Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the City Council

Austin, Tex., July 7, 1887.

Hon. J. W. Robertson, Mayor, presiding.


A Quorum not being present, a motion was made and adopted, ordering a Call of the Council, and the Marshal sent for the absentees.

Alderman Fisher and Townsend came in.

The Call was on motion, suspended.

Alderman Wellmer came in.

On motion, the minutes of the last meeting of the Council were adopted as printed.

Alderman Graham presented a memorial from A. Ziller, Foreman Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1, approved by members of the Board of Fire Commissioners, requesting permission of the City Council to allow the Company to appoint a tellerman to be placed on the roll of fire department employees, and with the same amount of pay. Referred to Committee on Fire Department.

Alderman Phillips presented a petition from citizens of the eighth ward asking that a policeman be detailed for duty from 3 o'clock p.m. to 3 o'clock a.m. in that ward for general protection. Referred to Committee on Police.

Alderman Cummings came in.

The Mayor stated that he had remitted fine and costs assessed against Arch Kane, for disturbing the peace on the 6th of January, subject to the approval of the Council. The Council agreed to the remission.

The Mayor also stated to the Council that he had remitted the fine and costs assessed against W. L. Leeder for a disturbance of the peace, subject to the consent of the Council. The Council concurred in the action of the mayor. These fines were remitted because the disturbances were of a trivial
Allderman Brush presented a petition from the officers of the Capital Club requesting that the Club be permitted to use their present range for rifle practice for a period of six or six months longer, and requested that Dr. Morse, President of the Club, be permitted to read the petition of thesame. No objection being raised, Dr. Morse came forward and read the petition. It appears, among other reasons, that to compel the Club to change its quarters at once, would necessitate much loss to the Club, and would prevent their practicing for the contest which is soon to take place between the clubs of the state, that their targets will, if permission be extended, be so located that no danger will arise from the shooting; that their targets cannot be transferred to other grounds without totally destroying them; that they will need several months time in which to secure and set up another range.

The petition was referred to the Committee on Police.

January 31, 1887.

Balance on hand December 31 $5495.99.

Received from Assessor and Collector an account of ad valorem tax on "License" 2,502.52
" " General fund 925.00
" " Cemetery 462.00
" " 85.00

Received from State of Texas, third installment of school fund for fiscal year ending August 31, 1887 4,413.50

Credits.

Cemetery fund, paid warrants $102.10.
General " " " 4762.88
School fund paid Walter F. S. Treasurer of School fund 4,413.50.
Cash Balances January 31 5,997.78

Cemetery fund 913.35
Bank debt " 172.73
General " 3,503.00
Unappropriated Funds, $13,687.06

Cemetery fund $27.37
Report of Assessor and Collector of Real and Personal Property for the Quarter Ending January 31, 1887.

Amount Collected, Viz:

Ad Valorem taxes of 1886: 1887: 1885: 1883: 1882: 1881: 1880: 3,597.72 3,177.76 20.00 20.00 19.00 18.30

License taxes 2,394.50

Support of hospital 500.00

Fines of Recorder's Court 1,575.00

Fines and Sales 55.50

Sale of Cemetery Lots 387.50

Ground rents 107.00

Sale of City real estate: 3,000.00

Sale of Revised Ordinances 1.25

Interest on loans or redemption 1.81

Total: 12,016.94

Referred to Committee on Finance and Revenue.

Report of Assessor and Collector of Real and Personal Property for the Quarter Ending January 31, 1887.

Amount Collected, Viz:

Taxes of 1886: 1885: 1883: 1882: 1881: 877.67 102.37 4.00 4.00 4.00

Total: 1,012.04

The report of the City Marshal for the month ending January 31, 1887, was presented and read, and referred to the Committee on Police.

It shows that during the month named, fines and costs were assessed in the Recorder's Court amounting to $1,478.90 and that $305.95 was collected in cash, the remainder being accounted for by being worked out, appealed and escaped.

(various reports and statements regarding city operations and finances follow)
In finance and revenue.

The city's physicians' report for the month of January was submitted, read and referred to the Committee on Hospital.

It shows:

Number of patients in hospital January 1: 11
" " admitted during: 10
" " discharged: 7
" " died: 3
" " remaining in hospital Feb. 1: 11
" " prescriptions written during January: 190
" " Visits made during: 140

One case of scarlet fever reported. The health of the city has been remarkably good.

Santini's The city's sanitary report for the month of January was presented and read, and referred to the Committee on Cemetery.

The report exhibits:

Total deaths: 20
White: 12
Colored: 8
Male: 12
Female: 8

Drickill: The city engineer reported on a petition of residents of the Ninth Ward, asking that Drickill Street, from Red River Street to East avenue, be opened. His report states that all property owners along the street that is desired opened have agreed to remove their fences back to the proper line. No action was taken on the report.

The city engineer submitted a report on a resolution which was recently adopted by the Council to reconstruct.

S. Beam: The report on the condition of Drago's, San Jacinto and Trinity streets which states that he has made an estimate of the cost of the work placing the amount at about $700, and that as there was no money appropriated to pay for the repairs, they have not been ordered made. No action was taken on the report.

Alderman Schneider Came in.

The Committee on finance and revenue reported generally.

On a petition from Mrs. J. Brown, asking to be relieved from paying the taxes of 1896 on certain improvements on lot 7, block, division E, because
said improvements were destroyed by fire during the month of June last.
Alderman Platt moved to table the report, but was not seconded, and no further action on the report was had.

Alderman Schneider, for the Committee on Police, submitted a report on the City Marshall reports for the months of November and December, which states that the reports have been examined and found correct.

An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to lease 100 acres of the Greenwood Cemetery was taken up on its second reading and read. A motion was then made to suspend the rules and place the Ordinance on its third reading which was lost by the following Vote:

Nays--Alderman Brush, Jones

Platt - 5.

An Ordinance creating the office of Sanitary Inspector of the City of Austin and prescribing the salary and duties of that officer, was taken up on its second reading and read after which a motion that was made to suspend the rules and place the Ordinance on its third reading, was rejected by the following Vote:


Alderman Caldwell presented a resolution, which was unanimously adopted, granting to the Missouri Pacific and Houston and Texas Central Railway Companies the use and occupation of a piece of land between Congress Avenue and Colorado Street.

On Third Street, West of Congress Avenue, and between Congress Avenue and Colorado Street.

On so much thereof as may be necessary, and requesting said companies to erect a Union passenger depot there of such dimensions and such architectural design and construction as will
July 7, 1887

The question having recurred on the motion to reconsider the vote, it was put and carried by the following vote:

Yes: Aldermen Brush, Caldwell, Cummings, Jones, Platt, Phillips, Schneider, Wehmer.


Alderman Brush then offered a resolution as a substitute for the one resolving the Club's right to use the ranges, which grants the Club the privilege of continuing their practice at their range until the first day of May, 1887:

A motion to adjourn was made and lost. Alderman Wartham then moved to amend the substitute offered by Alderman Brush by striking out "May" and inserting "April". Alderman Brush moved to take the amendment. Rost. The question of adopting the amendment was then put, and carried by a vote of 5 to 6, and the resolution as amended was adopted.

St. Lamp: Alderman Jones introduced a resolution directing the street committee to place a street lamp on the west side of the bridge over Walker Creek at the Cypress Street crossing. Adopted.

Satin 81: Alderman Phillips introduced a resolution...
Providing that the City Marshal shall cause the fences, houses and all other obstructions on Polk-street, between 5th and 6th streets, to be removed within ten days from the passage of this resolution.

Alderman Cummings moved to amend the resolution by adding "Unless the persons owning or controlling the obstructions in said street, shall cease from the city of Austin that portion of said street obstructed by them."

The amendment was accepted and the resolution as amended was referred to the Committee on streets, alleys, bridges, etc.

Alderman Phillips introduced a resolution directing the city Marshal to require all policemen, while on duty, to wear their uniforms, and to have police badges placed upon the left breast of their outside coats; also to require them while off duty, to remove said badges or wear them only upon the inside of their coats or vests. Adopted.

Alderman Ellett offered a resolution removing the city engineer from office for alleged neglect of duty, and for refusing to comply with instructions given him by the council.

The resolution was referred to a special committee of three aldermen, with instructions to thoroughly investigate the charges contained therein, and to report the result of the investigation to the next regular meeting of the city council. The chair appointed Alderman Fisher, Warthen, and Walker as such committee.

Alderman Schneider was excused.

Alderman Fisher introduced an ordinance appropriating $25 for the purpose of repairing the alley between Congress avenue and Bragas st. at its intersection with the north side of Ransom street. Referred to Committee on streets, alleys, etc.

Foot Pile. Alderman Brush presented an ordinance prohibiting the playing of foot ball on public streets of the city of Austin. Referred to Committee on streets, alleys, etc.

Alderman Brush also offered an ordinance appropriating three hundred and forty-four dollars to build an arch bridge over Little Shackle Creek,
at the crossing of West 11th street. Also referred to Committee on Streets, alleys, etc.

J. H. Raymond

Albein Fisher moved to refer the complaint made by J. H. Raymond, regarding the manner of wording West 12th street, adjacent to his property, to the Committee on Streets, alleys, etc.

The motion was adopted. No written complaint was filed.

On motion, the Council adjourned.

Milton Morris,
City Clerk.