

Minutes of a Called Meeting of the City Council.
Austin, Tex. 15, 1887.

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

Roll Call. Present, Aldermen: Alexander, Anderson, Caldwell, Campbell, Fisher, Graham, James, Metz, Odell, Platt, Schniders, Schubert, Townsend, Walker, Northam - 15.

Absent, Aldermen: Toombs, Cummings, Phillips, Warren, Kellmer, - 5.

Read The Mayor submitted the following which was ordered filed:

Austin, Texas, Dec. 15, 1887.
Gentlemen of the City Council:

On January 1, 1884, the sum of fourteen thousand four hundred dollars (\$14,400) of the bonded debt of the City matured. This debt was represented by twenty nine (29) bonds of the City, numbered 2 to 30 inclusive - Nos. 2 to 29 inclusive being for five hundred dollars (\$500) each, and No. 30 for four hundred dollars (\$400). These bonds were paid through the First National Bank and the bank was repaid out of the twenty eight thousand dollars received in New York by Mayor W. A. Saylor on the hypothecation of bonds issued by authority of an Ordinance approved November 7, 1883, and an Ordinance approved November 25, 1883.

The settlement of the fourteen thousand four hundred dollars with the First National Bank was made about May 1, 1884, by Mayor W. A. Saylor, City Treasurer J. W. Howard, and the Finance Committee of the City Council. But the bonds aggregating said sum of \$14,400 were not delivered for the reason as I understood that the bonds were in New York and would be delivered as soon as received by the bank. Hence Mayor Saylor soon after retired from office, and the matter was still left in this condition.

Every effort available has been made by the

Mayor, treasurer and financial Committee, as well as by the bank, to get possession of the twenty-nine cancelled bonds, but all of them have not been found. On yesterday the First National Bank delivered to me fourteen (14) of said bonds, to-wit: No's. 2 to 15 inclusive, each for \$500; total, \$7,000.

The remaining fifteen (15) bonds, No's. 16 to 30 inclusive, No's. 16 to 29 for \$500 each, and No. 30 for \$100, have never been delivered up to the City.

These bonds are all cancelled and no liability could ever be created thereby against the City. Yet, it has so far been impossible to get possession of them.

I file herewith the fourteen cancelled bonds delivered to me as stated above, and file this statement to be entered as an official record of these facts.

Under an Ordinance approved November 7, 1883, and another Ordinance approved November 25, 1883, the following bonds were executed and placed on the market in New York, to-wit: Fifty-five bonds, each for five hundred dollars, dated December 31, 1883, numbered 1 to 55 inclusive, due twenty years after date and payable on option of the City after ten years. These amounted to \$27,500 and were executed by W. A. Saylor, mayor. Also twenty bonds, each for \$500, dated December 31, 1883, numbered 31 to 50 inclusive, due twenty years after date and payable at option of the City after ten years. These bonds amounted to \$100,000 and were executed by W. A. Saylor, mayor.

Also five bonds, each for \$500, dated July 1, 1881, numbered 26 to 30 inclusive, due twenty years after date.

These amounted to \$2,500, making the total amount \$40,000.

These bonds were issued by G. M. Crocker, mayor.

These are the bonds hypothecated in New York in the early part of 1884, and subsequently redeemed by the City. They are recalled and cancelled by the Ordinance of June 25, 1884. (Revised Ordinances, page 361).

This Ordinance also specially repeals the several Ordinances under which said bonds were issued. They have remained in the hands of the City treasurer

Bonds from the time of their redemption in 1884, until yesterday, when they were examined, verified as the original bonds issued, and were destroyed by the Finance Committee in the presence of the City Treasurer, Mayor and other persons. This statement is accompanied by a statement of the Finance Committee, and the same are filed as an official record of the facts stated.

(Signed) Very Truly, Etc.,

J. W. Robertson, Mayor.

Whereas, The Finance Committee of the City Council of the City of Austin do hereby certify that the above mentioned City bonds were this day destroyed by fire in the presence of the Finance Committee, City Treasurer J. H. Howard and City Clerk Milton Morris.

(Signed)

H. B. Northam,

J. M. Odell,

H. B. Walker,

Finance Com.

" J. H. Howard,
Treasurer.

" Milton Morris, City Clerk.

Walton. Alderman Fisher introduced an Ordinance appropriating the sum of \$109 for the purpose of paying N. S. Walton, a compromise upon his suit vs. the City of Austin.

Alderman Cummings entered.

The Ordinance was read first time, after which motions were made to suspend the rule and place the Ordinance on its second and third readings, both of which were adopted by the following votes:

Yeas—Aldermen Alexander, Anderson, Caldwell, Campbell, Cummings, Fisher, Graham, James, Metz, Odell, Platt, Schneider, Schubert, Townsend, Walker, Northam—16.

Alderman Dornish entered.

A motion was then made to pass the Ordinance which was adopted by the following votes:

Yea. Aldermen Alexander, Anderson, Caldwell,
Campbell, Cummings, Fisher, Graham, Jones,
Metz, Odell, Platt, Schneider, Schuber,
Townsend, Walker, Wortham. 16.

Alderman Brush entered.

A motion was then made to pass
the Ordinance, which was adopted by the
following vote:

Yea. Aldermen Alexander, Anderson,
Brush, Caldwell, Campbell, Cummings, Fisher,
Graham, Jones, Metz, Odell, Platt, Schneider,
Schuber, Townsend, Walker, Wortham, 17.

A. Prather. The Mayor requested the Council to remit the
fine and costs as assessed in recorder's Court
against Frank Prather. On motion, the Council
conferred in the remission.

Ald. Phillips. Alderman Phillips entered.

Adjourned. Mayor Robertsons then rose and declared
the Council formally adjourned.
The Aldermen whose term expired by adjournment
retired.

The Mayor then directed the Clerk to call the
roll of newly elected members of the Council, which
was done, and they answered to their names
as follows, and entered the Council and took
seats assigned to them:

New Councilmen

Present Aldermen
Assmann, Beland, Brush, DeGress, Haigler,
Linn, Pillow, Schneider, Wilson, and
Wortham - 10.

The Mayor then requested them to rise,
which they did, and he administered the oath of
office to them collectively.

The roll of the new Council was then
called, showing all members present as follows:

Aldermen Assmann, Brush, Beland,
Caldwell, Campbell, DeGress, Fisher, Graham,
Haigler, Jones, Linn, Metz, Odell, Pillow,
Platt, Phillips, Schneider, Townsend,
Wilson & Wortham - 20.

Mayor Elect

Attest.

Alderman Platt moved that a Committee
of three Aldermen be appointed to wait

Mayor called upon Hon. Joseph Miller. Adopted, and Aldermen
 Platt, F. B. Cross and Campbell were appointed. Hon.
 Joseph Miller was then conducted to a position
 near the Mayor's Chair. Mayor Robertson then
 administered the oath of office, and introduced him
 to the Council and persons present, and retired
 from the stand. Alderman Bisher moved that
 Mayor Robertson be invited to a seat on the
 stand. Carried, and he took a seat as invited.

Mayor Miller then read the following:

Gentlemen of the Board of Aldermen:
 Called by the people to administer the affairs
 of the City until such time as they shall select our
 successors, it is proper that I should, at the outset,
 say that harmony should control our actions,
 and a mutual feeling of amity and concession
 should characterize our official intercourse and
 deliberations. I can say that whatever ability
 or energy I may possess will be devoted to
 a cultivation of that feeling and the furtherance
 of such measures and undertakings as will redound
 to the progress, growth and prosperity of the
 City, and the material advancement of her interests
 and those of her people. You will find me at
 all times ready and willing to co-operate with
 you in every effort to place our City where
 it should stand - among the first in the State
 in progress and in general material development.
 Of course, it is yet too early to define or
 even outline any general policy. The people
 have placed us here to formulate measures
 that will give to our City a healthy and vigorous
 business and commercial impetus, and stimulate
 to the utmost bounds a laudable feeling of
 public and private enterprise. To this end, we
 must early and thoroughly acquaint ourselves with the
 financial condition of the City, and at the outset
 strike a balance sheet from which we can take
 our bearings. The people, I feel assured, will
 heartily join in and sustain any expenditures
 we may make that have for their object permanent
 and practical improvements, but they will not,

messy now should they, Sanction or Submit to Wasteful and unnecessary extravagance.

There are many questions that will come before this board for consideration questions that will call for wise, conservative and practical thought.

From time to time, I shall avail myself of the privilege of Submitting for your consideration such measures as I deem worthy of support, and shall ask for them your intelligent and hearty cooperation. It will be my purpose at an early day to submit for your consideration a proposition which will have to be submitted to the people, asking the loan of their Credit for the purpose of improving and opening our streets and beautifying our public parks, etc. Only a loan of the City's Credit will be asked. No money or increase of taxation will be necessary, nor will the granting of it entail any additional burden upon the taxpayers. A loan of \$200,000 at this time, placed at six (6) percent - half to be expended the present year, and the balance the year following will give employment to our laboring classes now clamoring for the means to earn bread for their wives and children, while saving these deserving but unfortunate people from asking alms at the hands of their more prosperous and fortunate neighbors, will serve to permanently improve and beautify our City.

The loan of the City's Credit on \$200,000 for twenty years will require \$12,000 per annum to meet the interest, which can be taken from the general revenues without increase of taxation beyond the present rates, as well as two per cent. to be set aside as a sinking fund, as is required by the Constitution of the State, making a total of \$14,000 for interest and sinking fund. This, as I said before, can be taken from the general revenues without increasing the rate of taxation one cent. The bonds can be continued from time to time, if the people so desire; or, if they prefer, they can easily pay them off at maturity from the accumulated increase of the sinking fund. It is generally understood that

Mayor's
message.

municipal bonds of this character are never paid at maturity. They are almost invariably substituted by bonds drawing a lower rate of interest, until the accumulation of the sinking fund makes it a matter of necessity to yearly reduce the number outstanding and finally ends in their total absorption.

I believe, in view of the condition of our laboring classes at this time, that it would be a public charity to disburse this amount in our midst in the manner suggested, all of which would inure to the benefit of our home people—giving business to the merchants and labor to the deserving classes now clamoring for employment. I merely mention this matter now in order that you may consider and reflect upon it, and therefore be the better able to intelligently act when it shall formally come before you.

I fully concur with my predecessor's remarks in his final message to the Council regarding our present city hall. Its accommodations are totally insufficient to meet the wants of the city, while its inconveniences are many and beyond remedy. I hope at an early day to be able to submit for your consideration a plan by which the city can erect a suitable building—one that will meet all requirements for the present and for many years to come, and, while an ornament to the city, will also be in keeping with the State and County buildings which grace our city.

The authority given you under the Charter to elect all city officers, is a most extraordinary concession of power. In the exercise of that responsible trust, I earnestly hope that you will only be actuated by patriotic and unselfish motives, and will bring to the service of the city the best material that may offer.

The system of swapping and exchanging votes, in order to secure position for friends, I hope will not be countenanced by any member of your honorable body. The patronage of the city

Memorandum

is at your disposal, but it does not belong to you. It belongs to the people, and as their agents you should dispense it in their interests and not use it in aiding personal friends or rewarding partisan followers. I will not be my purpose to submit the name of any one as a candidate for your consideration, except that of City Clerk. This officer is properly the Clerk or Secretary to the Mayor, and while I know you have the legal power to ignore and reject the name which I shall submit to you, yet I believe official as well as personal courtesy, to say nothing of the common proprieties of life, demand that you leave the selection of that officer to the Mayor. I shall at the proper time present for your consideration the name of the gentleman I desire for City Clerk, and trust that he will be confirmed without opposition.

The Charter provides for the election of a treasurer and City engineer. As these offices are to be filled tonight, I think it is but proper that the applicants should thoroughly understand my views in relation to them. I am satisfied that responsible banking institutions can be induced to accept the position of treasurer for the City without pay, giving satisfactory bonds for the faithful accounting of all funds and the discharge of the duties incumbent upon the treasurer, the advantage of holding the City's unexpended balances being deemed ample compensation for the services rendered. By such an arrangement, the taxpayers would be relieved of paying \$100 per annum - an item small in itself, but certainly worth the saving.

The office of City Engineer should be in my judgment, virtually abolished. Yet, the Charter makes it incumbent upon the Council to fill the position, and you must meet the requirement by an election. But in order to practically dispense with the office, I

Suggest that the salary be made a nominal one,
 say one dollar a month, and that you by Ordinance
 at the proper time, create the office of Street
 Commissioner, and select for that position some
 thoroughly competent man, whose duty it shall be
 to take charge of the City's teams and laborers and
 be with them at all times during the
 regular hours for labor on all public works--in
 other words, practically fill the position of an
 overseer, and authorize the Mayor, when engineering
 work may be required, to accept the service of the engineer
 you may elect, or any other that may be preferred,
 at some stipulated or agreed sum for the service
 that may be required of him.

And now, gentlemen, in conclusion, I am
 about to assume the duties of your presiding
 officer, and in their discharge I must
 necessarily rely upon your assistance and
 indulgence. This is a new field to me, and I shall
 in the transaction of business, expect the aid
 and counsel of those more versed in parliamentary
 usage than myself.

I sincerely trust that harmony will control
 our deliberations, and that useless formalities
 will be waived for practical business methods.
 I thank you, gentlemen, for your courteous
 attention.

Election
 order
 of- Alderman Wartham introduced a resolution
 directing that an election of officers for the
 ensuing term of two years be proceeded with
 in the following Order: President of the
 Council, City Clerk, Assessor and Collector, Treasurer,
 Recorder, Physician, Attorney, Marshal, engineer,
 President physician of the City hospital, matron
 of the City hospital and Sanitary Inspector.
 The Chair ruled the resolution out of order,
 as conflicting with the Charter, and ruled
 that officers should be elected in the order
 named in the Charter, and announced nomination
 for assessor and collector were in order.

M. Maas Alderman Brush then nominated M. Maas,
 and Alderman Campbell, Fred Sterzing.

Alderman Caldwell moved that three tellers be appointed. Adopted.

The Chair appointed Aldermen Caldwell, DeGress and Jones.

There being no other nominations the Mayor then requested that ballots be prepared and cast, which was done, and the result canvassed in due form by the tellers, and announced by them as follows: Maas 7; Sterzing, 13.

Sterzing

The Mayor then stated that Fred Sterzing having received a majority of all the votes cast he declared him duly elected assessor and collector of the city of Austin for the ensuing term of two years.

The Mayor then stated that nominations ^{for Recorder} were in order.

C. D. Johns; 11

Ruggles; J. R. Hamilton

Alderman Graham nominated C. D. Johns; Alderman Linn nominated Gardner Ruggles; Alderman Jones nominated J. R. Hamilton.

There being no other nominations the Mayor directed a ballot to be taken, which was done and canvassed in due form, and the result announced as follows: Johns, 6; Ruggles, 6; Hamilton, 8 votes.

The Chair stated that no candidate had received a majority of all the votes cast, and that another ballot be taken.

A second ballot was taken in due form, and resulted as follows: C. D. Johns, 4; Gardner Ruggles, 4; J. R. Hamilton, 11 votes.

Hamilton Elected.

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The Mayor then declared J. R. Hamilton duly elected Recorder of the City of Austin for the ensuing term of two years, he having received a majority of all the votes cast.

The Mayor declared nominations for city marshal were in order.

R. B. Underhill.

J. E. Luey

Alderman Odell nominated R. B. Underhill.

Alderman DeGress nominated J. E. Luey.

There being no other nominations, the Mayor then ordered a ballot, which was regularly taken and canvassed, resulting as

follows: J.E. Lucy, 18; R.B. Underhill, 2 votes.

The Mayor then stated that J.E. Lucy, having received a majority of all votes cast, he declared him duly elected City Marshal of the City of Austin for the ensuing term of two years.

The Mayor announced that nominations for City Treasurer were next in order.

Alderman Campbell nominated J.W. Howard; Alderman
A. Myrick; Bishop nominated J.S. Myrick; Alderman Wilson nominated
A. Patrick; Alderman Bush nominated A.S.
A.S. Roberts.

There being no other nominations, the Mayor then requested that a ballot be taken, which was duly and regularly done, resulting as follows:
J.W. Howard, 2; J.S. Myrick, 11; Albert Patrick, 4;
A.S. Roberts, 3 votes.

The Mayor then said that J.S. Myrick having received a majority of all the votes cast, he declared him duly elected Treasurer of the City of Austin for the ensuing term of two years.

The Chair stated the next business in order was the election of a City Physician.

Alderman Wortham nominated Dr. R.S. Graves;
Alderman Jones nominated Dr. L.B. Johnson; Alderman
Wilson nominated Dr. A.H. Denton.

There being no other nominations, a ballot was ordered, which was duly and regularly made and canvassed, resulting as follows:

R.S. Graves, 14;

Johnson, 4; Denton, 2 votes.

The Mayor stated that R.S. Graves, having received a majority of all the votes cast he declared him duly elected City Physician for the ensuing term of two years.

The Mayor stated the next business in order was the election of a City Clerk, and he placed

in nomination the name of Moses C. Harris.

Alderman Campbell nominated Milton Morris;

Alderman Odell nominated C.H. Powell.

The Mayor directed a ballot, which was duly taken and canvassed, and the result announced as follows: Milton Morris, 15 votes; Moses C. Harris, 5 votes.

Merrie
Council. The mayor then announced that Milton Morris having received a majority of all the votes cast, he declared him duly elected Clerk of the City of Austin for the ensuing term of two years.

The mayor then announced that nominations for City Attorney were in order.

The following nominations were then made:

By Alderman Bishop, Geo. S. Walton; by Alderman De Gress, George F. Pendexter; by Alderman Daigler, H. H. Childress; by Alderman Graham, J. W. Phillips.

No other nominations being made, the Mayor requested that a ballot be prepared, which was properly done, and resulted as follows: George S. Walton, 1; Geo. F. Pendexter, 7; H. H. Childress, 8; J. W. Phillips, 3; Hancock 1 vote.

The mayor ruled that the vote cast for Hancock should be thrown out, as he was not nominated as required, and stated that none of the candidates having received a majority of all the votes cast, there was no election, and that another ballot be prepared, which was regularly done, and the result announced as follows: George S. Walton, 3; Geo. F. Pendexter, 10; H. H. Childers, 6; J. W. Phillips, 1 vote. The mayor then stated that no one having received a majority of all the votes cast, another ballot be prepared, which was duly done, and resulted as follows: George S. Walton, 2; George F. Pendexter, 11; H. H. Childers, 6; J. W. Phillips, 1.

Pendexter
Elected.

The mayor then stated that Geo. F. Pendexter had received a majority of all the votes cast, and was duly elected City Attorney for the ensuing term of two years.

The mayor then informed the Council that nominations for City Engineer were in order.

The following nominations were then made: By Sam. P. Matthews, Alderman Jones, Sam. P. Matthews; by Alderman H. C. Schmit, Alderman Campbell, H. C. Schmit; by Alderman Burt McDonald, Graham, Burt McDonald; by Alderman Brush, C. C. Campbell; Campbell; by Alderman De Gress, R. W. Ford. There being no other nominations the mayor then

directed that a ballot be prepared, which was properly done, resulting as follows: Sam F. Mathews, 7; H. C. Schmit, 2; Burt McDonald, 7; C. C. Campbell, 2; R. W. Ford, 2.

The mayor stated that none of the Candidates having received a majority of all the votes cast, another ballot be prepared, which was duly done, resulting as follows: Sam F. Mathews, 6; H. C. Schmit, 3; Burt McDonald, 7; C. C. Campbell, 3; R. W. Ford, 1.

The mayor stated that, none of the Candidates having received a majority of all the votes cast, another ballot be prepared. Alderman DeGress then withdrew the name of R. W. Ford, and the ballot was prepared and resulted as follows: Sam F. Mathews, 8; H. C. Schmit, 4; Burt McDonald, 7; C. C. Campbell, 1.

The mayor then stated that none of the Candidates having received a majority of all the votes cast, another ballot be prepared.

Alderman Brush withdrew the name of C. C. Campbell and the ballot was prepared, and resulted as follows: Sam F. Mathews, 9; H. C. Schmit, 5; Burt McDonald, 6.

The mayor then stated that, no one having received a majority of all the votes cast, another ballot be prepared, which was duly done, and resulted as follows: Sam F. Mathews, 9; H. C. Schmit, 1; Burt McDonald, 10.

The mayor stated that, none of the Candidates having received a majority of all the votes cast, another ballot be prepared, which was regularly done, resulting as follows: Sam F. Mathews, 11; Burt McDonald, 9.

Mathews
Elected.

The mayor then stated that Sam F. Mathews having received a majority of all the votes cast, he declared him duly elected city engineer for the ensuing term of two years.

J. C. DeGress

The mayor stated that nominations for president of the board of aldermen were next in order. Alderman Caldwell nominated Alderman J. C. DeGress. Alderman Platt moved "that this Council adjourn until

7:30 p.m. tomorrow." The motion was lost by the following vote: Yeas - Alderman Beland, Caldwell, DeGress, Haigler, Metz, Odell, Platt, Schneider - 8.

Nays - Aldermen Assmann, Brush, Campbell, Fisher, Graham, Jones, Linn, Pillow, Phillips, Townsend, Wilson & Wortham - 12.

The Mayor then directed the Council to proceed to elect a president of the board.

J.C. DeGress,
C.E. Fisher.

Alderman Brush then nominated Alderman J.C. DeGress.

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Alderman Wortham nominated Alderman C.E. Fisher.

Alderman DeGress was excused from acting as teller, and Alderman Phillips was appointed in his stead.

The Mayor then directed that a ballot be prepared, which was duly done resulting as follows: C.E. Fisher, 9; J.C. DeGress, 11.

DeGress
Elected.

The Mayor then declared Alderman DeGress duly elected President of the board of Aldermen for the ensuing term of two years, and requested him to take the chair.

While the subject was being discussed, the Council, on motion of Alderman Graham, adjourned.

Milton Morris,
City Clerk.