

Regular Meeting of the City Council

Austin Texas, April 6th 1903

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

Present Aldermen Hume Low Maddox Mortimer Kibbe
Redd Shelley Shumate & Strumpf 9

Absent Aldermen Crocker Davis Schneider & Ullrich 4

On motion the minutes of the last regular, and subsequent called meetings were approved as recorded by the clerk, without reading. Alderman ~~Shumate~~ entered the Council chamber.

Petitions Memorials etc

Memorial
Citizens
Committee
concerning
the Dam

The chair laid before the Council a memorial from the Citizens Committee appointed some time since to confer with the Water Light & Power Commission and to aid it in devising ways and means for rebuilding the dam. The following is the memorial in full.

Austin Texas April 6th 1903

To the Hon Mayor, City Council and Water Light & Power Commission of the City of Austin

Gentlemen:

On January 20th 1902, the Water, Light and Power Commission requested the Mayor and City Council, and the following Committee of Citizens, to wit: Geo. D. McCall, J. A. Seagarden, H. B. Hamilton, D. H. Boswell, W. Fred Scott, Joseph Littlefield, A. J. Zicker, B. D. Dillingham, Walter Sigs, J. A. Hooper, J. W. Orr and Carl Mayes, to confer and consult with the Commission and aid it in devising ways and means for reconstructing the dam and Power House.

The joint Committee met on Jan'y 22nd 1902, and after organization appointed a Committee on each of rebuilding the dam, and a Committee on ways and means. The former Committee caused Mr. Hilbur R. Foster, a Civil Engineer of Nashville, Tenn., to come to Austin and examine conditions. He made a report upon the cost of rebuilding the dam, which has been submitted to the Water Light and Power Commission. Mr. Foster is entitled to the thanks of this City for having done this work free of charge except his actual expenses which were paid by the Commission.

The Committee on ways and means, believe that the only plan which may be feasible, is as follows:

First Amend the Charter of the City so as to authorize either the City Council, or the Water, Light and Power Commission (as may be deemed most advisable), to sell or lease to a private Construction Company the franchise to build a dam across the Colorado River and to overflow the lands formerly overflowed by the Colorado Lake McDonald. Also to use the material formerly

Contained in the Dam for the construction of the proposed new dam, and (b) to contract with such construction company for a supply of water power sufficient to operate the city water, light and power plant for a series of years.

Second Let a construction company be formed and a contract be made between it and the city whereby the former undertakes to rebuild the dam and to furnish the city water power therefrom for a series of years for the purpose of operating its plant; and the city in consideration thereof, transfers to the company the property and franchises mentioned above and obligates itself to pay for the power furnished, an annual rental during the period named in the contract.

Third Let absolute title to, and control over, all of the property and franchises revert to and re-vest in the city at the expiration of the contract period.

After the requisite legislation is secured, careful and competent investigation should be made to ascertain (a) the cost of rebuilding the dam and power house and (b) the annual saving to the city which would result from the operation of its plant by water power.

According to Mr. Foster's report the cost of rebuilding would be about \$500,000.00. Supt Bruce reports that the expense of fuel alone during 1902 was \$34,743.27. Add to this increased cost of labor and wear and tear of machinery through operating by steam and it seems that operating by water power would save about \$50,000.00 annually.

If these estimates are approximately correct, it would seem feasible to organize a construction company with sufficient capital in shares of say \$25.00 each, so that all of our citizens could aid in the much desired enterprise. In this way the people of the city themselves would rebuild the dam and would ultimately be repaid the amount advanced for the purpose together with reasonable interest thereon for the period of the loan.

The money to repay these advances and interest would be realized not from taxation or increased water and light rates, but from the savings incident to the operation of the plant by water power instead of steam power; and as the people themselves would constitute the stock holders of the construction company, all fear of friction between that corporation and the citizens of the city, or city government would be removed.

The undersigned committee has caused publication of notice for a charter amendment necessary to carry above plan into effect if possible. The Austin Statesman is generously publishing this notice free of charge.

The Mayor, City Council and Water, Light and Power Commission are respectfully and earnestly urged to request Governor Dunham to submit this charter amendment to the extra session of the Legislature.

Very Respectfully
Walter T. J. P.

J. K. Caswell
 A. P. Fien
 Earl Madison
 George Littlefield
 G. A. Hamilton
 G. A. Scott
 John Orr
 E. A. Cooper
 A. L. Dearden

Committee to
 be appointed to
 wait upon the
 Governor and
 ask to have Charter
 Amendment
 submitted

At Miss Hester
 Duce for damages

Mrs Pryor to
 have certain fees
 refunded

Alderman Mortimer moved that the memorial be received and that a Committee of five, from the Council, be appointed to act with a Committee from the Water, Light and Power Commission and from the Citizens Committee, to call upon Governor Danham and request him to comply with the requests contained in the Memorial, which motion prevailed.

The Chair stated that he would announce the Committee later. The Chair laid before the Council a petition from Miss Hester Duce, asking for damages, caused by falling on side walk on N. 17th Street. Read and on motion referred to the Street Committee and City Engineer.

Aldermen Davis & Schneider both entered the Council Chamber. The Chair laid before the Council a petition from Mrs Pryor asking to have certain board fees refunded. Read and on motion was referred to the Committee on claims and accounts.

On motion of Alderman Maddox the City Attorney was excused from further attendance on this session of the Council, on account of important business.

Reports of the City Officers

The Chair laid before the Council the reports of the City Clerk, the City Treasurer, the City Physician and the City Sexton for the month of March 1908, which were on motion referred to their appropriate Committees without reading.

Reports of Standing Committees

Alderman Nitschke for the Street Committee presented the following report:

Austin Texas April 6th 1908

Report of the Com

Streets and
 Sewers

Hon. W. D. Shelley, Atty. Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Austin: Gentlemen:

Your Committee on Streets beg leave to report
 1st The opening on March 2nd bids for the construction of storm sewers on the Avenue. All bids received were considered by your Committee too high. We therefore recommend that all bids be rejected.
 2nd We have revised the plans and specifications so as to provide for the construction of one sewer instead of two, and we have readvertised for bids for the construction of said sewer. Said bids to be opened at 12 o'clock noon on April 1st 1908.

{ 13 Nitschke
J. L. Kume
A. M. Maddox } Committee
on
Streets

On motion the report of the Committee was adopted, and their action in changing the plans and specifications, and re-advertising for bids was approved.

W. L. & C. Co.
on Pet. Seiders for
improvement of
Pease Park

The Chain laid before the Council a report from the Water Light and Power Commission upon the petition of Am. Seiders et al which had heretofore been referred to them. On motion the petition and report were referred to the Water Light Committee.

Left Park Com.
on Pease Park
improvement

Alderman Davis for the Joint Committee on Parks & Streets to whom was referred the matter of improving Pease Park made a verbal report stating that they favored the matter and would introduce an ordinance appropriating the necessary money for doing the work.

Unfinished business

Salaries of
Aldermen

The Chain laid before the Council an ordinance appropriating the sum of \$1300 for the purpose of paying Salaries of Aldermen for the remainder of the fiscal year of 1903. The ordinance was read the second time and was passed under suspension of the rule by the following vote:

Aye: Aldermen Crocker Davis Kume Low Maddox Mortimer Nitschke
Redd Schneider Shelley Shumate Stumpf & Whit
Nays: None. 13

The Chain laid before the Council the following Special Message
Austin Texas March 19th 1903.

Gentlemen of the City Council:

Mayor's Veto
on Public
5th & Nueces St

I return you herewith, without my approval, an ordinance entitled "An ordinance appropriating one thousand five hundred dollars to build a stone Culvert across Little Shoal Creek at the intersection of Nueces and 5th streets" for the following reasons: 1st There is not now, and not likely to be in the near future, a sufficient amount in the street improvement fund in the City Treasury, not otherwise appropriated, to keep in repair streets that are in constant use by the general public and to make other necessary improvements. The recent unprecedented rains have rendered many of our public thoroughfares almost impassible, and all funds in the City Treasury, available for such purpose, should be expended thereon. 2nd It is not believed that the construction of this Culvert will be of any material benefit to the public, or necessary for the convenience of the residents on said streets.

3rd Until 5th Street can be opened to and across Shoal Creek the construction of a Culvert at the point designated in the ordinance will be an absolute waste of the public funds.

While I favor street improvement & believe such improvement should be confined to localities where most needed and where the greatest good will result. Until such time as the

funds will justify expenditures on isolated streets.
Respectfully Submitted
H. D. Shelley
Actg Mayor

Alderman Mortimer moved that the vote whereby the Council passed the ordinance appropriating the sum of \$1000. for the purpose of building a stone Culvert across Little Shoal Creek at the intersection of Nueces and 5th street be reconsidered which motion prevailed

Alderman Nitschke moved that the ordinance do now pass notwithstanding the objections of the actg Mayor, which motion was lost by the following vote

Yeas Aldermen Maddox Mortimer Nitschke Reed Schneider
and Uhl

6

Veto sustained

Nays Aldermen Crocker Davis Hume Low Shumate & Stumpff

6

Not Voting Alderman Shelley

1

New Business

\$5000. to pay
interest

By Aldermen Maddox & Schneider An ordinance appropriating the sum of \$5000.00 for the purpose of paying interest due on refunding bonds and bonds to be refunded -

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

Yeas Aldermen Crocker Davis Hume Low Maddox Mortimer Nitschke Reed Schneider Shelley Shumate ^{Stumpff} Uhl

13

Nays none

\$300. to improve
Pease Park

By Alderman Davis An Ordinance appropriating the sum of \$250.00 for the purpose of improving a street to be opened up on the east side of Shoal Creek and extending to Pease Park.

Also for improving Pease Park. The ordinance was read the first time and on motion the rule was suspended and the ordinance was placed on its second reading by the following vote

Yeas Aldermen Crocker Davis Hume Low Maddox Mortimer Nitschke Reed Schneider Shelley Shumate Stumpff Uhl

13

Nays none

The Ordinance was read the second time

Alderman Nitschke moved to amend the ordinance by striking out the words "street improvement" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "General" which motion prevailed

Unlabeled A. Brush asked permission to address the Council on the matter under consideration, which was granted

Alderman Maddox moved to amend the ordinance by striking out \$250. and inserting in lieu thereof \$300. which motion prevailed

Alderman Schneider moved to amend by adding after the words "Street Committee" the following "The Park Committee of the Council and the Citizens' Park Committee" The amendment was adopted, and the ordinance as amended was passed under suspension of the rules on the following vote

Yeas Aldermen Crooker Davis Lume Low Maddox Mortimer
Nitschke Reed Schneider Shelley Shumate Stumpff Ulich 13
Nays None

Invitation to
Fireman's Picnic
& Ball

The Chair laid before the Council an invitation from At-Bouté Chief of the Austin Fire Dept, inviting the Council to attend the annual fireman's picnic and ball. On motion the invitation was accepted.

Committee to
Vote for off
Fire Dept

Alderman Nitschke moved that a Committee be appointed to canvass the vote cast at the recent election for officers of the Austin Fire Dept, which motion prevailed. The Chair appointed Aldermen Nitschke Schneider & Stumpff as such Committee.

Committee on
Governor's
Charter Amendment

The Chair announced the following as the special Committee to act with a Committee from the Water, Light and Power Commission and the Committee from the Citizens Committee to wait upon the Governor and request him to submit to the special session of the Legislature the proposed Charter Amendments. Viz,
Aldermen Mortimer Maddox Shumate Crooker Low.

Water Com
requested hydrant
in Peace Park

Alderman Davis moved that the Water, Light and Power Commission be requested to put in a fire hydrant in Peace Park, which motion was adopted.

The special Committee appointed to canvass the returns of the election for officers of the Austin Fire Dept presented the following report
Austin Texas April 24 1906

Johnston H. D. Shelley

Atty. Mayor of the City of Austin

Your special Committee appointed to canvass the vote for department officers of the Austin Fire Department, beg leave to report that we find the following results

Fire Dept
Officers

For Chief
Wm. Dill received
J. D. Abeck do

206 Votes

110 "

46 for Wm. Dill

Majority

For Asst Chief

Julius Schutze received

269 Votes

For Recorder

W. D. Johnson received

269 Votes

Respectfully

J. B. Nitschke Chm.

On motion the report was adopted

Alderman Schneider moved that the election of officers by the Austin Fire Dept be confirmed which motion prevailed

Election fire
dept officers
confirmed

Alderman Shumate stated that Mr Otto Bergstrom was present and desired to address the Council on the subject of Culvert pipe, storm sewers etc, and moved that he be heard which motion was adopted

Mr Otto Bergstrom

Mr Otto Bergstrom then addressed the Council.

Suggesting certain changes in the plans and specifications for the storm sewers.

City Engineer Ineed was then asked to address the Council on the proposition of Mr. Bergstrom which he did.

On motion the Council adjourned.

J. O. Johnson City Clerk