Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the City Council

Austin, May 16, 1887.

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

Roll


Call

Absent—Aldermen Anderson, Cummings, Metz, Udell, Schneider—5.

Alderman Walker moved a call of the Council, which was duly seconded.

Alderman Anderson, Alderman Anderson came in.

Alderman Jones moved a suspension of the call adopted.

Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting of the City Council were adopted as printed.

From Alderman Warren presented a protest from Frank Brown against the use of lots 9 and 11, in division E, as a dumping ground. Referred to Committee on Sanitation and Sewers.

Chas Wolf

Alderman Jones by unanimous consent of the Council presented a resolution, which was adopted, authorizing Chas Wolf to repair a stairway on Trinity Street, in block No. 59.

City Engineer

The City Engineer submitted a report, in effect that the wagon bridges on the East side of Congress Avenue, at its intersection with Balzs and App Street, and on the West side of Congress Avenue, at its intersection with Cedar Street, are in an unsafe condition, and that an appropriation of $120 is needed to repair them. Also that an appropriation of $200 is required to repair the embankment at the south end of the City Hall. The report was referred to the Street Committee.

City Attorney

A report from the City Attorney, in regard to the condition of the claims for delinquent taxes, which were referred to him some months since, was submitted and read, and referred to the Committee on Finance and Revenue.
By unanimous Consent Mr. Bohne was permitted to address the city Council in regard to the bad condition of the streets about his property in the Fifth Ward. On motion, the complaint was referred to the Committee, and Mr. Bohne required to reduce it to writing.

Al. Cummings

The Committee on streets, alleys, bridges, etc., submitted a report on an Ordinance repealing and modifying Section 3 of an Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance granting the right of way to the Austin and Northwestern Railroad Company," approved November 26, 1881, and recommend that so much of Section 3 of the Ordinance referred to as pertains to San Marcos Street, for a distance of 100 feet from Cedar Street north, be repealed. No action was taken on the report.

E. Moore

San Marcos St.

The same Committee submitted a report on a resolution instructing the City Engineer to open San Marcos Street, and advised that it do. No action.

J. W. Eaton

The street Committee also offered an adverse report, which was adopted, on account of J. W. La Rue for payment for water pipe broken by hens while wandering the streets.

School Tax

The Committee on finance and revenue submitted a report on an Ordinance fixing and levying an ad valorem tax of one percent on all property, real and personal, within the City of Austin made taxable for State and County purposes for the year A.D. 1882, for the support of the public Schools of said City, and recommended the passage of the Ordinance for the following reasons:

"First.-Its failure to pass will result in crippling the splendid educational facilities of the City of Austin.

"Second.-The additional school buildings recently erected in the City have entailed an expense which, with the proper support of the Public Schools, makes the passage
of this ordinance a necessity. The Committee on fire department offered a favorable report on a resolution providing for the purchase of a hose cart for use of Colorado No. 2. Report laid over.

Alderman Andersan of the Committee on water and gas presented a communication from the Capital Gas Light Company, in effect that the company would, after June 1, 1887, charge the city $2.50 per month per lamp for lights for either a short or a long period of time.

The Special Committee on sanitary matters tendered a report, recommending the passage of the ordinance appropriating $500 to build a dam in the Colorado river at the foot of Congress Avenue; that some steps be taken to improve the condition of the sewers leading into the river. Laid over.

The Committee on sanitation and sewers presented a report on a petition of citizens of the Tenth Ward, complaining of the sanitary condition of that ward, and asking relief, and recommended that the stable nuisance complained of be prevented from being piled near any lane or houses but be permitted to be placed at the most distant part of the fields, provided that not more than fifty loads be put in one pile. The report was adopted.

The mayor submitted a lengthy message reviewing the resolutions, ordinances, etc., adopted by the city council directing the purchase and establishment of a new cemetery, and also those ratifying and confirming the purchase of the same, and, in substance, stated that in his opinion, the purchase, when made, was legal and binding, and is still so, and that it was not made mere intended to be made, a charge upon the general revenue of the city; that the first of the purchase money noted falls due June
1887, and the note will be presented for payment.
Not a lot has been sold or offered for sale, and no fund has been created as is specially provided for in the contract of purchase to cancel this obligation; that the delay in placing lots on sale has been much longer than was contemplated at the time the purchase was made, and that he had been endeavoring for months to get a map or plat of the subdivisions of lots, so that sales of lots might begin; that if provision is at once made for the immediate sale of lots a sufficient sum would, no doubt, be soon realized, with which to meet the note, as applications are made daily for purchase of burial lots. The message asks what course the Council desires to pursue. The map or plat of the Cemetery was then placed before the Council for examination.

Alderman Cummings moved to refer the Mayor's message and the map to the Cemetery Committee.

Alderman Brush moved, as a substitute, that the City Engineer be required to re-survey and make a new map of the Cemetery, so as to make the roads that are now twenty feet wide, thirty feet wide, and those that are thirty feet wide, sixty feet wide, leaving the main avenues as they now are, and that he give the work his undivided time and attention until the same is completed and employ the necessary assistants.

Alderman Caldwell presented the following resolution as a substitute for all other motions: That the map and plat of Greenwood Cemetery, as prepared by J.K. McFall, City Engineer, be approved and adopted, and that the same be recorded in the proper records of Travis County.

Alderman Brush asked that the City Engineer be requested to give his opinion as to whether the roadway, as now established, in the new Cemetery, is of sufficient width, and that his opinion be recorded. There being no objection, the City Engineer gave it as his opinion that they are not wide enough,
School tax—An Ordinance, fixing and levying an ad valorem tax of one-third of one per centum on all property, real and personal, within the City of Austin, made payable for State and County purposes for the year A.D. 1887, for the support of the public free schools of said City, was taken up on its second reading and read, after which Alderman Caldwell moved to strike out one-third of one per centum and substitute in lieu thereof one-fourth. Alderman Wortham moved to lay the amendment on the table. Carried; yeas, Aldermen Alexander, Anderson, Brash, Campbell, Fisher, Graham, Phillips, Towneend, Walker, Warren, and Wortham; nays, Aldermen Caldwell, Cummings, Jones, Platt, Schuber, and Wellman—6. Alderman Caldwell then moved to refer the Ordinance to a special Committee of five Aldermen. Alderman Wortham moved to amend the motion by making it twenty Aldermen. The Chair ruled the latter motion out of order. The motion was then changed to include nineteen Aldermen. The Chair decided the motion to be a dilatory one, and ruled it out of order. Alderman Fisher moved to suspend the rules and place the Ordinance on its third reading, which was lost by the following vote: yeas—Aldermen Alexander, Anderson, Brash, Campbell, Fisher, Graham, Phillips, Towneend, Walker, Warren & Wortham—11; nays—Aldermen Caldwell, Cummings, Jones, Platt, Schuber and Wellman—6.

Alderman Caldwell introduced a resolution requiring the Board of Trustees of the Public Schools of the City, to make monthly reports to the City Council.
Ruled out of order by the chair, as the board of trustees are not within the jurisdiction of the City Council.

Payroll

Alderman Wartham introduced an ordinance appropriating the sum of $3,345 for the purpose of paying officers and regular employees of the city and city and county hospital, back for the month of May, 1887. The ordinance was read first time, after which a motion was made to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its second reading, which was adopted by the following vote:


Amended

The following amendments were then offered:
By Alderman Wartham, $150 for surveying and mapping Greenwood Cemetery. Adopted.
By Alderman Graham $17.20 to reimburse Monroe Miller for money advanced as freight charges on horse carriage. Adopted.

The caption of the ordinance was then changed to conform to the amendments, after which motions were made to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its third reading, and that it do pass, both of which were adopted by the following vote:


Passed

Alderman Anderson introduced a resolution authorizing the mayor to make a temporary contract with the Capital Gaslight Company to light the streets at not exceeding $2.50 per month per lamp. Adopted.

Alderman Fisher presented a resolution, which was adopted, instructing the Sanitary Committee to select a suitable piece of dumping ground in some direction from the city other than
Mr. La/JJZ^/vvQjeA^vvj^/L

On motion the Council then adjourned.

Milton Morris,
City Clerk.