

The Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the City Council.

Austin, Tex. June 4, 1888.

Hon. Joseph Kalle, presiding. Roll Call. Present

Aldermen Assmann, Boland, Brush, Campbell, Mc Cross, Fisher, Graham, Haigler, Jones, Linn, Odell (Phillips), Platt, Schneider, Townsend, Wilson, Wartham - 17.

Absent - Aldermen Caldwell, Metz, Pillow - 3.

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

Mrs M. J. McKenle Alderman Wartham introduced a Communication relative to taxes erroneously assessed against Mrs. Mary J. McKenle. Referred to finance Committee.

Marshal. The Marshal's report for the month of May was presented.

It shows:

Total amount of fines and Costs assessed in the recorder's Court \$1024.05

Collected in Cash \$379.00

Marked out 411.10

Escaped 50.25

Appealed 18.80

Remitted 49.10

Carried forward 115.80 - \$1024.05

Pound fees Collected \$8.50

Back fines " 12.10

Total number of arrests 93.

Referred to Police Committee

Phys. Report of the City Physician for the month of May 1888, was next presented. It shows:

Patients in hospital May 1 13

" Admitted to " in " 9

" discharged from " " " 13

" died in " " " 1

" Remaining " " June 1 8

(One Case of diphtheria reported

Visits made 154

Prescriptions written 230

Referred to Hospital Committee

Report of the City Sexton for the month of May, 1888, was next introduced and shows that there were -

28 deaths, 18 of whom were white and ten Colored.
Referred to Cemetery Committee.

Clk.

Report of the City Clerk of Warrants issued during the month of May, 1888, was introduced and referred to the finance Committee. It places the amount issued at \$7197.51

Cr.

Report of the City Treasurer from May 21 to June 4, 1888, was presented. It shows:

Balance on hand May 21	\$11,780.48
Receipts	4,198.25
Total	15,978.73

Disbursements

4,522.80

Balance June 4:

Acct of general fund

10,868.47

" " City Cemetery

392.23

" " Back debt

170.23

" " Interest

25.00

\$15,978.73

Referred to finance Committee.

Mayor's
Message--
Finance

The Mayor presented to the Council the following message:

To the Honorable Board of Aldermen:

Gentlemen: - I deem it proper to submit a statement to you giving, in brief, the financial condition of the City, together with an estimate of the necessary expenditures for the remainder of the present fiscal year, and the probable revenues from all sources, that we may rely upon to meet these expenditures. It is not necessary for me to enter into any lengthy discussion, or embellish facts that speak for themselves. I submit the figures; it is for you to determine the policy.

I have heretofore submitted to you my views, embraced in certain recommendations looking to a curtailment of the general expense, confidently anticipating your support. These recommendations I hoped to supplement with others, looking to further reductions of expenses and a more economical administration of the public affairs.

But inasmuch as these recommendations have certainly failed to meet with your approval, I deem it useless to further encroach upon your time and patience, and therefore content myself with a submittal of the figures, and leave to you the work and responsibility of suggesting and carrying out such measures as will maintain the Credit of the City, without calling upon the people at the end of the fiscal year to provide for the payment of a deficiency of \$11,000 or \$15,000. There is yet due and collectable from tax rolls of the present year, the sum of \$27,137.69. So this amount may be added, approximately the following sums:

From License Tax	\$5,500.00
" Travis (S. acct. Hospital Fund	1,000.00
" Recorder's Court	1,200.00
" Back Taxes, 1886	1,500.00
" Miscellaneous Sources	400.00
Total	\$9,600.00

Swelling the aggregate amount due and available from all sources, provided the entire ad Valorem tax is collected, together with \$12,173 now in the hands of the Treasurer, to \$48,912.69, to run the government for the remainder of the fiscal year, closing November 30, 1888.

The absolute amount necessary to meet the current expenses and demands upon the government for the same period upon its present basis is as follows:

To meet unpaid claims against the City	\$ 4,129.18
Feeding prisoners (approximately)	700.00
" teams	980.00
For fencing Peace Park	300.00
For fire Companies	1,750.00
Rent, Washington T. E. Co's house	350.00
Expenses, hospital, exclusive pay roll	1,120.00
Regular monthly pay roll	24,934.00
Warrants undelivered	369.65
Water rent, due July 1, 1888	6.00000
Interest on bonded debt, due July 1, 1888.	5,200.00

Rent for fire alarm	600.00
Street lighting	3,500.00
Rent for Mayor's office	175.00
Water rent, July 1 to Dec. 1, 1888,	5,000.00
Interest on bonded debt, July 1 to Dec. 1, 1888.	4,333.67
Total	\$59,441.50

The difference between these two amounts—\$59,441.50 and \$48,912.69—shows the deficit that we shall be called upon to meet, unless steps are taken, at once, to materially reduce the present expenses. This difference shows a balance against the City of \$10,528.81, while it should be remembered that the estimate is based upon the premises that every dollar of the ad Valorem tax will be collected. This, I take it, will hardly be the case; but whatever the discrepancy between the amount due and the amount collected, it will only serve to increase the deficiency. Again, this estimate does not set aside any fund for miscellaneous or contingent expenses, certain to arise, and which can hardly fail to swell the aggregate expenditures to \$60,000 or more. I think it not a violent prediction to place the deficiency at the end of the present fiscal year, unless a curtailment of expenses is immediately adopted, at \$15,000. It should be understood, however, that this includes a deficiency of nearly \$20,000, which was brought over from last year.

It has been my purpose, as far as in my power, to administer the government efficiently and economically; but I am powerless to effect desired reforms without the aid and support of the board of aldermen. I had hoped that I would be enabled to make an innovation upon the time-honored rule of leaving a deficiency for my successor to provide for, and which, as has heretofore been the case, the people would be called upon to meet through the issuance of another series of bonds.

Our entire bonded indebtedness, aggregating
 \$135,000, and drawing from the tax-payers, annually
 the sum of \$10,400 for the payment of interest,
 was created solely and entirely through the
 issuance, at stated periods, of necessary amounts
 to redeem the obligations which should
 have never been incurred, and which the
 Charter of the City expressly and specifically
 inhibits. That Charter says, in plain and
 unmistakable terms, that no debt shall
 be created by the Council in excess of
 the revenues; yet today the tax-payers of
 Austin are saddled with a bonded indebt-
 edness of \$135,000, drawing an annual interest
 equal to one-eighth the entire revenues of
 the City, with nothing to show in return
 for the debt. And they are today, unless
 an immediate halt is called, threatened
 with a still further augmentation of
 it at the end of the present year.
 I have before alluded to the subject,
 and again take occasion to revert to it.
 Under the present policy, the tax-payers
 have no protection against a reckless
 and wasteful expenditure of the moneys
 paid by them for an honest and
 economical administration of public
 affairs. It is true, the Charter inhibits
 the Council from creating or contracting
 debts in excess of the revenues, but no
 penalty is attached for violation, it
 is virtually ignored. All will concede
 that some check should be placed upon
 this unlawful assumption of power to
 create debts against the city in excess
 of the revenues, but I see no relief
 unless the people take the matter
 in hand, and secure from the legisla-
 ture an amendment to the Charter,
 prescribing a heavy and direct penalty
 for the violation by the mayor or
 any or all members of the Board

of Aldermen, of that clause which prescribed that no liabilities shall be incurred in excess of the revenues. With such a clause in the organic law, I feel safe to say that there would be no unnecessary delays in bringing about needed reforms and retrenchment in public expenditures. I deem that I have done my duty in calling the attention of this Board to the breakers ahead, and suggesting such curtailment and reductions as will in a great measure prevent the threatened disaster of a large deficit. Upon this branch of the local government must rest the responsibility for the results.

Reductions aggregating nearly if not quite \$10,000, I hold, can be made without impairment to the successful administration of the city's affairs. It is with you, gentlemen of the Board of Aldermen, to say what policy shall prevail - whether we shall continue as at present, and carry over to the next year a large deficit, in violation of the letter and spirit of the Charter, or cut down expenses to the lowest possible point, and thereby bring them within the limits of our revenues. Whatever your decision, those who pay the taxes - who bear the burden of government - will be the judges of your action.

Respectfully, Joseph Nalle,
Mayor.

Austin, May 29, 1888.

After the message was read, Alderman Platt moved that 5000 copies of it be printed in the minutes, for distribution. Alderman Fisher moved that it be printed in the two daily papers of the City - in the Dispatch at its contract price with the City, and in the Statesman on the best terms to be obtained by the printing committee.

agreed to the following distribution for each Ward, and to let the aldermen of the respective Wards locate the same:

First Ward,	5	lights
Second "	7	"
Third "	7	"
Fourth "	7	"
Fifth "	8	"
6th "	12	"
7th "	14	"
8th "	13	"
9th "	10	"
10th "	13	"

Respectfully, Etc.,

J. H. Schneider,
B. S. Fiecow,
W. B. Wartham,
George F. Assmann,
Mike Boland,
Jno. H. Phillips,
J. E. Jones.

Alderman Wilson, of the last named Committee, presented a minority report, as follows:

Austin, Texas, June 14, 1888.

To the Hon. Mayor and Board of Aldermen:

Gentlemen: We, the undersigned members of your special Committee, appointed to apportion and locate the arc and incandescent lights throughout the city, respectfully beg leave to submit this, our minority report, in the hopes that justice may be done the Wards which we have the honor to represent. Your attention is invited in the first place to the official Vote Cast at the last municipal election, showing the voting population of the second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth Wards to be very nearly equal and a more equal distribution of the lights should be made. We therefore recommend that the incandescent lights be distributed as follows:

The first Ward 7

lights, Second Ward 7 lights, Third Ward 8 lights,
fourth Ward 9 lights, fifth Ward 9 lights, Sixth
Ward 11 lights, Seventh Ward 14 lights, Eighth Ward 12
lights, Ninth Ward 9 lights and Tenth Ward 14 lights.
Respectfully,

J. M. Wilson,
A. W. Townsend,
Sec. A. Brush,

After the reports were read Alderman Linn
moved to substitute the minority report for
the majority report.

Alderman Phillips moved to lay the
motion on the table. Carried.

Yeas - Aldermen Assmann, Boland,
DeGress, Graham, Haigler, Jones, Odell,
Phillips, Platt, Schneider, Wartham - 11.
Nays - Aldermen Brush, Caldwell, Campbell, Fisher,
Linn, Townsend, Wilson - 7.

Alderman Phillips then moved to adopt the
majority report of the Committee, which prevailed
by the following vote:

Yeas - Aldermen Assmann,
Boland, DeGress, Fisher, Graham, Haigler,
Jones, Odell, Phillips, Platt, Schneider, Wartham - 12.
Nays - Aldermen Brush, Caldwell, Campbell, Linn,
Townsend, Wilson - 6.

Alderman Phillips then moved to
reconsider the vote by which the
majority report of the Committee was adopted,
and to lay that motion on the table. Carried.

Ald. Caldwell
drivers.

Alderman Caldwell was excused.

Alderman DeGress introduced an ordinance
amending Section 16 of an ordinance
entitled an Ordinance fixing the Comp-
ensation of the officers and employees of the
City of Austin from the date of their
qualification, passed January 6, 1888.

The object of the Ordinance is to reduce
the salaries of the drivers and hostlers
in the fire department from \$600 per
annum to \$480 per annum. After it was
read, Alderman Linn moved to lay it on

the table, which was lost by the following vote:
 Yeas - Aldermen Campbell, Fisher, Linn,
 Schneider, Townsend - 5.

Nays - Aldermen Assmann, Boland, Brush,
 DeGress, Graham, Haigler, Jones, Odell, Phillips,
 Platt, Wilson, Worthington - 12.

A motion was then made to suspend the rules
 and place the Ordinance on its second reading,
 which prevailed by a two-thirds vote of a full
 board.

The Ordinance was then read a second time,
 after which Alderman DeGress moved to amend
 by striking out June 1, and inserting June 10 as
 the date on which the Ordinance shall take effect.

Alderman Campbell moved to amend by naming
 July 1 as the date on which it shall become a
 law. The amendment was accepted and adopted, after
 which a motion was made to suspend the rules,
 and place the Ordinance on its third reading,
 which prevailed by the following vote:

Yeas - Aldermen Assmann, Boland, Brush,
 Campbell, DeGress, Fisher, Graham, Haigler,
 Jones, Odell, Phillips, Platt, Wilson,
 Worthington - 14.

Nays - Aldermen Linn, Schneider, Townsend.
 On motion, the Ordinance then passed.

(Res. C. C.)

Alderman Phillips then presented an Ordinance
 amending article 181, title 5, Chapter 4, Revised
 Civil Ordinances. The object of this Ordinance
 is to limit the term of office of the assistant
 assessor and collector of taxes to six months
 in each year, salary, when serving, to be
 \$75 per month, as at present.

The Ordinance was read the first time, after
 which a motion was made to suspend the
 rules and place it on its second reading,
 which was rejected.

Yeas - Aldermen Assmann,
 Boland, Brush, DeGress, Haigler, Jones,
 Odell, Phillips, Platt, Wilson, Worthington - 11.
 Nays - Aldermen Campbell, Fisher, Graham,
 Linn, Schneider, Townsend - 6.

Alderman Brush introduced: An Ordinance
to protect the Public Parks and Squares.

Alderman Northam moved to lay it on the table
till the next meeting of the Council. Carried.

Alderman DeGross presented An Ordinance
amending article 257, Chapter 1, title 13 of the
Revised Civil Ordinances of the City of
Austin. This Ordinance provides for reducing
the police force. It was read first time,
after which a motion was made to sus-
pend the rules and place the ordinance on its
second reading which was adopted by a
two-thirds vote of a full board, and as
the ordinance was being read a second time,
Alderman DeGross moved to insert after the
words "Sergeant of police" the words "and
one detective". Carried.

The rules were then suspended by a two-thirds
vote of a full board and the ordinance passed.

City Secy.

Alderman DeGross then introduced: An Ordinance
repealing an Ordinance, entitled "An Ordinance creating
the office of City Secretary of the City of Austin",
passed February 20, 1888.

It was read first time, after which motions
were made to suspend the rules and place
the ordinance on its second and third readings,
which were adopted by a two-thirds vote of a
full board, and on motion it was passed.

\$1765.66. acct

Alderman DeGross introduced: An Ordinance
appropriating the sum of \$1765.66 for the purpose
of paying approved accounts.

It was read first time, after which
motions were made to suspend the rules
and the ordinance on its second and third
readings and that it do pass, all of which prevailed
by the following vote:

Yeas - Aldermen Assmann, Boland,
Brush, Campbell, DeGross, Fisher, Graham,
Haigler, Jones, Linn, Odell, Phillips,
Plett, Schneider, Townsend, Wilson, Northam
On motion the Council then adjourned.

Milton Morris, City Clerk.