By Alderman Schneider An Ordinance appropriating the sum of \$1500. for the purpose of building a stone culvert across Little Shoal Creek at the intersection of Lucas & 5th streets.

The ordinance was read the first time and on motion was referred to the Street Committee.

Charter

Amendment
City Treasurer

Alderman Low offered the following resolution: Whereas, The Custodianship of the public funds of the City of Austin is a valuable privilege which might be let out to the highest bidder with great advantage to the revenue of the City; and

Whereas, Many other cities have successfully accepted the plan of electing as their respective treasurers the bidder which will bid highest for the privilege of keeping the public funds; therefore, Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Austin:

Section 1. That it is the sense of the Council that the City Charter should be so amended as to permit the City funds to be kept by the person or bank which will offer the highest responsible bid for said privilege. Such Custodian to enter into a good and sufficient bond for the faithful discharge of the duties of treasurer, and to be elected by the Council every two years.

Section 2. The Mayor is hereby requested to appoint a special Committee consisting of three members of the City Council, who, together with himself and the City Attorney, are hereby instructed to take the necessary steps to procure the enactment of a charter amendment of the nature above stated.

Section 3. That our local Senator and representatives are hereby respectfully requested to aid us in obtaining such Charter amendment.

Alderman Mortimer moved the adoption of the resolution. Alderman Schneider moved as a substitute that it be referred to the ordinance Committee which motion was lost by the following vote: Yeas Aldermen Brooker Maday Read Schneider Shelley 5 Nays Aldermen Davis Low Mortimer Tinsdale Shumate Trumpitt 7 Nil.

On motion of Alderman Shering the resolution was referred to the Ordinance Committee with instruction to report at the next session meeting of the Council.

By Alderman Tinsdale An Ordinance appropriating the sum of \$1500 for the purpose of running the bridge on east of the creek and raising same across said creek on east of the creek. The ordinance was read the first time and a motion made to suspend the rule and place it on a second reading.

which motion prevailed by the following vote
 Yeas Aldermen Crocker Davis & Low ^{Mortimer} Vitschke
 Redd Schneider Shelley Shumate Stumpf & Ueb
 Nays None. 12

The ordinance was read the second time. Alderman Shelley
 moved to amend by inserting after word "bridge" the following words
 "not now in use" The amendment was adopted, and the ordinance
 as amended was passed under suspension of the rule by the following
 vote.

Yeas Aldermen Crocker Davis ^{Mortimer} Low Maddox Vitschke Redd
 Schneider Shelley Shumate Stumpf & Ueb 12
 Nays None

Salaries of
 Policemen

By Alderman Maddox An ordinance appropriating the sum of
 \$137.⁰⁰ for the purpose of paying the salaries of special Policemen for
 the month of Jan'y 1908. The ordinance was passed under
 suspension of the rules by the following vote

Yeas Aldermen Crocker Davis ^{Mortimer} Low Maddox Vitschke
 Redd Schneider Shelley Shumate Stumpf & Ueb 12
 Nays None.

\$375. to repair
 market shed
 & vicinity

By Alderman Davis An ordinance appropriating the sum of
 \$375. for the purpose repairing the market shed on the block
 known as the "Alliance Yard" corner 5th and Drinity Streets
 The ordinance was read the first time. Alderman Shelley
 moved to refer it to the Market Committee and City Attorney,
 which motion was lost by the following vote

Yeas Aldermen Maddox Schneider Shelley & Stumpf 4
 Nays Aldermen Crocker Davis Low Mortimer Vitschke Redd
 Shumate & Ueb 8

Alderman Davis moved to suspend the rule and place the
 ordinance on its second reading, which motion was lost by the
 following vote

Yeas Aldermen Crocker Davis Low Mortimer Vitschke Redd
 Shumate and Ueb 8

Nays Aldermen Maddox Schneider Shelley & Stumpf 4

\$200. to grade
 Ring & other
 streets

By Alderman Crocker An ordinance appropriating the sum of
 \$200. for the purpose of grading portions of Ring and other streets
 The ordinance was read the first time

Alderman Schneider moved to refer it to the Street Committee
 which motion was lost by the following vote

Yeas Aldermen Maddox Schneider & Stumpf 3
 Nays Aldermen Crocker Davis Low Mortimer Vitschke
 Redd Shelley Shumate & Ueb 9

Alderman Crocker moved to suspend the rule and place the
 ordinance on its second reading, which motion was lost
 by the following vote

Yeas Aldermen Crocker Davis Low Mortimer Vitschke Redd
 Shelley, Shumate & Ueb 9

Nays Aldermen Maddox Schneider & Stumpf 3

\$350. To extend
sewer in East
Cemetery

By Alderman Uebert an ordinance appropriating the sum of \$350. for the purpose of extending the sewer into the City addition to the City Cemetery. The ordinance was read the first time Alderman Schneider moved to refer it to the Cemetery Committee which motion was lost by the following vote

Yeas Aldermen Maddox & Schneider 2
Nays Aldermen Crocker Davis Low Mortimer Nitche Redd Shelley Shumate Stumpf Uebert 10

On motion the rule was suspended and the ordinance placed on its second reading by the following vote

Yeas Aldermen Crocker Davis Low Maddox Mortimer Nitche Redd Schneider Shelley Shumate Stumpf Uebert 12
Nays none.

The ordinance was read the second time Alderman Shelley moved to amend same by inserting "that the work be done under the supervision of the Cemetery and Street Committees and the City Engineer, and that the water be conducted by the most practicable route"

The amendment was adopted and the ordinance was passed under suspension of the rule by the following vote
Yeas Aldermen Crocker Davis Low Maddox Mortimer Nitche Redd Schneider Shelley Shumate Stumpf Uebert 12
Nays none.

Alderman Maddox offered the following resolution which was read and adopted

City Treasurer
directed to
transfer
certain funds

Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Austin, that the City Treasurer of the City of Austin be and is hereby directed to transfer from the General fund to the street improvement fund the sum of \$275.00 to reimburse said street improvement fund for that amount paid Mrs. P. G. Hill for land for Cemetery and other purposes.

Plans
to change
charter

Alderman Crocker offered the following resolution
To the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Austin

Every local advantage possessed by a municipality should be availed of for the economic administration of the affairs of that city, in order that its citizens should be supplied with water and lights, at the very lowest rates, by taking advantage of its local water power, especially since electrical power has been rendered practical it should be used; any water power available rather than coal and oil to generate that power. The neglect from any cause to use that water power is a most suicidal policy in any city government.

The City of Austin is now paying about \$60,000.00 per annum for oil as a substitute for water power, lost by the destruction of the dam and the probability is that oil will advance in price and we may be compelled to pay more than that amount for oil as a generating power of electricity. It is estimated by competent electrical engineers that

the dam across the Colorado river at Austin can be rebuilt, for \$500,000.00, and there are numerous Construction Companies in this country that would become competitors for that sum, for the rebuilding of the dam, if such an offer was made by the City of Austin. The \$60,000.00 that we now pay for oil annually, after the first year, would, in eleven years pay the interest and the principal, \$500,000.00, and the City could supply its citizens with water and light at almost a nominal price, and this could be done without any taxation. The use of water power rather than coal or oil, for generating electricity, is so economical that it is obvious to every intelligent man in Austin who has the interests of its citizens at heart, and for the purpose of inaugurating a practicable plan for the rebuilding of the dam, I offer the following resolution.

Resolved, That a Committee composed of the Mayor, the City Attorney and three Aldermen, be appointed, the Aldermen by the Mayor, to confer with the Water and Light Commission, or a Committee appointed by that body, to consider the practicability of rebuilding the dam upon the plan herein proposed and to ascertain what legislation by the Legislature of the State, now in session, would be necessary for the consummation of the plan proposed; and, that the said Committee of the Council report the conclusions of said joint Committee to the Mayor and City Council of Austin at its very earliest convenience.

On motion of Alderman Nitschke the resolution was adopted, and the Mayor appointed Aldermen Crocker, Madday and Shelley as the Committee provided for in the resolution.

City Engineer
to name and
number certain
streets

Alderman Nitschke offered the following resolution which was read and referred to the Street Committee.

Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Austin, that the City Engineer be and is hereby authorized and instructed to name and number all of those streets of the City east of Comal Street.

City Engineer
to name and
number certain
streets

Alderman Madday moved to reconsider the vote by which the Council refused to suspend the rule and place the ordinance appropriating the sum of \$200.00 to grade Ruiz and other streets, which motion prevailed.

Alderman Shelley moved to suspend the rule and place the ordinance on its second reading which motion was lost by the following vote:

Yeas Aldermen Crocker, Low, Madday, Nitschke, Reed & Shelley. Aye 6. Nays 1.

Nays Aldermen Davis, Martinez, Schneider, Simpson.

On motion the Council adjourned.

Jos. O. Johnson
City Clerk