

FEBRUARY 20, 1946

MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO,
SITTING AS A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, HELD AT 10:00 O'CLOCK,
A.M., ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY THE TWENTIETH, A.D., 1946.

PRESENT: Mauermann, Hein, Steffler and Anderson; absent: Callaghan; Mayor Mauermann presiding.

The Mayor and Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole, at the call of the Mayor, in the office of the Commissioner of Streets, at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., on Wednesday, February 20th, 1946, and considered and acted upon the following:

Mayor Mauermann explained the meeting was called to discuss proposals for a bond issue election for sewer improvements and other vitally needed work, and called on Mr. Hans Helland, engineer, a guest at the meeting, for a statement.

Mr. Helland said he had made a survey some time ago for the Planning Board and at that time estimated \$3,000,000 was needed to make needed improvements to the sewer system and the sewage disposal plant. He said there had been a great development of the City since that survey was made, with a correspondingly great increase in improvements needed. He said no matter how great the amount of money raised by the bond issue, the City could use to advantage a great deal more to meet the urgent needs. He said the State Department of Health has been after San Antonio for a long time to improve the sewage plant, which he said was handling from 32,000,000 to 35,000,000 gallons a day, although it was designed for a capacity of 25,000,000 gallons a day. He said the minimum estimate he made of the needs for the sewage plant and the sewer system, as of the latter part of 1944, called for an expenditure of \$3,084,000 to meet immediate needs, and an additional \$400,000 for work classed as "future extensions". These "future extensions", he said, have since become immediate needs. He said sewer mains running through the downtown business district need immediate repair, as do the lines serving the North Side, Alamo Heights, West Side, Harlandale area, East Side, Lady of the Lake area, Highland Park, Austin Highway area, and Fort Sam Houston, adding that many of the mains are too small to handle the flow and must be replaced.

In the "dire necessity" category, Mr. Helland listed \$1,000,000 for improving the sewage disposal plant, as the first need, and at least \$2,000,000 for needs of the sanitary sewer system.

Commissioner Steffler stressed that while the City has undergone great growth during that period, the sewer system is the same as it was 30 years ago, stating: "San Antonio has simply grown too fast for its sewer system." He said he had a report from the Terrell Bartlett Engineers estimated \$2,500,000 was needed immediately just to "start" the necessary sewer work.

Mayor Mauermann emphasized that the bond issue was to be held down to the absolute essentials. He said the bonds to be voted at this proposed election could cover only the "must" items in the City's needs, including relief for San Pedro Creek and sewer needs in connection with the Inter-Regional Highway.

Commissioner Anderson asked that the election also include propositions of \$85,000 for a traffic signal system, \$300,000 for fire alarm equipment, \$75,000 for a fire alarm building, and \$25,000 for a police repair shop, some of which might be combined. He said the fire alarm system would have to be rebuilt entirely, stating that it operates only at 30% efficiency. He said a new fire alarm system would save the citizens \$80,000 yearly in penalties now paid on fire insurance rates due to the low rating of the present system.

Commissioner Steffler asked that an item of \$25,000 for street markers in the annexed areas, where there are no markers at present, be included. The Commissioners present agreed to contribute from their budgets to meet the costs of this election.

The Mayor explained that it would be April 1, under the law, before poll lists for the election could be obtained from the County Tax Collector.

In reply to a question from Commissioner Hein, the Clerk stated that Commissioner Callaghan's secretary had reported Commissioner Callaghan telephoned that he was unable to attend this meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

Mayor Mauermann and Commissioners Hein, Steffler and Anderson gave unanimous approval to the calling of the bond issue election, setting the date tentatively for Tuesday, April 9, 1946, for a total of \$4,510,000, tentatively divided into the following propositions:

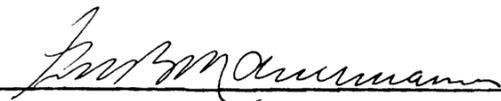
For improvements to sewage disposal plant and sanitary sewers:	\$3,000,000.00
For storm sewer improvements:	1,000,000.00
For fire alarm building and equipment:	375,000.00
For traffic signal system and police repair shop:	110,000.00
For street markers:	<u>25,000.00</u>
Total:	\$4,510,000.00

The Mayor and Commissioners present also went on record as favoring that a meter be installed as soon as possible to measure the flow of Alamo Heights sewage into the City sewer system. The City Engineer was directed to obtain data on the availability and cost of such a meter.

The petition of Ben F. Foster to purchase land in Olmos Basin above the 728-foot contour line was referred to the Commissioner of Taxation for an appraisal of the land in question.

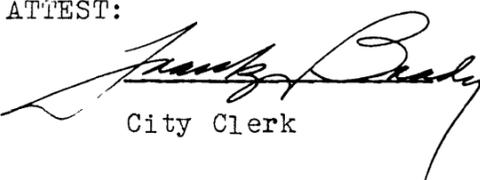
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:



M A Y O R

ATTEST:


City Clerk

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