

July 31, 1954

RECESSED MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF THE CITY HALL
ON SATURDAY, JULY 31, 1954 AT 8:30 A.M.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 A.M. by Mayor Pro-tem Lester, the roll call showed the following present: SCHERLEN, STEVENS, A. C. WHITE, RUSSELL, R. N. WHITE, LESTER, GONZALEZ; Absent, SHEARER, EASLEY.

Mr. Jack Lewis, Chairman of the Board of Robert B. Green Hospital, asked to be heard in regard to the budget request of the Robert B. Green Hospital. He stated that after his earlier talk with the council he had called in a committee of Attorney's from the Bar Association to consider the ruling made by the City Attorney with regard to the statute under which the City could contribute more funds to the hospital in excess of those raised by the 10¢ tax now in operation and to be continued.

He stated that this committee was, to some extent, in disagreement with the City Attorney and after introducing Mr. Stanley Banks, Sr., Mr. Arley Knight, Mr. Ralph Langley, Mr. Leslie Bird and Mr. W. W. Fowlkes, he asked one of them to act as spokesman to give their oral opinion.

Mr. Arley Knight responded and stated that he agreed with Mr. Brite in his opinion which follows a ruling of the Attorney General made in 1949 but it is his belief that since the City owes no bonded debt on the hospital that the restriction or limitation of funds does not exist. He suggested that in view of later facts that the Attorney General be asked for a revised opinion since Houston & Dallas are operating under this law and spending more than 10¢. Mr. Brite, the City Attorney, stated that he will stand by his earlier opinion and that while Dallas may be intending to operate under the law they are certainly not doing it and may be getting by because no challenge has been made.

Mr. Knight was questioned by Mayor White and Mayor Pro-tem Lester.

Mr. Lewis then returned and read telegrams from Dallas and Houston Hospital Boards.

Mr. Gonzalez informed Mr. Lewis that the council has agreed to include in the budget, in addition to the 10¢ provided by law, an additional 12.64¢ which will be available for use when adjustments are made to comply with one of the laws which will permit it. The matter was then dropped and the councilmen went into the matter of checking the proposed budget. Mr. Gonzalez opened with a discussion of the question of what the total assessments will be and what are the other anticipated revenues. Mr. Aldridge explained the legal necessity for including the auto tax in the assessment total but explained that the banks will not consider the auto roll in lending money. Mr. Gonzalez wants to be sure we can stay within a 1.98^{over all} tax rate.

He was told that there has been some 50,000 building permits issued this year and until new buildings are appraised, put on the rolls and until the Board of Equalization has completed its work, no one can say definitely what the assessments will be.

Mr. Gonzalez asked about the item of \$12,500. being in the budget for an audit this year against \$22,500. last year. Mr. Aldridge stated a detailed audit would not be necessary and was not called for.

Mr. Scherlen insisted that it was time to vote on the proposed budget. Mr. Gonzalez objected and the council recessed for five minutes to cool off.

After this short recess, the Mayor Pro-tem announced the council would go to the City Managers office for an executive session to figure out how the budget stands and would come back to the chamber and announce a decision.

The question arose as to whether or not the budget document was in legal form. This lead to lengthy discussion but it was decided that all required facts are stated in the document. Mr. Gonzalez stated he would go along with the budget provided it does not entail a tax rate of over \$1.98.

Mr. Dick White replied that this is an estimate at best and contingencies could arise requiring a higher rate. Mr. White announced that the following cuts had been made from the proposed budget:- Page 8, Mayor and Council \$2500.00; Page 13, City Manager's Office to \$26,110 (\$900.00); Page 60 - \$200. for fountain; Page 79, \$300. for air conditioner; Page 81, \$90.00 on salary; Page 93, \$500. salary; Page 158, Contractual services cut to \$21,970; Page 99, Cut out Public Utility Supervisor \$6000.; Page 166, Radio Towers \$1100.; Page 207, \$1000.00 Air conditioner; Telephone services cut \$2096.40; Special Projects #1, Aviation, OK, Corporation Court, out; Library, out; Fire Department \$20,000.00, ok; Police Department #6, OK, Public Works #2 - 3 OK; Nos. 4 - 7 - 9 - 12 - OK; #14 cut to \$100,000. #15 cut to \$1700.00; #16 OK; #19 OK; #20 cut to \$3500.00;

Parks and Recreation:- #1 OK, #3 OK, #4 OK, #5 OK, #6 OK, #8 OK, #12 1000.;
Stinson Homes \$40,000.00
Total \$333,500.00

The council then recessed until 2:30 p.m. this date.

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Recessed meeting at 2:30 p.m. July 31, 1954 - the following members being present: SCHERLEN, STEVENS, SHEARER, RUSSELL, LESTER, GONZALEZ; Absent, A. C. WHITE, R. N. WHITE, EASLEY.

The members proceeded to the discussion of the final approval of the budget and all seemed of the opinion that the time had arrived for final OK of the document. Mr. Russell moved that enough money be taken from the proposed advertising fund rate and budget to provide funds for the changes and additions made in the document to reduce the total so that the rate would not exceed \$1.97 and that the appropriation be drawn by the City Attorney to cover these items as outlined. He further moved that the City Manager in six months notify the council what the total of expenditures and anticipated income taken is and whether the \$1.97 rate is still sufficient to finance the city for the year and immediately after the total assessment is found he advise the council as to any surplus or savings so that special projects may be undertaken if funds are in sight. The motion carried and the City Attorney proceeded to draft the required ordinance and resolution.

The Council then returned to the Council Chamber and sat at ease until the papers were ready, after which the Mayor Pro-tem called the meeting to order and the roll was again called as follows: Present, SCHERLEN, STEVENS, SHEARER, RUSSELL, LESTER, GONZALEZ; Absent, A. C. WHITE, R. N. WHITE, EASLEY.

The following ordinance was introduced by the Mayor and was passed and approved by the following vote: Ayes, Scherlen, Stevens, Shearer, Russell, Lester, Gonzalez; Nays, none; Absent, A. C. White, R. N. White, Easley.

AN ORDINANCE 20,427

ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE CITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1954-55 ESTIMATING THE REVENUES FOR SAID FISCAL YEAR, AND APPROPRIATING AND SETTING ASIDE THE NECESSARY FUNDS OUT OF THE GENERAL AND OTHER REVENUES OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO FOR SAID FISCAL YEAR FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS AND FOR THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS OF THE CITY

(Full text in Ordinance Book AA page 180)

July 31, 1954

The following resolution was then introduced by the Mayor Pro-tem and passed and approved by the following vote: Ayes, Scherlen, Stevens, Shearer, Russell, Lester, Gonzalez; Nays, none; Absent, A. C. White, R. N. White, Easley.

A RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING AN INTENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO CONDUCT THE FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1954-1955 SO THAT THE SAME MAY BE FINANCED ON A TAX LEVY NOT TO EXCEED \$1.97 PER ONE HUNDRED DOLLAR (\$100.00) VALUATION

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:

1. That in adopting the budget and appropriation ordinance for the fiscal year 1954-1955, the City Council has based its calculations upon the estimated assessed valuations as shown in the budget document, and it is the desire and intent of the City Council that the financial affairs of the City of San Antonio be conducted through the fiscal year 1954-1955 so as the same may be financed by a tax levy not to exceed \$1.97 per One Hundred Dollar (\$100.00) valuation.

2. It is the further desire and wish of the City Council, and the City Manager is hereby instructed to report to the City Council at the expiration of the first six (6) months of the fiscal year 1954-1955 and bring the Council up to date upon total expenditures and advise the Council as to whether or not at that time the recommended tax rate of \$1.97 per One Hundred Dollar (\$100.00) valuation is still sufficient to finance the City for the fiscal year 1954-1955.

3. Immediately after the total assessed valuation for the City of San Antonio is determined for the fiscal year 1954-1955, the City Manager shall thereafter advise the Council, prior to the 15th of each month, as to any surplus or savings made in any of the departments of the City and shall advise the Council as to what special projects may be undertaken, and the Council shall instruct the City Manager as to which projects shall have first priority.

4. PASSED AND APPROVED this 31st day of July A. D. 1954.

R. L. Lester
/s/ R. L. Lester
Mayor Pro-tem

ATTEST:

/s/ J. Frank Gallagher
City Clerk

The following ordinance was introduced and approved by the following vote: Ayes, SCHERLEN, STEVENS, SHEARER, RUSSELL, LESTER, GONZALEZ: Nays, none; Absent, A. C. WHITE, R. N. WHITE, EASLEY.

AN ORDINANCE 20,428

AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO MAKE AN IMMEDIATE PURCHASE WITHOUT BIDS OF CERTAIN ACCOUNTING MACHINES AND CASH REGISTERS TO BE USED IN THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT AT A TOTAL PRICE OF \$28,394.40

(Full text in Ordinance Book AA page 181)

The meeting then adjourned.

APPROVED:

R. L. Lester

MAYOR

ATTEST:

J. Frank Gallagher
City Clerk

ADDENDUM

The Clerk read a letter from the Director of Personnel regarding the request of the Council to lower the height limit for applicants for police appointments.

He also read a letter from Mrs. J. E. Marshall, President of the YWCA regarding sale of seats for the annual Fiesta Parades. The Council decided to discuss it with the Fiesta Association.

Letters were read from Ernest A. Raba and Adrian A. Spears asking for a junior swimming pool in Northridge Park.