

## MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

Recessed Meeting

February 5, 1952  
3:00 P.M.

Little Council Chamber, City Hall

The meeting was called to order with Mayor Drake presiding.

## Roll Call:

Present: Councilman Johnson, Long, MacCorkle, White, Mayor Drake  
Absent: None

Present also: W. E. Seaholm, City Manager; W. T. Williams, Jr., City Attorney; C. G. Levander, Director of Public Works, J. D. Huffman, Director of Finance, and R. D. Thorp, Chief of Police.

Discussion of the Budget was held. Councilman MacCorkle inquired about the appropriation to the Symphony Orchestra. There was estimated about \$3,000 for the children's concerts on the basis of 25¢ tickets. The City Manager pointed out some corrections on Page 103 of the Budget, which changed the total of Item 282B, Symphony, from \$6,850 to \$11,500, as there is to be supplemented \$4,650.00. This would then make the total of OTHER SERVICES, \$16,150, instead of \$11,500; and the TOTAL EXPENSE \$18,380, instead of \$13,730. These corrections were made. Councilman MacCorkle complimented the City Manager and stated this was a very good budget. He asked that information be furnished when certain things like parking meters, vehicles, and professional services were bought and obtained. The City Manager suggested adding this information in the digest furnished the Council each month. Councilman Long suggested submitting a list of the bids on each.

Councilman White asked about the five new automobiles to be included in the Budget, and asked if the cars now on hand couldn't be switched around and used more, rather than purchasing new cars. He mentioned if the car at the Abattoir couldn't be used. It was reported the City had 100 passenger cars and 78 pick-ups. This included 31 police cars, 5 fire and 2 for the Fire Prevention Department. Councilman White suggested raising the car allowance and letting the employees use their own cars. The City Manager stated when that was a part of the consideration of the job, there was difficulty in filling the jobs. The City Manager pointed out that a car would have to be pulled from some where to be used at the T. B. Sanatorium this year.

Brief discussion was held on the recreation department. Councilman MacCorkle did not think it was keeping step with what it did ten years ago. Councilman Long stated it had not increased in activity; it had been 5th in the Nation; it was now 56th.

Discussion on the purchase of garbage trucks was held. Larger trucks were to be purchased and shorter hauls to be made to sanitary fills. Radio equipment is being used more on the various trucks, particularly in the utility division. The City Manager did not think the incinerator would have to be enlarged for some time as there was lots of space for sanitary fills left. Councilman Long inquired about landscaping the incinerator, as it was promised sometime back.

On Councilman Johnson's request, the City Manager outlined the provisions being included in the budget for clothing for the fire and police.

Discussion was held on an easy payment plan for sewer connections for substandard houses. The City Manager stated this would be fine; but at this particular time the materials are very critical.

Councilman MacCorkle moved that the Budget for 1952 be adopted. The motion, seconded by Councilman Johnson, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmen Johnson, Long, MacCorkle, White, Mayor Drake  
Noes: None

Councilman MacCorkle moved that the City Manager furnish a report on the purchase of automobiles, parking meters, and on professional services. The motion seconded by Councilman Long, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmen Johnson, Long, MacCorkle, White, Mayor Drake  
Noes: None

Councilman Long moved that the City Manager be instructed to bring a recommendation providing minimum sanitary facilities for substandard houses under an assessment plan. The motion, seconded by Councilman White, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmen Johnson, Long, MacCorkle, White, Mayor Drake  
Noes: None

Councilman MacCorkle asked if the Budget were cut down 10%, what would be the result. The City Manager stated the services would be curtailed---fewer garbage pick-ups; fewer police and fire personnel, etc.

Discussion was held on the non-classified personnel. It was explained that all jobs that had been classified, the salary had been fixed by the passage of the Job Classification Ordinance; those not classified are still subject to Council action. Councilman MacCorkle was interested to know if salary changes would come before the Council. Councilman Long inquired about those who were not paid the amount set out in the Budget. It was explained that replacements might need extra training with the City before being fully capable to take over the job, and that salary would not be the top salary. Councilman MacCorkle favored raises in those top jobs, saying there was no substitute for good personnel.

Councilman MacCorkle inquired about transferring money from one fund to another. It was explained that the estimated amount to be transferred from the Water and Light Fund was reported to the Council; but each time thereafter that a transfer was made, the individual transfer was not again brought before the Council. Funds from other departments were not transferred.

Councilman White thought additional room should be found for the Fire Prevention Bureau. Plans were under way to find office space for them, either at the expanded South Austin Fire Station, or at the Service Building when the new store room was obtained, thus giving more office space at the Service Building. As to the Kitchen at the Main Fire Hall, the City Manager said bids were ready to be called for.

The matter of furnishing free utilities to certain charitable organizations was discussed; also the matter of a 1/2 rate for churches. The City Attorney stated the furnishing of free utilities was not legal. He stated there might be some rate established for churches, using electricity on off-peak hours. The City Manager felt a rate could be submitted to the Council, but also qualifications for the rate would have to be set up. Councilman Long asked if something like that could be worked out for the charitable organizations. The City Attorney stated he would have to see if something could be set up.

Councilman Long inquired about the dog pound, as to its cleanliness and operation. She had some complaints that the Warden was not available except five days a week, and that he would not pick up the dogs unless they were tied up. The City Manager explained the pay received; that he worked six days a week and was subject to call on the 7th; and that all patrolmen were subject to go out on dog calls. Councilman Long asked that this be checked on.

Councilman Long inquired about the Loan Desk Assistant at the Branch Library, stating according to a survey made last spring, it was found people were not using as many books as they had been, and they felt this service could be cut down. She said a girl that had been there five years was let out; yet the item still was carried in the Budget. The City Manager stated the Council could take it out, as he did not feel it would be needed. If it were left in, and the place not needed, it would not be filled; if the need for it should develop, the appropriations would be available.

Councilman MacCorkle moved that the following holidays be observed:

January 1st	- New Year's Day	September 1	- Labor Day
February 22	- Washington's Birthday	November 11	- Armistice
April 21st	- San Jacinto Day	November 27	- Thanksgiving
July 4	- Independence Day	December 25	- Christmas

The motion, seconded by Councilman Johnson, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmen Johnson, Long, MacCorkle, White, Mayor Drake

Noes: None

The Council received the following recommendation from the Park and Recreation Board regarding a recommendation on the request of Mr. Marion Fowler for a permit to enlarge his pier and dock out into Lake Austin.

"The Park and Recreation Board Meeting of January 10, 1952, passed a motion recommending to the City Council that permission not be granted to the petition from Mr. Marion Fowler to build out into Lake Austin.

"Members of the Board observed that this would be granting a special privilege of which would start a policy of allowing all individuals who own shoreline along Lake Austin to reclaim land which is under water, thus, narrowing the width of the Lake." (Dated January 29, 1952)

Councilman Long moved that the request of Mr. Fowler be denied and the recommendation of the Park Board be accepted. The motion, seconded by Councilman White, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmen Johnson, Long, MacCorkle, White, Mayor Drake

Noes: None

Councilman White offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

(RESOLUTION)

WHEREAS, On October 9, 1947, an electrical injury and ensuing fire occurred in 5000 kw Allis-Chalmers Turbine Generator, Serial No. (T) 1101 (g) 115220, belonging to the City of Austin and located in the Municipal Power Plant in Austin, Texas; and

WHEREAS, at such time the City of Austin had in force and effect policies of insurance with The Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company, Policy No. 195-2994 and with the Home Fire and Marine Insurance Company of California, Policy No. D-225891 UT, and such loss was adjusted with The Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company by the payment of the sum of \$15,439.30 in full payment and satisfaction of all claims arising out of such loss and the City of Austin executed to The Hartford SteamBoiler Inspection and Insurance Company a loan receipt under which it agreed to prosecute suit in behalf of The Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company against the Home Fire and Marine Insurance Company of California under its Policy No. D-225891 UT and in the event of any recovery against the Home Fire and Marine Insurance Company of California the City of Austin agreed to pay over to The Hartford SteamBoiler Inspection and Insurance Company the amount of such recovery; and

WHEREAS, heretofore suit has been filed by the City of Austin against the Home Fire and Marine Insurance Company of California in accordance with the provisions of such loan receipt, such suit being Civil Action No. 480 in the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, Austin Division, and an agreement of settlement and compromise has now been entered into under the terms of which Home Fire and Marine Insurance Company of California has agreed to pay to the City of Austin, Texas, and The Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company the sum Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) in full, final and complete settlement of all claims, demands and causes of action asserted in such Civil Action No. 480 hereinabove mentioned, and arising out of such Policy No. D-225891 UT hereinabove mentioned, and final releases, judgment and draft in payment of such settlement require execution and signature in the consummation of such settlement; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

That such agreement of settlement and compromise under the terms of which Home Fire and Marine Insurance Company of California has agreed to pay the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), together with all Court costs incurred in full payment, settlement and satisfaction of all claims asserted against it in such Civil Action No. 480 pending in the U. S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, Austin, Division, arising out of Home Fire and Marine Insurance Company of California Policy No. D-225891 UT, be and the same is hereby approved; and W. E. Seaholm, City Manager, and W. T. Williams, Jr., City Attorney be and they are hereby authorized and empowered to sign and execute in behalf of the City of Austin such releases and judgments necessary to the consummation of such settlement, and W. E. Seaholm, City Manager, be and he is hereby authorized on behalf of the City of Austin to endorse in favor of The Hartford SteamBoiler Inspection and Insurance Company all drafts issued in payment of such judgment and to deliver the proceeds thereof to the said The Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company.

The motion, seconded by Councilman Johnson, carried by the following vote:  
Ayes: Councilmen Johnson, Long, MacCorkle, White, Mayor Drake  
Noes: None

Councilman White noted that there were five wrecks on South Congress from Riverside Drive to St. Edwards University. The South Austin Civic Club had recommended asking that the speed limit be cut down to 30. The City Manager stated a study would be made of the type of accidents and how each could have been remedied.

The Council received the recommendation from the Zoning Board, dated February 5, 1952, concurring with the Council in the procedure of processing changes in the zoning classification of property, in transferring the authority to recommend zoning changes from the Board of Adjustment to the new Zoning Commission which has been created.

There being no further business, the Council adjourned subject to the call of the Mayor.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

*W. S. Drace, Jr.*  
Mayor

ATTEST:

*Elmer Woosley*  
City Clerk