

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL;

Austin, Texas, November 10, 1943

The City Council convened in Regular Session, at the regular meeting place in the Council Chamber at the Municipal Building, on Wednesday, November 10, 1943, at 10:40 A. M., Thursday being a legal holiday, with Mayor Tom Miller presiding. Roll call showed the following members present: Councilmen Alford, Bartholomew, Gillis, and Mayor Miller; absent, Councilman Wolf.

There were present also: J. M. Patterson, Jr., Acting City Attorney, and Roy J. Smith, Head of the Traffic Bureau; absent, Walter E. Seaholm, Acting City Manager; and J. E. Motheral, City Engineer; and R. D. Thorp, Chief of Police.

The reading of the minutes was dispensed with.

Raymond Canion appeared to find out what the decision of the City Council was in regard to the turning on of the Christmas lights for the holiday season, stating that the School Board had given its approval to same. Action on the matter was again deferred to further ascertain the sentiment of the public regarding same.

J. G. Vasquez, Manager of the Lightsey Cab Company, and Jesse Bartlett, Attorney, appeared in behalf of Lloyd Gerald Davis, the revocation of whose taxicab driver's permit was under consideration. After some discussion, it was moved by Councilman Alford that, upon the recommendation of the Lightsey Cab Company that the taxicab driver's permit of the said Lloyd Gerald Davis be not revoked as he was needed in the operation of their business and they would be responsible for him, the said Lloyd Gerald Davis be granted a 90-day probationary taxicab driver's permit, with the provision that if at the expiration of that period his record is satisfactory the permit will be made permanent, subject, of course, to revocation for future cause. The motion carried by the following vote: "Ayes," Councilmen Alford, Bartholomew, Gillis, and Mayor Miller; "Nays," none; Councilman Wolf absent.

The public hearing on the question of the metering of taxicabs as a means of preventing overcharges to patrons, called for this day, was opened, there being approximately forty taxicab owners and operators present.

The Mayor then announced that those favoring the meters would be heard first, and the following then appeared and were heard:

W. D. HART, who urged that the meters be installed, declaring that same could be purchased for two hundred dollars, with a down payment of twenty dollars and the balance in installments.

PATTONS, who favored the installation of the meters as the only fair way to measure cab fare.

LIGHTSEY CAB COMPANY, who favored the installation of the meters, but qualified its approval with the statement that, on account of abnormal conditions due to the war, it would be difficult to keep the meters in repair at this time, and therefore their successful operation was questionable.

Those opposing the installation of the meters were then heard as follows:

JESSE BARTLETT, as spokesman for a number of owners and operators present, opposed the installation of the meters on the grounds that their maintenance and repair at this time would be impossible owing to the shortage of material and manpower, and that due to the regulation of the Office of Defense Transportation requiring the taking on of passengers at more than one stop, it would be difficult to determine an equitable charge per passenger.

HORACE SHELTON, representing certain independent taxicab owners, opposed the meters on the grounds that their purchase at this time would be too great a financial burden, in view of present difficulties in obtaining tires, gasoline, and repairs, and that there was no assurance either that the meters could be repaired promptly; and proposed in lieu thereof that zones be created, with a maximum charge for different zones.

Following the lengthy discussion, it was the sense of the Council that the meters be not installed at this time, it not having been shown that same would remedy the situation; and it was further the sense of the Council that all taxicab operators and owners be required to file a schedule of their rates with the City, and that the provision of the Taxicab Ordinance requiring that such rates be displayed in the taxicab be rigidly enforced.

The Acting City Attorney was instructed to run a legal advertisement in the newspaper, for the length of time he deems necessary, stating that all violations of overcharges by taxicabs will be prosecuted if reported to the Chief of Police.

There being no further business, upon motion seconded and carried, the meeting was recessed at 12:10 P. M., subject to call of the Mayor.

APPROVED : Tom Miller
MAYOR

ATTEST:

Edell M. Keenan
CITY CLERK

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL:

Austin, Texas, November 18, 1943

The City Council convened in Regular Session, at the regular meeting place in the Council Chamber at the Municipal Building, on Thursday, November 18, 1943, at 10:45 A. M., with Mayor Tom Miller presiding. Roll call showed the following members present: Councilmen Alford, Bartholomew, Gillis, and Mayor Miller; absent, Councilman Wolf.

There were present also: Walter E. Seaholm, Acting City Manager; J. E. Motheral, City Engineer; and J. M. Patterson, Jr., Acting City Attorney.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 4, 1943, were read, and upon motion of Councilman Alford, were adopted as read by the following vote: "Ayes," Councilmen Alford, Bartholomew, Gillis, and Mayor Miller; "Nays," none; Councilman Wolf absent.

Committees from the Optimist Club, with W. W. Shropshire as spokesman; the School Board and the children of the City represented by Mrs. A. P. Robinson; Joe Dacy and Raymond Canon, individually, were heard favorably on the question of Christmas lights for the holidays, declaring that same would contribute greatly to the morale of the visiting soldiers and of the children of the City.

Following the discussion, it was the sense of the Council that the Acting City Manager be instructed to have the Christmas lights turned on on the Saturday preceding Christmas Day and left on through