

MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:

MONDAY, AUGUST 7TH, 1916. 4 P.M.

PRESENT: Honorable Clinton G. Brown, Mayor, presiding, and Commissioners Garland, Lambert, Kearny and Uhr.

Minutes of previous meeting were ordered approved.

----MEMORIALS AND PETITIONS----

Petition of General Labor Day Committee for permission to celebrate Labor Day in Brackenridge Park, was read and granted.

Petition of citizens requesting that Traction Company be permitted to stop cars on Beacon Hill Line going north, on far corner of San Pedro Place; also petition of Fairmont Hotel, for permit to erect an electric sign, were read and referred to Commissioner of Fire and Police.

Petition of citizens requesting that the S.A. & A. P. R'way Company be ordered to construct sidewalks and curbing on Eads Avenue; also communication from Board of Health relating to certain stagnant pools of water, were read and referred to Commissioner of Streets, Bridges and Public Improvements.

Petition of Mrs Ana Ethel, for refund of taxes, was read and referred to Commissioner of Taxation:

Commissioner Garland recommended that the following petitions be granted:

Mrs. C. C. White, for correction of assessment.

W. W. Sloan, for refund of taxes.

J. H. Burleson, for refund of taxes. Adopted.

Commissioner Garland introduced the following ordinance, which was read and adopted by the following vote on roll call, to-wit: Ayes, Brown, Garland, Lambert, Kearny and Uhr. Nays, none.

No. 63 **MB-50** AN ORDINANCE

Authorizing the payment of wages to City Laborers for the week ending August 3, 1916. and making an appropriation therefor.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:

That the Mayor be and he is hereby authorized to issue warrants for the payment of wages to City Day Laborers for the week ending August 3, 1916, and that the following sums be and are hereby appropriated out of the several special funds for that purpose, to-wit:

General Fund of 1916	\$924.91
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Commissioner Garland introduced the following ordinances, which were read and adopted by the following vote on roll call, to-wit: Ayes, Brown, Garland, Lambert, Kearny and Uhr. Nays, none.

-51 An Ordinance granting permit to Matilla M. Martinez for permit to operate Car No. 9933 in Local Street Transportation.

-52 An Ordinance granting permit to Otto Brotze to operate Car No, 9993 in Local

Street Transportation.

MB-52.1 An Ordinance granting permit to William Nohrmann to operate Car No. 10061 in Local Street Transportation.

-52.2 An Ordinance granting permit to L.L. Jones permit to operate Car No. 10062 in Local Street Transportation.

The following resolution was read and adopted:

RESOLUTION

Providing for the selection of an advisory Committee to draft and submit certain amendments to the City Charter.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Commissioners of the City of San Antonio, that, a non-political Committee of nine citizens be appointed to draft and submit to the Commissioners an amendment to the City Charter that shall provide for this City an effective system for civil service regulation; and that other charter amendments be submitted for the purpose of eliminating conflicting provisions of the present charter; and each of the following named business organizations of this City is hereby invited to suggest and certify to the Board the name of one person, either a member or not a member of their organization, to be appointed as a member of said Committee; said organizations being as follows, to-wit:

Real Estate Board;
Rotary Club;
Chamber of Commerce;
Claring House Association;
Retail Merchants Association;
Manufacturers Club;
Lions Club;
Trades Council;
Builders Exchange.

Also that the City Clerk notify each of said organizations of this resolution, by sending them a copy thereof; and request that such selections for said committee be made and certified as soon as practicable.

Commissioner Kearny introduced the following ordinance, which was read and adopted by the following vote on roll call, to-wit: Ayes, Brown, Garland, Lambert, Kearny and Uhr. Nays, none.

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AN ORDINANCE

Appropriating money to pay Jacob Grewe, and Bascom Bell, Agt., account of widening West Travis Street.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Commissioners of the City of San Antonio, that, the Mayor be, and he is hereby authorized to accept deed of conveyance from Jacob Grewe, covering a certain parcel of land located at the corner of Laredo Street and West Travis Street, C.B.150, and needed for the widening of West Travis Street, between Main Avenue and Santa Rosa Avenue, and that warrant be issued to said Jacob Grewe in the sum of \$217.40, out of an appropriation of \$28,000.00 heretofore made for the widening of W. Travis Street.

Said payment to be made to said Jacob Grewe on condition that he will obligate himself to remove all buildings and obstructions on said parcel of land within _____ days from the date hereof.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the Mayor be, and he is hereby authorized to accept deed of conveyance from Bascom Bell, Agent, covering a certain parcel of land located on West Travis Street, in City Block 149, and needed for the widening of said W. Travis Street, between Main Avenue, and Santa Rosa Avenue, and that warrant be issued to said Bascom Bell, Agent, in the sum of \$300.00 out of an appropriation of \$28,000.00, heretofore made for the widening of W. Travis Street. Said payment to be made to said Bascom Bell, Agent,

on condition that he will obligate himself to remove all buildings and obstructions on said parcel of land within _____ days from the date hereof.

This ordinance is hereby declared to be of urgent importance for reasons of public welfare apparent herefrom, and the same shall take effect at once.

Commissioner Kearny, reporting on the petition of citizens for sewers on Tenth Street, between Austin Street and Avenue D. and on Devilbiss Street, stated that provision for this work had been provided for in budget, and that work had been begun August 3, 1916. Adopted.

Commissioner Kearny submitted the following;

San Antonio, Texas.
August 4, 1916.

Mr. Hans Helland, City Engineer,
San Antonio, Texas.

Dear Sir;

We beg to advise that we have this day completed our contract for the paving of Nogalitos Street, from South Flores Street to San Pedro Creek. There are no leave-outs on this contract.

Thanking you in advance for an early acceptance of this street,
Very truly yours,

The Western Paving Company
by R.D. Farmer, Vice-Pres.

San Antonio, Texas. August 7, 1916

Hon. Mayor & Board of Commissioners,
City of San Antonio, Texas.
Gentlemen:

This is to certify that the pavement constructed on Nogalitos Street, from Flores Street to San Pedro Creek by the Western Paving Company, has been completed as per contract entered into with the City, and the same has been accepted by me for the City of San Antonio this 7th day of August, 1916.

Yours truly,
Hans Helland, City Engineer.

Commissioner Kearny introduced the following resolution, which was read and adopted:

RESOLUTION

Accepting the pavement constructed on Nogalitos Street from Flores Street to San Pedro Creek by the Western Paving Company.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Commissioners of the City of San Antonio, that, the City of San Antonio does hereby accept the pavement constructed by the Western Paving Company on Nogalitos Street from Flores Street to San Pedro Creek, the date of acceptance being fixed on this 7th day of August, 1916 as per the certificate of the City Engineer filed August 7th, 1916.

Commissioner Kearny introduced the following ordinance, which was read and adopted by the following vote on roll call, to-wit; Ayes, Brown, Garland, Kearny, Lambert and Uhr. Nays, none.

No. 64 *MB-54* AN ORDINANCE

Appropriating \$400.00 to pay the San Antonio Portland Cement Co.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Commissioners of the City of San Antonio, that, the sum of Four Hundred (\$400.00) Dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be and the same is hereby appropriated out of the 1916 General Fund to pay the San Antonio Portland Cement Co. for cement delivered to City for use of the Park Department.

This ordinance is hereby declared to be of urgent importance for reasons of public welfare apparent herefrom, and the same shall take effect at once.

Commissioner Kearny introduced the following ordinance, which was read and adopted by the following vote on roll call, to-wit: Ayes, Brown, Garland, Lambert, Kearny and Uhr. Nays, none.

No. 65

MB-55

AN ORDINANCE

Appropriating \$3864.40 to pay San Antonio Portland Cement Co.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Commissioners of the City of San Antonio, that, the sum of Thirty Eifht Hundred and Sixty Four and 40/100 (\$3864.40) Dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated out of the Street Paving Fund to pay San Antonio Portland Cement Co. for cement furnished the Texas Granitoid Company on South Presa Street Paving Contract.

This ordinance is hereby declared to be of urgent importance for reasons of public welfare apparent herefrom, and the same shall take effect at once.

Commissioner Uhr introduced the following ordinance, which was read and adopted by the following vote on roll call, to-wit: Ayes, Brown, Kearny, Garland and Uhr. Nays, Lambert.

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AN ORDINANCE

Prohibiting smoking and providing regulations for the prevention of fires in places of public amusement, and prescribing penalties for the violation hereof.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:

It shall be unlawful for any person to carry into, or to have in his possession in, any public theatre, public hall or other similar place conducted for public amusements, or any auditorium, stage, dressing room, fly or property room belonging to any such place, any lighted cigar, pipe, cigarette or other article used for smoking, or the same in any manner to smoke, light or set on fire in any such place; and any person violating any provision of this ordinance shall be fined in a sum not less than Twenty Five (\$25.00) Dollars nor more than Two Hundred (\$200.00) Dollars.

Commissioner Lambert introduced the following resolution, which was read and adopted.

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

That the City Attorney be and is hereby directed to institute proceedings against Mr. G.H. Aeveaenes for the purpose of revoking the permit granted him in May 1916, to conduct a place for housing Tuberculous persons at No. 1126 Waverly Avenue, San Antonio, Texas, because he has not lived up to his agreements in making required improvements, and has otherwise failed to meet the require ments of city ordinances governing the same.

Commissioner Uhr recommended that the petitions of Stires Out Door Advertising Company for permit to erect bill boards at the following points be granted:

At 101 Vinton Street.

At Wilson and New Braunfels Avenue.

At Vinton and New Braunfels Ave.

Adopted.

Commissioner Lambert placed in nomination the name of Mr. Jim Stevens for the position of Inspector of Hospitals and Sanitation, the appointment being confirmed by the following vote te-wit: Ayes, Brown, Garland, Lambert and Uhr, and Kearny.

His Honor, the Mayor, directed the Clerk to read the following:

Mr. Robert F. Uhr and Board of Commissioners,
San Antonio, Texas.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter read to me at the last Commissioner's meeting, I desire to state as follows:

You complain in this letter that I have not consulted you about the Police matters. I will state that I have consulted you more than you have consulted me, and my letter files show that I have written you thirty nine letters in regard to questions regarding the Police and Fire Departments, and you have had the courtesy to answer my letters and to write me only six times. You have done a great deal of talking in the Council and in the newspapers, but as far as my letter files, and my memory, indicate, the only appointments that you have ever discussed with me or with the Board of Commissioners, were;

1:- In your letter to me of April 24th you wrote me that you had appointed Mr. T.V. Weir to the position of a policeman and asked me to issue him a commission. I told you that I would not do so because Mr. Wier had been let out by Mr. Steves and myself on account of his age when we examined the policemen last summer.

2:- You asked me to appoint Mr. Derrington, and I told Mr. Derrington that I had no objection to his appointment, as he had successfully passed the examination conducted by Mr. Steves and myself, but that I thought under the ordinances that he would have to be nominated and confirmed through the Council.

3:- While I was away you collectively nominated some four or five men before the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Lambert objected to these men because one of them had been indicted nine times, and another, a negro man, had been let out of the Police Department for beating a small white boy. You have talked a lot since, but you have never submitted any of these names separately.

4:- You have tried to fire Mr. Fred H. Lancaster as Chief of Police.

I do not remember, or know, of anything else you have tried to do in the way of reorganizing the Police Force. I do not remember that you have endeavored to consult with me, or that you have endeavored to consult with the Board of Commissioners in regard to any of your appointments except as above outlined.

You will recall that at the first meeting or two after you came into the Council, Mr. Lambert and myself, I know, asked you in open council to submit a list of what you proposed to do in the Police Department.

I asked you before the Carnival to get uniforms for the men so that they would look nice during the Carnival. You said that you did not want to do it because there might be some changes after the Carnival in the Police Department. I have spoken to you numerous times about getting the uniforms and about what you intended to do in regard to settling the question of appointments, and wrote you letters on the following dates in regard to getting the police uniforms for the summer; on May 5th, on May 12th, on May 18th, on June 5th, and on July 21st. I do not assume that it was any discourtesy on your part, but I have never received any replies to any of these letters.

On the 20th of May you posted up a bulletin that is explained in the following three letters;

1:- Letter from myself to you dated May 20th, which is as follows;

Mr. Robert F. Uhr,
Commissioner of Police and Fire,
Central Fire and Police Station,
San Antonio, Texas.

Dear Sir:-

I hand you herewith a copy of a letter that I have written to the members of the Police and Detective Force in regard to the bulletin posted by you requesting all members of the force to make applications to you for re-appointment.

I take pleasure in handing you a copy of this letter for your information, and assure you that it is my desire to cooperate with you in all matters for the good of the department.

Yours very truly,

(signed) Clinton G. Brown, Mayor."

2:- Letter written by myself, copy of which I sent to you, dated May 20th, To All Members of the Detective and Police Departments.

"To All Members of the
Detective and Police Departments.
Gentlemen:-

It has been called to my attention that Commissioner Uhr has had posted the following bulletin on the blackboard.

"That all employees of the Detective and Police Departments are hereby required to file applications in his office for re-employment; and that blanks can be obtained from the desk Sergeant."

Several of the members of the force, knowing that there is a law suit in regard to this matter, have enquired of me as Mayor whether they should make these applications to Mr. Uhr.

To save any misunderstanding in the matter, this is to state that Mr. Uhr's request should be complied with, the application to be addressed to the Mayor and Board of Commissioners in accordance with the form of the application blank, and I would be pleased if all members of the force file their application with Mr. Uhr. I will also appreciate it if each man make a copy of his application and file the same in my office for my information, as I am anxious to be kept informed in regard to all the matters in this department, as well as in other departments of the City.

Yours Very truly,

(signed) Clinton G. Brown, Mayor."

3:- Letter from yourself to me in which you state as follows;

"Hon. Clinton G. Brown,
Mayor, City.

Dear Sir:-

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of 20th inst, in which you state that "It is my desire to cooperate with you in all matters for the good of the Department", and in which you also enclose a copy of your circular letter of May 20 to all

members of the Detective and Police Departments, in which circular letter you say:- "I will be pleased if all the members of the force file their applications with Mr. Uhr. I will also appreciate it if each man make a copy of his application and file the same in my office for my information, as I am anxious to be kept informed in regard to all the matters of this depart as well as in other departments of the City".

I appreciate the spirit of cooperation you express. My nominations shall be only from persons, who I shall feel are duly qualified and whose records will bear inspection. Therefore with your cooperation for the good of the department, we should within a reasonable time have a legal police force in service in this city.

Yours very truly,
(signed) Robert F. Uhr,
Fire and Police Commr.

In this letter you state that you appreciate the spirit of cooperation that I express and that your nominations would be only from persons who you feel would be duly qualified and whose records would bear inspection. I had hoped when I received this last mentioned letter from you that you were going to do something, besides talk, with the Police Department, as you had asked all the men to file their applications. In my letter of June 5th in regard to uniforms, which letter was before referred to, I wrote to you as follows:

" I have not taken any steps to purchase the summer uniforms for the Police, although this matter has been called to your attention numerous times, in the last two months, because I had understood from you that you did not want to order these uniforms because you thought you might try to make some changes in the departments.

I think it is a very pressing matter that we get these uniforms just as quickly as possible, otherwise the summer will almost be over before the men get their Summer Uniforms. I will be glad to get your views on this matter, and oblige,

Yours very truly,
(signed) Clinton G. Brown, Mayor.

When the question was up in the Coubcil several weeks ago in regard to advertising for bids for the summer uniforms, you stated that you would go over the matter with me so that we would know what men were to get the uniforms. The next thing I heard of it was when you read your last letter to me in the Council.

I now repeat the invitation that I have impressed upon you since your election to submit to either myself or the Council, just as you please, the men that you desire to hold the office of policemen and firemen of this City. Of course, I cannot agree to vote for any one you suggest until I know who they are, but I do not see why, because the Council has not agreed with you in regard to firing Fred Lancaster as Police Chief, you cannot take up with us the 140 Or 150 other men that are in the department.

Yours very truly,
Clinton G. Brown,
Mayor.

On motion, duly seconded and carried, the meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

Fred Fried
CITY CLERK

APPROVED *Ray Lambert*
Acting MAYOR