

Regular Meeting of City Council  
Austin, Tex., December 1<sup>st</sup> 1879.

Mayor De Gres presiding.

Roll called. Present - Alderman Boardman, Combs,  
 Compton, Metz, Nalle, Richardson, Sheehan,  
 Tobin, and Wahrenberger.

The minutes of the minutes of November 13  
 and 29 were read and approved.

His honor the Mayor submitted the follow-  
 ing message for the consideration of the council.

Mayor's Office

Austin, Tex December 1 1879.

To the Hon. Board of Aldermen, City of Austin.

Gentlemen:— As we are entering a  
 new fiscal year, I desire to offer a few suggest-  
 ions in regard to the policy I think ought to  
 be pursued during this administration in regard  
 to the finances of the city and some matters of  
 less importance.

I herewith submit a statement of the bond-  
 ed indebtedness of the city furnished by the  
 treasurer:

Hon. J. C. De Gres, Mayor of City of Austin:

I have the honor to submit  
 list of bonds outstanding, not called in, viz:  
 30 Bonds, Nos. 102 to 131 inclusive.

\$100 each	\$3,000
1 Bonds No 30, dated Jan 1-74	

10 years-	4.00.
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28 Bonds, Nos. 2 to 29 inclusive dated	
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Jan 1-1874, 10 yrs. \$300- each	14,400.00
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53 Bonds, Nos 1 to 53 inclusive, dated	
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Jan 1-1874, 20 yrs. \$300. each	26,000.
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14 Bonds, Nos. 56 to 69 inclusive, dated	
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Jan 1-1874, 20 yrs. \$300. each	7,000.
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40 Bonds, Nos. 101 to 140, inclusive, dated	
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Jan 1-1875- 20 yrs \$100. each	20,000.
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8 Bonds, Nos. 141 to 148, inclusive, dated	
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Jan 1 <sup>st</sup> 1875- 20 yrs. \$300. each	4,000.
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34 Bonds, Nos. 155 to 188 inclusive, dated	
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Jan 1-1875; 20 years \$500 each	17,000
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	<u>\$ 91,900.00</u>
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I have the honor to be, very respectfully

signed, J. W. Howard  
City Treasurer.

Nineteen (19) of these Bonds #1900. can be paid at the pleasure of the city; these should be settled at the earliest practicable moment.

All these bonds bear ten per cent. interest annually.

The last Legislature passed "an Act to authorize counties, cities and towns to scale and fund their indebtedness and for raising means to pay the same," approved Mar 25, 1879.

I think it our duty to take advantage of this law, and fund our indebtedness by a longer running bond at less interest, if it can be done.

The following statement will show the difference to be paid out by the city on a five by twenty-five year running bond at six per cent interest, that being the highest rate which can be paid under the law authorizing the funding of our indebtedness:

\$29,500. interest at 10%.	\$ 7,250.00
\$29,500. interest at 6%.	14,300.00

Difference \$ 2900.00

\$33,500. interest at 10% from Jan 1-1880 to Jan 1, 1894 - 14 years at \$3350.	\$ 46900.00
\$33,500. interest at 6% from Jan 1. 1880 to Jan 1, 1905 - 25 years @ \$2000	50250.00

Difference \$ 3350.00

\$39,000. interest at 10% from Jan 1. 1880 to Jan 1, 1895, 15 years, at \$3900.	\$ 58570.00
\$39,000. interest at 6% from Jan 1. 1880 to Jan 1, 1905 - 25 years, at \$2340	58570.00

The above statement shows the bonds payable in 1894 and 1895 and the difference in interest annually, if they can be substituted for twenty-five year bonds; those payable prior to this time should be paid as they fall due.

The immediate advantage to the people in funding these bonds would be a reduction of taxation or the purchasing of the other bonds.

In these hard times a dollar today.

is worth more to a laboring man or merchant than two were three years ago, it therefore behoves us while money is scarce, but few private improvements progressing, to do everything in our power to reduce taxation or our debt.

I therefore suggest that an ordinance be passed in accordance with the above—

I respectfully recommend that an ordinance be enacted relieving the marshal of the duties of pound master, as his duties further occupy his entire time, and that this position be filled by another person, with the same powers now vested in the marshal.

The running at large of cattle, horses and hogs is becoming a great nuisance and steps should be taken at once to enforce the ordinance governing this matter. The police force is not large enough to perform the duties assigned them in this connection, nor can I conscientiously recommend an increase of this force at this time, but by offering a small reward for the taking up and bringing to the pound animals running at large in violation of the city ordinance, the object in view can be accomplished, and persons owing this stock and therefore guilty of this violation, can be dealt with according to law.

Complaints have been made frequently of late about the shortage in the measurement of wood for fuel. This is a matter in which every citizen is concerned. Section 26 of article 6 of the charter provides for the measurement of wood etc. I submit this matter for your consideration, recommending that the above section be complied with, and an ordinance passed in accordance therewith.

Improvements on streets should be continued as soon as the taxes now due are paid into the treasury.

A committee of aldermen and citizens, was appointed some months since to report on sewerage for this city. You will find

herin my recommendation on this matter as made to the city council in 1877 and 1878. Deeming it necessary that this matter should be thoroughly investigated, I appoint on this committee the following gentlemen: Alderman, Lawker, Boardman, Rahmenberger, Tobin and Hale, to act with the citizens already appointed.

Section 9 of article 6 of the city charter authorizes the establishment of sewers. I called attention to this matter in a communication to the city council on July 31, 1877, which I here insert and make part of this report:

"My attention has been called to the uncleanly condition of the city, by the health inspector and citizens generally. The only way in my opinion, to remedy this evil and place the city in a good sanitary condition is by the construction of a sewer.

The alley immediately east of Congress Avenue seems to be the most desirable and practicable place to locate such sewer, the head of which should be located upon the premises where the county buildings are situated and to be carried to the Colorado river. The sewer should be built deep enough, so as to enable the city to have smaller sewers constructed from different parts of the city, running to the main sewer.

The county is interested in this improvement, as her jungies and the filth accumulating in her cesspools have to be emptied, and this should be done without detriment to the health of our citizens. So far the county has been unable to do this, but on the contrary, this emptying and cleaning process has not only been annoying and offensive to the citizens living near the county buildings and the streets through which this filth was hauled, but they have actually been compelled to remove their families in the middle of the night to avoid these dangerous and sickening odors.

The county could save thousands of dollars by assisting in the construction of this sewer, and

it is believed the commissioners will cheerfully aid the city in this enterprise as necessary to both.

I would, therefore, suggest that your honorable body meet and consult with the honorable county court (now in session) regarding this matter; also request the citizens to appoint a committee for the purpose of assisting your honorable body & the honorable county court in raising funds for the construction of said sewer, and begin work as soon as practicable.

"When the Legislature meets, the city council and the county-court could represent to that honorable body the benefits to be derived by the State by the extension of said sewer to the sinks, etc., on the Capitol grounds, and if assistance be granted by the Legislature the sewer could be extended north of the Capitol and thereby give the city complete drainage with but little additional expense."

The same recommendation made at that time holds good now; in recommending the alley east of the Avenue I was actuated by a desire not to disturb the beautiful street.

I hand you herewith a letter from Col. G. W. C. Smith, superintendent of the United States court house and post office building on this subject.

Very Respectfully  
 (Signed) J. C. DeGress Mayor  
 Office of Super. Construction  
 United States Court House, etc.

Austin, Tex. December 1, 1879

Hon. J. C. DeGress,

Mayor of the city of Austin

As it will be necessary for the proper drainage of this building to have a sewer, I am requested by the supervising architect to ascertain if the city authorities are willing to pay one-half of the expense of laying a terra-cotta pipe from this building to the river, the city and government to have joint

use of the same, the size of the pipe and its location to be determined by the city.

(Signed)

Very respectfully

J. A. C. Smith,

Superintendent.

Message received.

Petition of J. H. Robertson and J. H. Tenge, for the erection of a street lamp in the fifth ward. Granted.

Petition of H. Cameron, for permission to place public scale in position in front of his store on East Avenue. Granted.

Communication from J. H. Dinkins, asking for an appropriation of \$157.00 for the purpose of purchasing a transit, etc. Received.

Resolution appropriating \$157.00, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to buy instruments for the city engineer, read first time and, on motion, the rules were suspended and the resolution placed on its second reading, by the following vote:

Yea: — Aldermen Boardman, Combs, Larkins, Metz, Nalle, Robertson, Reichman, Sheehan, Tobin, and Wahrenberger.

Resolution read second time and, on motion, the rules were further suspended, by the following vote:

Yea: — Aldermen, Boardman, Combs, Larkins, Metz, Nalle, Robertson, Reichman, Sheehan, Tobin and Wahrenberger.

Resolution read third time and on motion passed by the following vote.

Yea: — Aldermen, Boardman, Combs, Larkins, Metz, Nalle, Robertson, Reichman, Sheehan, Tobin and Wahrenberger.

Petition of Mr. Brueggerhoff, for the opening and repairing the gutters on the north side of his business block, together with an estimate of the cost of said work.

Referred to street committee.

Petition of S. Bailetti et al, for the erection of a lamp post in front of Bailetti's store.

Referred to street committee.

The following communication was received from the chief of the fire department:

Office Chief Fire Department,

Austin, Tex. December 1, 1879

Hon. J. C. DeGress, Mayor and Board of Aldermen  
City of Austin:

Gentlemen I respectfully petition your honorable body, that you will make an appropriation for 370 feet of fire hose, for the use of the Austin fire department, to be purchased in such manner as you may direct.

(Signed)

John Fremont

Chief Fire Department.

Referred to committee on fire department.

Reports of the city marshal, city sexton, and city physician for the month of November, 1879, were read and ordered filed.

The following communication from the city marshal was read and on motion referred to the committee on market house with power to act:

City Marshal's Office,

Austin, December 1, 1879.

To the Hon. Mayor, and Board of Aldermen,  
City of Austin.

Gentlemen. I would respectfully call your attention to the present condition of the market house, which is greatly in need of repairs in the following places: The roof leaks badly in numerous places, and when it storms heavily, books desks, and other material have to be removed to preserve them from injury until the rain ceases. The walls need plastering in several places, and the windows in the mayor's court room badly need to be adjusted. The cells of the city prison are very insecure and unsafe for the keeping of prisoners, several having made their escape owing to the weak construction of the cells.

(Signed)

Very respectfully

C. Gray

City Marshal.

Communication from chief of fire department calling attention to the custom of discharging

firing on occasion of fire, and asking that action be taken to prevent its future occurrence.

Received.

Official bond of C. L. Nitsche, as city-suptm read and approved.

Communication from city engineer, recommending the appropriation of \$2000 for the purpose of firing the approaches to the bridge over Waller creek, on Leesburg street. Received.

By Alderman Peckman; An Ordinance to appropriate \$2000 to fire the approaches to Leesburg street bridge. Read first time; and on motion, the rules were suspended and the ordinance placed on its second reading by the following vote:

Yea:— Aldermen Boardman, County, Cookson, Metz, Robertson, Peckman, Shahan, John and Wahnenberger.

Nay:— Valle.

Ordinance read second time and, on motion, the rules were further suspended and the ordinance placed on its third reading by the following vote:

Yea:— Aldermen Boardman, County, Cookson, Metz, Robertson, Peckman, Shahan, John and Wahnenberger.

Nay:— Alderman Valle.

Ordinance read third time and on motion, passed by the following vote:

Yea:— Aldermen, Boardman, County, Cookson, Metz, Robertson, Peckman, Shahan, John and Wahnenberger.

Nay:— Alderman Valle.

An ordinance amending article 44-2 (18) of the Revised Ordinances of the City of Austin. Read third time and on motion, passed.

The following communication from the board of fire commissioners and committee on fire department was read and received:

To the Honorable the Mayor and the Board of Alderman of the City of Austin:

At a meeting of the fire commissioners of the City of Austin,

held on November 17, 1879, to take action upon the petition of certain citizens and the board of underwriters, concerning the storage of cotton, within certain limits in the business portion of the city, referred to us for action by your honorable body, it was unanimously agreed after a full discussion of the question, that cotton should not be allowed to be stored in certain limits in the city, and to effect this purpose it was agreed to submit an amendment to article 218 and a repeal of article 217, Revised City Code, both bearing on this subject, and to request your honorable body to repeal any permits heretofore given antagonistic to this law.

We would further request your honorable body to make it the duty of the market master or some one in the employ of the city to make an inspection at least every two weeks to see that this law, as well as all others governing fire regulations, be rigidly enforced, especially against piling copies and straw in large quantities against or near to the rear of store buildings in the business part of town, making fires in open yards and other infractions of the law.

We earnestly request this of your honorable body in the name of the firemen of our city, who, when the dread hour of danger comes, have to meet the fire demands, and in their name we can assure you that, "an ounce of prevention is, with fire, worth a hundred times a pound of cure".

Very Respt.

John Premond, Chief

Attest: Thitz Reickman,  
Recorder.

Recommended by

J. W. Crooker  
Thitz Reickman

Fire Committee.

Alderman Robertson presented a petition from D. L. Campbell, recommended by G. L. Goss, McCrory & Co., and others, asking permission to retain his cotton warehouse in the rear of

Towles & Co's bank, for the remainder of the season, or until he could have a suitable warehouse built for the storage of cotton.

The mayor ruled the petition out of order on the ground that there was an ordinance in force, with which the petition would be in conflict if granted.

An ordinance to amend article 210 of the revised ordinances of the city of Austin.

Read first time, duly suspended and the ordinance placed on its second reading, two-thirds of a full council voting for the suspension of the rules.

Ordinance read second time.

Alderman Robertson moved to lay the ordinance on the table. Lost.

On motion the rules were further suspended and the ordinance read third time and passed, two-thirds of a full council voting in the affirmative.

An ordinance to repeal article 219 (12) of the revised ordinances.

Read, first, second, and third times, and passed under a suspension of the rules, two-thirds of a full council voting in the affirmative.

An ordinance creating the office of pound master, prescribing his duties and fixing his compensation.

Read first time, and on motion referred to the ordinance committee.

The Mayor nominated Dr. D. H. L. Bibb for the office of city physician.

Aldermen Boardman and Watsenberger were appointed tellers. The ballot being taken, the following was announced as the result, for confirmation, 7; against confirmation, 3.

Dr Bibb was declared duly confirmed by the council as city physician, he having received a majority of all the votes cast.

The Mayor then nominated the following gentlemen for the position of police men: A. Denny, John Chenneville, T. R. Johnson,

John Farrell, J. W. Patterson, August Seidemann  
 Pat Conley, John Goodman, James Sims, D.  
 B. Kittens, Geo. Cullum, J. O'Brien, James  
 Nolan, W. W. Townsend, J. L. Watts, J. W.  
 La Rue, and — Rose, standing out of the  
 number nominated but nine were to be se-  
 lected.

Alderman Boardman and Watermeyer  
 were appointed telling.

The ballot being taken, the following  
 was announced as the result: Denny received  
8 votes, Chesterville 9, Johnson 8, Patterson 7,  
Seidemann 8, Kittens 10, Watts 8, Farrell 6,  
Goodman 6, La Rue 6, Sims 5, Conley 4,  
Cullum 1, O'Brien 1, Nolan 1, Townsend 1

Messing, Denny, Chesterville, Johnson,  
Patterson, Seidemann, Kittens, and Watts, having  
 received a majority of all the votes cast, were  
 declared confirmed by the council as policeman.

Messing, Farrell, Goodman, and La Rue  
 having received six votes each, the mayor placed  
 them in nomination for the remaining two  
 policeman.

The ballot being taken the following was  
 announced as the result: John Farrell received  
8 votes, J. W. La Rue received six votes, John  
Goodman received three votes.

Messing, Farrel and La Rue having re-  
 ceived a majority of all the votes cast, were  
 declared duly elected by the council.

The mayor then nominated W. A.  
Ryan for the position of public weigher, and,  
 on motion, the nomination was unanimously con-  
 firmed by acclamation.

There being no further business, on  
 motion the council adjourned.

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