

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF THE
CITY HALL ON THURSDAY, MAY 15, 1952
AT 10:00 A.M.

PRESENT:

WHITE, LOZANO, SCHMIDT, KELLER, TUCKER, ROPER, CASSIDY, GREEMAN, STEVES

Mayor Steves presiding.

Invocation by Alvin E. Schmidt.

On motion of Mr. Keller seconded by Mr. Lozano the reading of minutes of the previous meeting was dispensed with.

The following ordinances and resolutions were presented and were passed and approved by unanimous vote.

APPRO. NO. 1796

AN ORDINANCE 17,595

APPROPRIATING \$12,500.00 OUT OF STATE OR STATE-AID HIGHWAYS BONDS, A-49 FUND TO ALAMO TITLE COMPANY IN PAYMENT FOR LAND TO BE CONVEYED BY J. J. DE WITT ET UX, TO THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR URBAN EXPRESSWAY (INTERREGIONAL HIGHWAY)

(Full text in Ordinance Book X. page 551)

APPRO. NO. 1797

AN ORDINANCE 17,596

APPROPRIATING \$78.05 OUT OF THE SPECIAL STREET PAVING FUND TO REFUND INDIVIDUALS LISTED HEREIN DUE TO THE CITY'S INABILITY TO COMPLY WITH AGREEMENT TO PAVE ALLEY ABUTTING VARIOUS LOTS IN NEW CITY BLOCK 9185

(Full text in Ordinance Book X. page 551)

APPRO. NO. 1798

AN ORDINANCE 17,597

APPROPRIATING \$2729.40 OUT OF THE STATE OR STATE-AID HIGHWAY BONDS A-49 FUND, TO COMMERCIAL ABSTRACT & TITLE CO., IN PAYMENT FOR LAND TO BE CONVEYED BY ZELDA K. BURRUS AND HUSBAND, HARRY J. BURRUS, TO THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO, FOR URBAN EXPRESSWAY (INTERREGIONAL HIGHWAY)

(Full text in Ordinance Book X. page 551)

APPRO. NO. 1799

AN ORDINANCE 17,598

APPROPRIATING \$1500.00 OUT OF THE STATE OR STATE-AID HIGHWAY BONDS A-49 FUND, TO GUARDIAN ABSTRACT & TITLE CO., IN PAYMENT FOR LAND TO BE CONVEYED BY JOHN A. BERTETTI, OWNING, OCCUPYING AND CLAIMING OTHER PROPERTY AS HIS HOMESTEAD, TO THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO, FOR URBAN EXPRESSWAY (INTERREGIONAL HIGHWAY) PURPOSES

(Full text in Ordinance Book X. page 552)

APPRO. NO. 1800

AN ORDINANCE 17,599

APPROPRIATING \$614.00 OUT OF THE IMPOUNDED CAR FUND TO PAY U. K. GARAGE TOWING AND STORAGE CHARGES ON MOTOR VEHICLES FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 16TH, 1952 TO APRIL 19TH, 1952

(Full text in Ordinance Book X. page 552)

May 15, 1952

APPRO. NO. 1801

✓ AN ORDINANCE 17,600

APPROPRIATING 168.03 OUT OF THE SANITARY SEWER
PLANT & SYSTEM A-47 FUND TO PAY VARIOUS MERCHANTS
FOR SUPPLIES AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

(Full text in Ordinance Book X. page 552)

APPRO. NO. 1802

✓ AN ORDINANCE 17,601

APPROPRIATING \$1.00 OUT OF THE IMP. DISTRICT
FOR OPENING AND WIDENING OF SOUTH ALAMO BETWEEN
PROBANDT AND SOUTH LAREDO FUND TO PAY GUARDIAN
ABSTRACT & TITLE COMPANY FOR RECORDING DEED

(Full text in Ordinance Book X. page 553)

APPRO. NO. 1803

✓ AN ORDINANCE 17,602

APPROPRIATING \$118.00 OUT OF THE COMMERCE BUILDING
FUND TO PAY OTIS ELEVATOR COMPANY FOR MAINTENANCE
AND SERVICE OF TWO ELEVATORS FOR THE MONTH OF
APRIL, 1952

(Full text in Ordinance Book X. page 553)

APPRO. NO. 1804

✓ AN ORDINANCE 17,603

APPROPRIATING \$0.75 OUT OF THE STATE OR STATE-
AID HIGHWAYS BONDS A-49 FUND TO PAY ALAMO ABSTRACT
& TITLE GUARANTY COMPANY FOR RECORDING DEED ON
PROPERTY PURCHASED BY THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

(Full text in Ordinance Book X. page 553)

APPRO. NO. 1805

✓ AN ORDINANCE 17,604

APPROPRIATING \$5,000.00 OUT OF THE SPECIAL
CONSTRUCTION FUND TO PAY CAMPBELL STEEL CO.
FOR STRUCTURAL STEEL AND MISCELLANEOUS IRON FOR
REPAIR OF HANGAR NO. 2 AT MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

(Full text in Ordinance Book X. page 553)

APPRO. NO. 1806

AN ORDINANCE 17,605

APPROPRIATING \$3,248.02 OUT OF THE TRENCH
MAINTENANCE FUND TO PAY VARIOUS MERCHANTS
FOR MISCELLANEOUS SUPPLIES

(Full text in Ordinance Book X. page 554)

APPRO. NO. 1807

AN ORDINANCE 17,606

APPROPRIATING \$61.29 OUT OF THE PARK REVENUE
BOND-1945 FUND TO PAY VARIOUS MERCHANTS FOR
MISCELLANEOUS SUPPLIES

(Full text in Ordinance Book X. page 554)

APPRO. NO. 1808

AN ORDINANCE 17,607

APPROPRIATING \$25.00 OUT OF THE CITY OF SAN
ANTONIO "STREET EXCAVATION TRUST FUND" FOR
REFUND TO EUGENE T. TEAGUE

(Full text in Ordinance Book X. page 554)

AN ORDINANCE 17,608

AUTHORIZING QUINCY LEE TO CONSTRUCT SANITARY SEWER MAIN TO CONNECT INTO THE SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

(Full text in Ordinance Book X. page 555)

Acting

A letter from the City Manager was read recommending that the following ordinance be passed and the recommendation was approved by the Council.

AN ORDINANCE 17,609

ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL OF THE MILAM CHEVROLET COMPANY AND CREATING A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO STANDARD 2 DOOR SEDANS AT A TOTAL NET COST OF \$2159.96

(Full text in Ordinance Book X. page 555)

Acting

A letter from the City Manager was read recommending that the following ordinance be passed and the recommendation was approved by the Council.

AN ORDINANCE 17,610

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH LOUIS W. LIPSCOMB PERTAINING TO ACQUISITION OF RIGHT OF WAY STEPHENSON ROAD

(Full text in Ordinance Book X. page 556)

Acting

A letter from the City Manager was read recommending that the following ordinance be passed and the recommendation was approved by the Council.

AN ORDINANCE 17,611

ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL OF JACOBSON CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR PURCHASE OF SURPLUS WATER TOWER; AND MAKING A BILL OF SALE THEREFOR

(Full text in Ordinance Book X. page 557)

Acting

A letter from the City Manager was read recommending that the following ordinance be passed and the recommendation was approved by the Council.

AN ORDINANCE 17,612

TRANSFERRING \$6216.00 FROM THE SALARY ADJUSTMENT RESERVE, ACCOUNT 89-05 TO STINSON HOMES, ACCOUNT 09-12

(Full text in Ordinance Book X. page 557)

Acting

A letter from the City Manager was read recommending that the following ordinance be passed and the recommendation was approved by the Council.

AN ORDINANCE 17,613

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH DAVE MCENERY, FOR USE OF WOODLAWN GYMNASIUM ON SATURDAY NIGHTS FROM JUNE 14, 1952 THROUGH OCTOBER 25, 1952

(Full text in Ordinance Book X. page 557)

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The following ordinance was passed on recommendation of the City Manager and the Council.

AN ORDINANCE 17,614

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A MONTHLY CONTRACT WITH HUNTER HAYS CO. FOR THE SERVICING OF CITY HALL ELEVATOR

(Full text in Ordinance Book X. page 558)

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Acting

A letter from the City Manager was read recommending that the following ordinance be passed and the recommendation was approved by the Council.

AN ORDINANCE 17,615

AMENDING ORDINANCE PASSED THE 17TH DAY OF APRIL ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE ABOLISHING ONE POSITION OF CLERK-TYPIST AT A SALARY OF \$2400.00 PER ANNUM ON THE CITY ATTORNEY'S STAFF AND CREATING TWO PART-TIME POSITIONS OF CLERK IN ADDITION TO THE PRESENT CITY ATTORNEY'S STAFF AND ESTABLISHING SALARIES FOR SAID POSITIONS" BY AMENDING PARAGRAPHS 2 AND 3

(Full text in Ordinance Book X. page 559)

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Acting

A letter from the City Manager was read recommending that the following ordinance be passed and the recommendation was approved by the Council.

AN ORDINANCE 17,616

AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO ENDORSE AND TRANSFER A CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2000. TO THE SAN ANTONIO ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

(Full text in Ordinance Book X. page 560)

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Acting

A letter from the City Manager was read recommending that the following ordinance be passed and the recommendation was approved by the Council.

AN ORDINANCE 17,617

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT OF CITY OWNED PROPERTY FOR ONE MONTH AND FROM MONTH TO MONTH WITH CHARLES CID AT A RENTAL OF \$75.00 PER MONTH

(Full text in Ordinance Book X. page 560)

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A letter from the City Manager was read recommending that the following ordinance be passed and the recommendation was approved by the Council.

AN ORDINANCE 17,618

TRANSFERRING \$23,000 FROM THE SALARY ADJUSTMENT RESERVE, ACCOUNT 80-05, TO THE TAX RESURVEY ACCOUNT 61-00

(Full text in Ordinance Book X. page 561)

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Acting

A letter from the City Manager was read recommending that the following resolution be passed and the recommendation was approved by the Council.

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO BIND THE CITY BY AN AGREED JUDGMENT FOR DELINQUENT PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES AGAINST ROY DUANE

Acting

A letter from the City Manager was read recommending that the following resolution be passed and the recommendation was approved by the Council.

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO BIND THE CITY BY AN AGREED JUDGMENT FOR DELINQUENT PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES AGAINST FRISCO GROCERY

Acting

A letter from the City Manager was read recommending that the following resolution be passed and the recommendation was approved by the Council.

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO BIND THE CITY BY AN AGREED JUDGMENT FOR DELINQUENT PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES AGAINST TAFT BLVD. GROCERY

Acting

A letter from the City Manager was read recommending that the Director of Finance transfer \$950.00 from Salary Adjustments Account No. 80-05 to Parks & Recreation, Account No. 11-06 and the recommendation was approved by the Council.

Acting

A letter from the City Manager was read recommending that the following ordinance be passed and the recommendation was approved by the Council.

AN ORDINANCE 17,619

TRANSFERRING \$5,000.00 FROM THE SALARY ADJUSTMENT RESERVE, ACCOUNT 80-05, TO THE CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT, ACCOUNT 13-00

(Full text in Ordinance Book X. page 561)

Acting

A letter from the City Manager was read recommending that the petition of Mr. Donald Morrison in behalf of the Seven-Up Bottling Co., 320 Culebra Rd., requesting permission to install one 5,000 gallon gasoline storage tank be approved and the recommendation was approved by the Council.

A letter from the Acting City Manager was read with regard to petition filed by Mrs. W. C. Griffith, Secretary of the Marin B. Fenwick P.T.A., requesting additional policemen at school crossings. It was explained that the Police Department is requesting, in its next fiscal year's budget, sufficient funds to hire approximately 100 civilian school crossing guards.

A letter from the Acting City Manager was read with regard to petition filed by Mr. Upton Hodge requesting the improvement of a lane in the Donaldson Ave area. It stated that this lane will be cleared and graded at an early date.

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A letter from the Acting City Manager was read recommending the transfer of \$1,000 from Salary Adjustments Reserve, Account No. 80-05, to the Planning Office, Account No. 13-00, and the recommendation was approved by the Council.

A letter from the Acting City Manager was read with regard to petition filed by Mr. Alex K. Munson requesting repairs to streets bounding the campus of San Antonio College.

A letter from the Acting City Manager was read giving a report on the various concessions at Parks, Auditoriums and River Boats.

When the letter from the Acting City Manager relating to the abrogation of the City contract with Public Administration Service as follows:

Honorable Mayor and Members of the Council
City of San Antonio, Texas

Gentlemen:

There is being submitted to Council at this time a resolution calling for the cancellation of the resurvey contract between the City of San Antonio and Public Administration Service effective June 1, 1952.

The Council will recall that the City Manager recommended such action last week. Council will also recall that on Wednesday, May 14, the City Attorney, in conjunction with the Director of Finance and the Assessor-Collector of Taxes, fully developed the case for cancellation.

Accordingly, a resolution cancelling the City's contract with Public Administration Service is presented for Council's approval.

Yours very truly,

J. L. Dickson
Acting City Manager

was read the following resolution was then read:

A RESOLUTION

TERMINATING AND CANCELLING AS OF JUNE 1, 1952, THE AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO BY THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO AND THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION SERVICE ON JUNE 14, 1951, MORE FULLY SET OUT IN MINUTE BOOK Y, PAGE 355 OF THE RECORDS OF THE CITY CLERK

The Mayor then asked if anyone had any remarks to make.

Mr. Charles James, the local representative of the Public Administration Service, asked to be heard and he made the following statement: (See copy of statement at close of minutes on page 276)

He was then questioned by Councilman White after which Mr. Tucker made a motion that immediate action on the resolution be postponed one week and the Mayor appoint a committee consisting of the members of the Board of Equalization, three members of the Council and if desired a few representatives of Title Companies and Building and Loan Companies to investigate the matter further and report back next Wednesday morning at the pre-council meeting. The motion was carried. Action on the resolution was postponed and the Mayor agreed to appoint the committee.

The following petitions were read and were referred to Mr. Harrell, City Manager, for his recommendation:

- The petition of Eloise Japhet PTA asking for school crossing guards.
- The petition of Cecil R. Pyle for refund of \$15.00 fee on zoning petition.
- The petition of Lamar School PTA for traffic guard at school crossing.
- The petition of Most Rev. Robert E. Lucey for exemption from city taxes at NCB 8226.
- The petition of Bethel Baptist Church for exemption from city taxes at NCB 9457.
- The petition of residents in the vicinity against closing of part of W. Locust Street.
- The petition of Ben May, et al, for street paving of 900 block of Aransas Avenue.
- A letter from the San Antonio Safety Council regarding the third Corporation Court.

Mr. Adrian Spears representing the Fidelity Defense Housing Company asked that the Council at this time take up the matter of release of Bond given by them and Western Surety Co. on the Camp Cushing Contract which had been intended for consideration today but which had been postponed because no reports had been made as to the wiring and plumbing parts of the contract.

When informed that these two matters had passed inspection, the Council voted unanimously to pass the ordinance which follows:

AN ORDINANCE 17,620

RELEASING THE WESTERN SURETY COMPANY AND FIDELITY DEFENSE HOUSING CO., INC. FROM LIABILITY UNDER TERMS OF BOND COVERING PURCHASE AND REHABILITATION OF CAMP CUSHING

(Full text in Ordinance Book X. page 562)

Mr. Eddie Weimer, representative of the San Antonio Building Trades Council, then addressed the council to thank them and congratulate them on the stand they had taken on proposed release of over age employees.

Mr. Kristjan Bredvad addressed the council at length on the matter of protection of children at school crossings and generally on safety measures.

He invited all members of the council to attend a safety meeting at the Probate Courtroom at 10:00 A.M., May 21st.

Mrs. B. H. Fassmore, President of the League of Women Voters, addressed the council and congratulated them on their start at Manager form of Government and offered full cooperation.

Mayor Steves then introduced Mr. Phillip S. Donnell, the new Supervisor of Utilities.

Mayor Steves introduced the following resolution naming members of an advisory committee on capital improvements and current revenue.

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A RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND
CURRENT REVENUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND
APPOINTING MEMBERS THERETO

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

1. THAT there is hereby established an advisory committee to be known as "Capital Improvements and Current Revenues Advisory Committee".

2. THAT the following named persons are hereby appointed to serve on such committee at the pleasure of the City Council:

C. Stanley Banks	Fred E. Pflughaupt
Reagan Houston, III	Datus Proper
J. W. Beretta	E. C. Sullivan
Ernest Groos	P. Cedric Wenger
Paul Adams	Ferd Wirth
Edward H. Austin	William B. Arnold
Henry H. Bryant	David Jacobson
Ray S. Erlandson	Rev. S. H. James
Nat Goldsmith	M. A. Nowotny
Hugh Hallif	R. A. Neuman
Harold Herndon	W. H. Finson
Harry Jersig	John Esquivel
Dr. John L. McMahon	Mrs. B. H. Passmore
Harold C. Gosnell	Mrs. C. C. Redding
J. R. Locke	Dr. C. A. Whittier
Theo F. Weiss	Archie Reeves
J. O. McCaskill	Joe Olivares
Forrest Smith	Policarpio Barrera
C. C. Krueger	Arthur A. Wiede
Arthur Michael	F. E. Swales
C. W. Miller	Lloyd A. McCall
Lewis J. Moorman	

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Statement which was made by Mr. Charles James:

Gentlemen:

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you, especially since I knew of yesterday's meeting only by means of newspaper reports and I note in the letter from the Acting City Manager that the City Attorney and others fully developed the case for cancellation of our contract at that time.

I am not here today to plead the case of PAS, nor to attempt to undo that which is done or about to be done. Since, however, we have had nearly a year of intimate association with the City, I consider it necessary to explain our actions to the Council at this time. Until very recently, this association apparently had been entirely friendly and mutually satisfactory. I hope that the same atmosphere will prevail after our departure.

It appears from the press reports and from Mr. Harrell's letter of last week to the Council that there are three areas of dispute. One of these is philosophical - what are the bases of the project: Another is procedural - how is the project being done? And the third is factual - what is the current status of the project?

With respect to the first of these, I ask the indulgence of the Council while I read significant passage from a letter from my Executive Director, Mr. H. G. Pope, to the City Manager. Part of this letter has been published in the newspapers, but I would like to read other portions into the record at this time.

"In May, 1951, San Antonio initiated a long-discussed project to improve assessment practice. The City was aware that such a purpose could conceivably be achieved by (a) reappraisal by contract or (b) the gradual and long-term improvement of organization, staff, procedures, and records within the assessment office or (c) the relatively expeditious installation

of a modern assessment system by city officials and staff augmented by outside consulting assistance. It chose the last of these alternatives, its contract with Public Administration Service reflects this choice, and project conduct has been governed by this contract and the objective of developing and installing a modern and defensible system which would produce the assessment roll due in June, 1953".

"In summary, as costs to date have been within estimates and production has equalled expectations, the budget and schedule developed for controlling project operations contemplates that field work will be completed within contract estimates by April, 1953, and that the total project will be completed by June, 1953. These statements seem more than conservative since our charges are now scheduled to run much less than was provided for and since the budget for the fiscal year beginning August, 1952, presumably will recognize that the reassessment project and the assessor's office have the common purpose of producing the 1953 assessment roll. At present, three men from our regular staff and about ninety city employees are assigned to the project. As has been indicated before, this picture would change with the withdrawal of one of our staff members by July and another by September."

"Against this background, your representatives now propose that Public Administration Service enter into a new contract under which the latter would reappraise all properties, assume sole operational responsibility for the project, carry all project personnel on its payroll, guarantee a fixed date for completion, guarantee a fixed cost for completion, post a performance bond, guarantee expert witnesses for a two - or three-year period, provide specifications as to the scope of the project, provide specifications as to the type of product, and propose an organization to operate the product."

"Along with these suggestions your representatives express the view that, both as a matter of desirable policy and probably as a matter of legal requirement, the work should continue to be under the control of the City. That I concur completely with this view is evidenced by our contract, our conduct on the project, and our urging of more active official participation. I also subscribe, of course, to several of the other items listed for inclusion in the new contract which are already covered either directly or by inescapable inference in the present arrangements."

"Public Administration Service cannot concur in a new contract of the type proposed. As I see it, not even the most carefully selected contract language could avoid the fact that we would either (a) have to accept what we consider an improper and possibly an illegal delegation of authority and undertake functions we consider properly those of a city official, or (b) acknowledge such official authority and, at the same time, guarantee the performance of things over which we could legally have, at best, only a vague and qualified authority. We are unwilling to do the former and, as we are not in a position to guarantee the conduct of officials who are in no way responsible to us, we obviously could not do the latter even if we wished to."

"Consequently, we would suggest that the project be continued essentially as planned and that the City, with the completion of its 1952 assessment roll, assign an appropriate official or engage a principal deputy to assume active charge of the undertaking."

"I am confident that such an individual is available in San Antonio. His early assignment or appointment to the project on substantially a full-time basis would, of course, further enhance the legal base of the undertaking, facilitate informed, expeditious, and firm official decisions on project matters and serve to diminish further the amount of staff time we must devote to the project. It would seem reasonable that an appropriate city official or selected deputy, who, in any event, would have to produce an assessment roll for 1953, could do so better using the sizable locally recruited, organized, and trained staff in existence, under the modern system whose development is now largely completed, and under which substantial production has already been accomplished."

I am sure that the entire letter is on file in the Office of the City Manager.

I also would like to cite two other events which I believe bear on this subject. On April 29, the proposed schedule of our staff on the project was discussed in detail with the Director of Finance. At that time we indicated that we planned to relieve one staff member about July 1, and another about September 1, leaving one other in residence after that date so long as the City desired it.

In addition, I attended a meeting in the City Attorney's office on May 2 at which the general subject was the desirability of renegotiating the contract along the lines mentioned in Mr. Pope's letter. At that time, as I recall, the representatives of the Finance Department who were present indicated that they could not carry out the project in addition to their other duties. Now, however, I am happy to see that that opinion has changed and that city officials believe themselves to be in a position to carry out the work.

This latter point of view is so eminently consistent with that contained in Mr. Pope's letter and given orally to city officials that a pertinent question arises. The question is: "Why is it necessary to abrogate a contract when exactly the same objectives could have been attained under that contract"? I do not expect the Council to know the answer to that question, but perhaps it would be interested in finding out.

As to the matter of procedures, it is not necessary to take up the Council's time with details, but it has been true, it is true, and it will continue to be true as long as Public Administration Service is associated with the project that every act of the field or office force is the act of the appropriate city officials. The procedures received either the explicit or tacit approval of the city officials then in office and were adopted for four elementary reasons: (1) it was believed that the valuations should be San Antonio valuations, based on the San Antonio market and all evidences of value that could reasonably be investigated; (2) that the accuracy of estimates varies with the completeness of information available to the estimator; (3) that equalization was the objective of the survey, not an increase in the tax base in the least possible time; and (4) that values are far more defensible, before taxpayers, boards of equalization, and the courts if reasonably detailed information is available to back them up.

It is true that PAS has, in the past, been in a position of actively directing and supervising project personnel. This has been entirely a matter, however, of filling in for city officials as it was recognized that during the period of reorganization they probably could not devote sufficient time to the project. This concept has been implicit in our conduct

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of the project to date, and was specifically mentioned in a memorandum submitted to the then Tax Commissioner on August 9, 1951.

It has proved impossible, however, to obtain administrative decisions from the responsible city officials. The only decision of any kind that I recall was an opinion of the City Attorney referring to the proposed parcel numbering system. We have been guided by that opinion. Mr. Pope specifically stated in my presence that so far as the project is concerned the law is what the City Attorney says it is, and the procedures are to be what the Director of Finance says they shall be.

The point I am making is this: the procedures were developed, and lacking any directives to the contrary, had to be used in the interests of getting finished with a big job. We would not have fulfilled our obligations had we not advocated rather positively the procedures which we deemed to be desirable. With or without PAS participation, it is the responsibility of the City to determine procedures. Hence, the same question inevitably arises: "Why cancel a contract when the same identical aims can be achieved under the contract?"

Concerning questions of fact, I shall be even more brief. Statistical and financial data are always subject to interpretation and accurate forecasts are hard to make. The true facts of production and cost can only be determined after the project is over. Therefore, it is impossible to prove that any given interpretation is either right or wrong, but I would like to submit my own interpretations of the experience we have had. The statement made yesterday that two years will be required to complete the field work, is, however, obviously not in accordance with the facts. In April we had a bad month - surveyed only 6600 buildings which is well below our expectations. But even at that rate, only 13 months would be required to complete the 84,000 buildings remaining.

With respect to other activities, experience to date is so limited that it is even harder to predict accurately. Our schedules, however, call for completion of land appraisal next April, of computations in May, and of the card punching a month or two thereafter. I believe, without citing details at this time, that I can demonstrate to the Council that this schedule is reasonably valid. Card punching is presumably going to be done by the machine accounting unit, the supervisor of which has stated that he can do the job in addition to his other work if given approximately one year. In case additional help might be needed, it is tentatively planned to punch the cards during the fiscal year 1952-53, which would result in completion by August 1, 1953.

As to finances, there is a rather complete system of accounts in existence on the project, which as far as I know are familiar only to me. This despite the fact that we don't lock the drawers or mount a guard over our possessions. No one has seemed to be interested in them. Again without bothering the Council with details, I am prepared to analyze our financial experience by object and by activity and I believe that such an analysis would show that the total expenditures will be not too far from early project estimates of \$480,000. It is true that that figure is somewhat higher than the \$420,000 cited to the Council yesterday, but I submit that it is substantially under the \$640,000 mentioned at the same time.

In conclusion, it seems to me that a great deal of unnecessary confusion has resulted from basically simple questions that could easily have been resolved over the corner of a desk. Why am I here today speaking to the Council when it was possible to avoid the whole thing? The real problem would appear to be whether or not the City government is now able to undertake its legal and contractual obligations. I am happy to observe that the officials now consider that it is. If this be true, and I must assume that it is, the same question arises again: "Why is it necessary to abrogate the contract?"

In any case, Public Administration Service has nothing to apologize for. We have, I believe, fulfilled our contractual, implied, and moral obligations. I hope that the Council will agree and that when we leave San Antonio we will leave knowing that we still have friends here.

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On motion of Mr. Schmidt seconded by Mr. Lozano and carried by a roll call vote: yes, White, Lozano, Schmidt, Keller, Tucker, Roper, Cassidy, Greeman, Steves, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED

James Ball Steves
MAYOR

ATTEST:

Frank Gallozer
City Clerk

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