A Regular Meeting of the City Council.

Austin, Tex., August 16, 1886.

Hon. J. W. Robertson, mayor, presiding.

Present: Mr. Ascent, Alderman Aldwell, Boocom,
Gordon, Cummings, Driscoll, Gideon, Holman, Odell,
Schwend, Schuch, Warham. Total, 12.

Absent—Aldermen Anderson, Briscoe, LeB accessed, Jones,
Melz, Seeler, Walker, Willimer. Total, 8.

Minutes of the meeting of the Council which were held July 29 and 31, and August 2, were read, and adopted as printed.

Pet. No. 6: A petition from the K. of L. assembly, No. 2182, of this city, requesting that the Council ascertain the facts in regard to the management of the city hospital, was read and referred to the Committee on Hospitals.

Board of Appraisers Meeting.

A report from the board of appraisers and equalization was read, and referred to the Committee on Finance.

The report suggests that a map of the city be made, to include all divisions and subdivisions of the city, and that it is the opinion of the board that the city leases a large revenue, because of the failure of citizens to render personal property at a fair valuation; also, that the board visit each and every block, and list in the city at least every six years, and ascertain the value of all real property.

Mayor Robertson presented the following:

Mayors Office,

Austin, Tex., Aug. 16, 1886.

Gentlemen of the City Council:

I beg leave to invite your attention to the accompanying list of real property in the City of Austin that has been sold for taxes, but in by the city, and that remains unredemed by the owners. These sales cover the period from the year 1877 to 1885, inclusive, and the amount of taxes due the city upon this property, exclusive of interest and costs, amount to the sum of $4216.16.

When a piece of real property is sold for taxes and bid in by the city, no further sale can be made until it is redeemed. The taxes are assessed annually upon the property, as if no sale had been made.
but no sale can be made by reason of default on these annual assessments.
This is the rule adopted in relation to sales for State taxes, and the City of Austin has adhered to this rule since sales first began under the provisions of the present Constitution. The result has been that a large number of taxpayers, who have suffered their property to be sold and bid in by the City, have neglected to redeem the same, and have neglected and refused to pay the subsequent annual assessments upon such property. In several instances these taxes have accumulated until they aggregate several hundred dollars, as you will readily see by the list herewith submitted.
And you will further observe that the delinquent property is among the most valuable and productive in the City, and that the delinquent taxpayers are prominent and responsible people, and amply able to bear their proper part of the burden of government. It is unjust to the City, and it is unjust to the man who pays his taxes, to permit a portion of the property and a portion of the people immunity from this common burden. The City has power by its Charter to levy and collect this tax. City Charter, Art. VI, Sec. 1. It also has power, by Ordinance, to direct how property sold for taxes shall be redeemed. Charter, Art. XIX, Section 1. This power is enlarged and amplified by the additional powers conferred by Art. XIX, forty-second Subdivision. Revised Ordinances page 38.
The Ordinances in force when these taxes were levied and sales made, as well as the Ordinances now in force, are amply sufficient, in my opinion, to give effect to these provisions of the Charter. By Art. 567 of the Old Revision of Ordinances, the taxes, together with all interest, costs of suits, etc., if there shall be any necessity for collecting the same, shall be a lien on real property until the same shall be paid. This Ordinance was passed April 11, 1878, but prior to that date
There were ordinances of similar import in force. The lien is also fixed by Hall law, Art. 4690, Revised Statutes, from act August 21, 1876. I am of the opinion that the City has a lien upon this property to force the payment of those delinquent taxes, and that such lien can be foreclosed. Two methods are provided in the ordinances: First, by sale of the property by the assessor and collector as provided in Rev. Civil Ord. Art. 158 to 169, inclusive.

This follows the State law. Second, by suit for foreclosure of lien in district Court of Travis County, provided for in Rev. Civil Ord. Art. 402.

Respectfully ask that such action in this matter may be taken as will insure an early collection of these delinquent taxes.

Very truly, your obedient servant,

J. C. Robertson,

MAYOR.

Alderman Sisemore moved that the names of owners on the list and the amount due be read by the Clerk, and that the list be referred to the City attorney, with instructions to take such action as he may deem proper and necessary. Carried.

Alderman Warren moved that the whole matter be printed in the minutes. Adopted.

A list of properties held for taxes, and bid in by the City of Austin, and remaining unredeemed Aug., 1876.

J. J. Brown, block 73, lot 5, ½ of 6, held 1876, taxes unpaid, $50.00.

Mrs. J. Cash, block 70, lot 6, ½ of 5, held 1876, taxes unpaid, $11.60.

J. T. Taylor, block 75, Div. D, Lat. part, held 1876, $1.00.

Joseph Lee, block 98, lot 1, held 1876, taxes unpaid, $150.85.

W. Mead, block 39, Div. C, Lat. ½, held 1876, taxes unpaid, held 1875 to 1880, inclusive, and 1876; Total tax, $100.90.

O'Kane McDonald, block 111, lot 8 ¾ of 7, held 1877, $82.30.
A. A. Napp, block 55, div. B, N.W. 1/4 of 2 sold 1877 taxes unpaid, 1878 to 1885 inclusive. Total tax, $12.03
John Robinson, block 169, lat 3, sold 1877 taxes unpaid, 1879 to 1885 inclusive. Total tax, $12.45
Alex Hansen, block 12, lat 1 & 2, sold 1877, taxes unpaid, 1878 to 1884 inclusive. Total tax, $93.25
Mrs. C. A. Timble, block 5, div. B, lat 4 & 5, sold 1877, taxes unpaid, 1879 to 1883 inclusive. Total tax, $68.13
J. M. Bennett, block 53, lat. improvements a.m. 7, sold 1877.
Total tax, $8.00

Dr. T. Clark, block 107, lat 7 and 8, sold 1877, taxes unpaid, 1879 to 1883 inclusive. Total tax, $67.20
Owner Unknown, block 42, div. B, sub div. of block 2, lat 6, sold 1877, taxes unpaid, 1877 to 1883 inclusive. Total tax, $15.
Owner Unknown, block 42, div. B, sub div. of block 2, lat 6, sold 1877, taxes unpaid 1878 to 1882 inclusive, Total tax, $18.10

Mattie Robards, block 44, div. D, sub div. of block 2, lat 1, 2, 3, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15, sold 1877, taxes unpaid, 1878 and 1880 to 1885 inclusive. Total tax, $57.18
Mattie Robards, block 44, div. D, sub div. of block 2, lat 2, sub div. of block 3, lat 6, 7, 8, 9 and 11, sold 1875, taxes unpaid 1880 to 1885 inclusive, $40.38 and part, 1879, $3.
Mattie Robards, block 55, div. B, sub div. of block 5, lat 8 to 21 and 24 to 26, sold 1877, taxes unpaid, 1880 to 1883 inclusive. Total tax, $42.49
Mattie Robards, block 45, div. B, sub div. of block 1, lat 6, sold 1879, taxes unpaid 1881 to 1883 inclusive.
Total tax, $2.16

Mrs. E. Hansen, block 42, div. B, sub div. of block 5, lat 4 & 9 of 6 and 7, sold 1877. Total tax, $15.
Robert Johnson, block 33, div. E, lat in SE 1/4 sold 1877, taxes unpaid 1879 to 1883 inclusive.
Total tax, $57.32

Andrew Jackson, block, div. A, lat part of 4 sold 1877, taxes unpaid 1880 to 1882 inclusive and 1878-84. Total tax, $14.25
Ben Walker, block 55, lat 25 x 120 ft, A part of 4, 2, and 3 sold 1877, taxes unpaid, 1878 to 1883 inclusive, Total tax, $26.30
List

Mrs. J. F. Wade, block 37, lot 1 and 2, sold 1877, taxes unpaid 1877 to 1888 inclusive. Total tax, $25.24.

Fred. Godley, block 37, lot 1, part of 7 and 8, sold 1877, taxes unpaid 1877 to 1888 inclusive. Total tax, $32.53.

Fred. Godley, block 27, lot 1, sold 1877, taxes unpaid 1878 to 1888 inclusive. Total tax, $78.63.

W. J. Brown, block 1, div. B, lot 19, sold 1877, taxes unpaid 1877 to 1888 inclusive. Total tax, $30.63.

D. A. Willis, block 35, div. A, lot 40, sold 1877, taxes unpaid 1877 to 1888 inclusive. Total tax, $16.35.

Owner unknown, block 42, div. B, sold dir of block 3, lot 12, sold 1877, taxes unpaid 1877 to 1888 inclusive. Total tax, $9.98.

C. F. Robins, block 32, lot 11 and 12, sold 1877, taxes unpaid 1877 to 1888 inclusive. Total tax, $226.95.


Louise Robinson, block 3, div. B, sold dir of block 6, lot 1, sold 1877. Total tax, $535.38.


W. M. Walton, block 6, lot 8 and 9, sold 1877, taxes unpaid 1879 and 1880 and 1882 to 1884 inclusive. Total tax, $231.05.

W. L. Shelby, block 18, div. O, sold dir of block 1, lot 1 to 20, sold 1877, taxes unpaid 1879 to 1880. Total tax, $97.30.


Matthew James, block 43, div. B, sold dir of block 4, lots 1, 2, and 3, sold 1877, taxes unpaid 1880 to 1883 inclusive. Total tax, $17.65.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Block, Div, Lot, Part, Field</th>
<th>Tax Year</th>
<th>Total Tax</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Eliza Brown</td>
<td>Block 1, div B, lot 1, part, field 1875</td>
<td>1875</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<td>H. F. colleague</td>
<td>Block 18, div A, lot, part, field 1875</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. H. Cox</td>
<td>Block 43, div B, part lot, field 1875</td>
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<td>Dennis Corwin</td>
<td>Block 56, div A, sub, div of block 1, lot 2 and 6 1/2 of 1, field 1875</td>
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<td>C. M. Wooten</td>
<td>Block 56, div A, sub div of block 2, lot 2, lot 2 and 6 1/2 of 1, field 1875, taxes unpaid 1880 to 1883 inclusive, and 1885</td>
<td>1875</td>
<td>199.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. H. Crenner</td>
<td>Block 1, div A, sub div of block 2, lot 3, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17 and 18, field 1875</td>
<td>1875</td>
<td>14.35</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. H. Crenner</td>
<td>Block 1, div A, sub div of block 3, lot 1, field 1875, taxes unpaid 1872 to 1875, and 1876</td>
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<td>7.50</td>
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<td>J. H. Crenner</td>
<td>Block 1, div A, sub div of block 4, lot 11, field 1875</td>
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<td>1.27</td>
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<td>Lawrence Parkinson</td>
<td>Block 2, div A, part div of block 3, lot 3, field 1875, taxes unpaid 1880 to 1884 inclusive</td>
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<td>J. L. Gray</td>
<td>Block 44, div D, lot, part field 1875 and 1876</td>
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<td>J.H. Huching</td>
<td>Block 44, lots 1 and 2, field 1872, 44 and 5</td>
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<td>W. H. Johnson</td>
<td>Block 1, div D, lot, part, field 1876</td>
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<td>Bettie Johnson</td>
<td>Block 46, div D, lot, part, field 1876</td>
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<td>75.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>George Russ</td>
<td>Block 1, div A, field 1875, taxes, 1876</td>
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<td>W. D. Shepard</td>
<td>Block 44, div D, lot, part, field 1874 and 1875, taxes, 1876</td>
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<td>W. D. Shepard</td>
<td>Block 1, div A, lot, part, field 1874 and 1875, taxes, 1876</td>
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<td>91.50</td>
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<td>Capt. F. Kinley</td>
<td>Block 46, div D, lot, part, field 1875, taxes, 1876</td>
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<td>1.88</td>
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</table>

Total 1875: $128.29
List


D. M. Wilson, block 4, div. H, subdiv. of block 4, lots 1 to 12, sold 1873 and 74. Total tax, $27.67.

W. M. Wilson, block 64, lots 2, 3, 4, 5, 4, 3, 4, 7 and 8, sold 1874 and 75. Total tax, $74.00.

Eli Green, block 33, div. B, 11 of subdiv. lots 10 and 11, sold 1880, taxes unpaid 1881 to 83, $22.33.

M. H. Shelly, block 18, div. A, subdiv. of block 4, lots 1, 2 and 7 to 12, sold 1880. Total tax, $58.80.

Rey. H. F. Storke, block 92, lots 1 and 2, sold 1880, taxes unpaid 1871 to 1884 inclusive. Total tax, $114.95.

Owner unknown, block 27, lot 11. Sold 1874. Total tax, $6.50.

W. A. Sayson, block 46, lots 90 ft. off 1 part of lots 3 and 4, and part of lots 1 and 2. Total tax, $26.65.

Pursuant rule of the Board of Aldermen, C. H. Crockett moved that the rules be suspended and that the Special Committee on Sewerage, Water Works, etc., be permitted to report. Adopted.

The Committee then presented the following report:

"Hon. J. W. Robertson, mayor, and the Board of Aldermen of the City of Austin:

Gentlemen: Your Special Committee to whom was referred an ordinance, entitled "An Ordinance Authorizing an election by the tax-paying citizens of Austin, for the purpose of procuring their consent to an extension of the bonded debt of the City of Austin, beyond one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars; and an ordinance providing for an election to procure consent to issue bonds in the sum of five thousand dollars for the purpose of making a survey of the city and also a resolution directing the preparation of an ordinance to submit to the rates of the tax-payers of Austin a proposition to issue bonds in the sum of three hundred and fifty thousand dollars, for the purpose of purchasing or constructing water works and sewerage system. Carefully considered all these questions, and beg leave to report the accompanying
Ordinance as a substitute for all the propositions submitted for the consideration of the Committee.
We are fully satisfied of the necessity of sewers in Austin, but we are still more fully convinced of the necessity of the city owning water works before constructing any sewers.

The sewers will be an absolute failure, without an abundant and cheap supply of water. It is the opinion of your Committee, that the city and citizens of Austin are now paying at least one hundred thousand dollars per year for water. A system of sewers will double the quantity of water to be used, which, at the prices charged by the present contract with the Water Company, will become a most grievous tax upon the people, and the only way to remove the burden, or reduce it is now proposed by the Ordinance, we report as a substitute for the matter referred to us.

The Ordinance provides for the election by the people of a board of supervisors, composed of the best and trustiest men in the city. The money raised by the sale of the bonds will be not only honestly expended, but will be judiciously expended: if this there can be no doubt when it is placed in the hands of such men as will form the board of supervisors. The people will vote for this Ordinance when the board of supervisors are clothed with the proper authority, and the money to back their proposition. It will then be in a position to negotiate with the Water Company for the purchase of their water works.

Should the Company decline to sell their works at a reasonable price, then let the city construct her own works, and furnish to her citizens water at just what it costs. By this plan the water rates can be reduced one-half, and the city derive revenue sufficient to pay interest on her bonds and all expenses of operating the works, and set aside a sinking fund that will extinguish the debt, and not increase the taxes one dollar. It quote from the yearly water
rates of the City of St. Louis: For a residence of
six or seven rooms (which is an average residence
for Austin), $6.00, both $5.00, horse $3.00, sprinkling
$2.50 - $14.50 a year.
The present water rates for Austin, for the
same kind of house, will not be less than $36.00
per year. The smallest rates for Austin is
$18.00 per year; the smallest for St. Louis is
$2.00 per year.
Assuming that Austin cannot furnish water
quite as cheaply as St. Louis, it is safe to say
that the water rates can be lowered one-half,
and by so doing at least fifty thousand dollars
per year saved to the people of Austin if sewers
are not constructed, and one hundred thousand
dollars if they are.
Give us sewers, but by all means give us
the water works first.
We recommend the adoption and passage
of the Substitute Ordinance.
Respectfully submitted, August 16, 1886.
J. J. Campbell
M. H. Hoakier
J. Schuler
W. B. Wortham.

On motion the report was received and
adopted and the Committee discharged.
The following named ordinance is the
substitute referred to in the above report:
An Ordinance ordering an election by
the taxing citizens of the City of Austin for
the purpose of providing their consent to an
extension of the bonded debt of the City of Austin
in the sum of three hundred and fifty thousand
dollars, beyond and in addition to the present bonded
debt of one hundred and twenty-five thousand
dollars.
On motion, the Substitute was adopted.
Alphonse Coates moved that the Ordinance and
report be printed in the Statesman, and Lieber
call the next regular meeting of the City Council
revised.
Aug. 16, 1886.

O1dCon. Alderman Cummings introduced the following resolutions:

Resolved, That a Committee of five be and are hereby appointed to confer with the City Water Company, and ascertain whether or not they will sell their works, and, if so, the sum required to purchase same. On motion the resolution prevailed, and the chairman announced the following:

The four Aldermen appointed

H. Maud

H. Maud

petition.

Alley in S.

petition. CLB.

Open Companies.

Open Companies, street north from Lowell street to Corporation line. Carried.

O1dCon. Alderman Odell moved that the City Engineer open companies street north from Lowell street to Corporation line. Carried.

Alderman Odell introduced the following named Ordinances, which was read first time.

An Ordinance appropriating three thousand and fifty dollars to pay officers and regular employees of the city; also, one hundred and sixty-seven dollars to pay employees of the city and County Hospital, each for the month of August, 1886.

Alderman Givin presented an Ordinance appropriating $50 to Whitewash the fence of the City Cemetery and to put two stripes on the fence to secure the pickets. Read first time and laid over.

Alderman Odell offered the following.
Aug. 16, 1886

named Ordinance, which was laid over.

An Ordinance appropriating the sum of $500 to pay expenses of board of appraisers and equalization.

Alderman Schuh moved that the City Marshal be required to remove Chili Stands from the streets in dry time. Carried.

On motion the Council adjourned.

Milton Morris,
City Clerk.