

Called Meeting of City Council  
 Austin, Texas March 24. 1879.  
 Mayor De Goss presiding.  
 Roll called. Present Aldermen Brown,  
 Crooker, Hall, Platt, Pauer, Sheehan and  
 Stroup.

The following business was transacted.  
 The Board of Fire Commissioners submitted  
 the returns of an election held by the Fire  
 Commissioners Department of the City of  
 Austin on the seventeenth day of March  
 1879.

On motion the Council proceeded to canvass  
 the returns. Aldermen Brown, Pauer and  
 Crooker were appointed tellers and the fol-  
 lowing was announced as the result.

For Chief of the Fire Department.

John Brunoud - 55 votes.

For Assistant Chief

J. Ziller 53 votes.

For Recorder

F. Richardson 57 votes

Scattering 10 "

On motion John Brunoud was declared  
 duly elected Chief of the Department.

J. Ziller Esq. Assistant Chief and F.  
 Richardson Esq. Recorder and their election  
 was unanimously confirmed by the  
 Council.

To the Messrs of His Honor the Mayor,  
 Mayor's Office,  
 City of Austin, March 24. 1879.

To the Hon. Board of Aldermen, Gentlemen  
 I have the honor to return herewith, with  
 my objections thereto, an Ordinance appro-  
 priating four thousand, five hundred and  
 seventy eight dollars.

The Appropriation is made for procu-  
 ring such material as may be necessary in  
 extending the mains of the City Water Com-  
 pany and erecting hydrants.

This Ordinance is in my opinion, in  
 direct conflict with a contract entered into  
 by the City of Austin, through her Mayor, Hon

T. B. Mather, and the City Water Company through her President, M. L. Mather dated Austin Texas April 18<sup>th</sup> 1877. Article 709 of the City Ordinances gives this Company the exclusive privilege of contracting and operating a system of water supply for the City of Austin, and I am unable to see how the City under said contract can become a party thereto except as provided therein.

It will be remembered that the City Council in levying a tax of one per cent. for the year 1878, set aside one-sixth of one per cent. for the redemption of City bonds. The ad valorem tax for said year amounts to \$52,145.74. Taking therefrom one-sixth of one per cent. leaves \$43,454.<sup>79</sup> to carry on the City government, with the revenues from license and other sources which cannot be estimated at this time.

Up to this date the following disbursements and appropriations have been made:

Fire Department	\$3,466.19
Streets and Bridges	2,391.17
Miscellaneous	650.52
Market House	436.30
Printing, Stationery and Postage	407.66
Lighting	718.98
Salaries of officers, Commissions of Assessors and Collector, including Police officers	7,163.89
City Secretary	162.98
Street Lamps	2,446.68
Water Works	1,400.00
Interest	5,072.32
City Bonds redeemed	700.00
Sanitary	646.35
	<hr/>
	\$25,663.04

Interest to be paid in June & July next.	\$4,000.00
Water Rents to be paid June 30 and September 30	2,800.00
Street Lamps to Oct. 20, 1879 about	3,500.00
Appropriations already made but not expended for Streets and bridges	4,800.00
Appropriations already made but not yet expended for City Hospital.	875.00
Total	\$42,538.00

The above with the usual expenses of the city will require nearly every dollar of income.

I do not want to be understood as being opposed to fire protection whenever it may be needed. On the contrary I am in favor of having water facilities and fire protection given to all parts of the city, as far as her financial condition will admit, so that the people generally may receive some return for the taxes they pay for this particular institution.

I believe the City Water Company will extend their mains, upon application being made by the City Council for more fire plugs, to such places in the city as they may desire.

The Ordinance as drawn is not in accordance with the requirements of the City Charter, and, though only a technical error, it would have to be re-enacted.

Very respectfully,  
(signed) J. C. De Gress  
Mayor.

March 8. P. S. Since writing the above Captain Mather, President of the City Water Company has sent me the annexed communication.

(signed) J. C. De Gress, Mayor.

Office of City Water Company  
Austin Texas March 8<sup>th</sup> 1879.

Hon. J. C. De Gress  
Mayor of the City of Austin,  
Texas.

Sir,  
On Feb'y 3<sup>rd</sup> 1879, after consulting with the members of your Fire Committee, I have duly drawn up a communication regarding the furnishing of pipe by the City to Summit with our chains, to establish Hydrants thereon and furnish water free of charge.

At the meeting of the directors of the water company, it has been decided that the company Summit under their contract with the City, make any arrangement which would give the City any control over the water company pipes or in any way permit the City its own or claim any part of the pipes operated by the water company; and that the water company cannot accept the pipe offered as a gift.

But the water company is ready to put down pipe at any time when the city requires hydrants for fire purposes, upon reasonable terms such as may be mutually agreed upon by the parties.

I am instructed by the board of directors of the water company, to request that my letter to the Fire Committee of February 3<sup>rd</sup> 1879 be withdrawn and not to be entertained further by the City as a proposition, because it is hereby withdrawn.

I have the honor to remain

Very respectfully,  
M. D. Mathe

President City Water Co.

On motion of Alderman Crocker the vote of the Mayor was unanimously sustained.

Petition of Mr. A. Van Patten for permission to retain his lumber yard at its present location in the fire limits, together with the report of the Board of Fire Commissioners recommending that the petition be granted.

Report adopted and petition ~~granted~~ approved first time two thirds of a full council voting

in the affirmative.

Petition of S. Saup, to retain his wood yard at its present location in the fire limits, together with report of the Board of Fire Commissioners recommending that the petition be granted provided the petition shows full evidence that all property owners within a block of his place of business wish the wood yard in question to remain there.

The Council refused to grant the petition, two thirds not voting in the affirmative.

Petition of Dubley and fellow to establish a lumber yard within the fire limits.

Referred to Board of Fire Commissioners.

Petition of Ed. Myller to establish a shooting gallery. Granted

Report of Board of Health making certain recommendations relative to the prevention of the introduction into the City of the Small Pox.

Referred to the Charity Committee with instructions to report at the next regular meeting.

Petition of A. Pabisa & Co. for license to retail liquors. Granted.

Petition of William Hillman and others, residents of the Seventh ward, for a stock fountain at the corner of Sabine and Cherry Streets, together with the following resolution:

Resolution authorizing the Street Committee to enter into a contract with the City Water Company to establish a stock fountain.

Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Austin, That the Street Committee be and they are hereby authorized to enter into a contract with the City Water Company to locate a stock fountain at the south-east corner of Sabine and Cherry Streets.

On motion of W. Roman Strong the resolution was adopted.

Proposition of S. Sadkey in relation to the construction of a sewer.

The consideration of the proposition was on motion postponed until the next regular meeting.

Resolution by Alderman Halle relative to the obstruction of Prager St. between Pine and Bois d'Arc streets by the congregating of carts, wagons and other vehicles. Resolution passed.

Alderman Halle moved that the City Attorney be instructed to draw up an ordinance embracing the objects of the resolution, and that the City Marshal shall be directed to select some suitable place for a stand for wagons, drays &c. Motion lost.

Communication from City Marshal in relation to City Pound.

Laid on the table.

His Honor the Mayor nominated as special Police in the following gentlemen, J. J. Brackelridge, R. J. Brackelridge, J. M. Thornton, G. H. Moody, B. H. Marshall, Geo. Callan, E. Miller, Fritz Richman, F. A. Mihelny, Dennis Sheehan, H. Dinkins, E. Bourmond, and M. H. Bissell.

Alderman Crow and Crocker were appointed tellers.

The ballot being taken, the Council refused to confirm any of the nominations except Messrs G. H. Moody, Geo. Callan and E. Bourmond who were confirmed.

On motion the Council adjourned.

Approved

April 7, 1879

L. M. Bradley  
City Clerk