

MAY 22, 1946

MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO,  
SITTING AS A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, HELD IN THE COUNCIL  
CHAMBER OF THE CITY HALL AT 10:00 O'CLOCK, A.M., ON  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22nd, 1946.

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

The Mayor and Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole, at the Call of the Mayor, in the Council Chamber of the City Hall at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., on Wednesday, May 22, 1946, to discuss the proposed budget for the 1946 fiscal year.

City Auditor Walter Tatsch gave a resume of the City's budget history of the past five years. He explained that optimistic estimates of revenues for the 1946 fiscal year showed a total possible revenue of \$4,661,287.29, while the total requested budget amounted to \$5,488,649.48. He outlined budgetary requests for 1946 as follows:

Mayor: \$889,431.98; Commissioner of Taxation: \$180,000.00; Commissioner of Parks: \$1,441,162.50; Commissioner of Streets: \$719,735.00; Commissioner of Fire & Police: \$2,258,320.00.

Estimated Revenue for 1946 General Fund, he outlined as follows:

ESTIMATED CURRENT TAXES:	
ASSESSED VALUATIONS:	\$ 228,061,900.00
INCREASE:	22,000,000.00
	<u>\$ 250,061,900.00 @ 1.23: 89.66 Collections</u>
Estimated Back Tax Collections:	202,000.00
Estimated license, fines and miscellaneous collections:	<u>1,501,560.29</u>
	\$4,461,287.29
Estimated cash surplus from 1945:	<u>200,000.00</u>
Estimated total available for 1946 General Fund:	\$4,661,287.29
1945 Budget:	<u>3,923,000.00</u>
Increase over last year:	\$ 738,287.29

Frank Gallagher, Chief Deputy Tax Assessor, said it was presumed the percentage of tax collections in 1946 would be the same as last year; that the estimated increase in the tax roll was about \$8,000,000.00; that there might be a greater increase if all buildings are built on which building permits have been issued, but it is not known how many it will be possible to build. He added that these figures are mere guesses. He said it was up to the Board of Equalization to add further to the total assessments by raising those on property they found to be under-assessed. He said a re-survey of all assessments would normally take 6 to 8 months, depending on the amount of qualified help obtainable, that present real estate values are considered to be inflated, that the present assessments are based on 1940 values, that the law says assessments are to be based on full value and to do this would raise present assessments by 33 1/3 per cent.

Commissioner Callaghan said he would need to know what the total 1946 budget was going to be before he could make a recommendation, but that he could not complete a re-survey of assessments in time for the 1946 budget.

Mayor Mauermann stated the Council had been discussing the need for increased revenues for some time and that he felt the Tax Commissioner had had sufficient notice that some way must be found to raise the needed money.

The Mayor outlined his general budget needs for 1946 and called on each department head to explain requested increases. City Attorney T. D. Cobbs explained his requests. M.M. Harris, Library Board President, outlined his requested increases in the Library budget and asked for a special five-cent tax levy for this purpose. Chairman E. A. Baetz, Reagan Houston and C.C. Krueger, Finance Committee of the Health Board, and H. L. Crittenden, Business Manager,

outlined the increases needed by the Health Dept., but pointed out that the department would offset these increases by bringing in more revenue during 1946.

Judge Augustus McCloskey detailed the needs of Corporation Court, stressing that revenues from the Court had already been increased and would be greatly increased by putting on the additional clerks asked for. He cited the much greater revenues produced by the more adequately staffed courts in Houston and Dallas.

Mayor Mauermann pointed out the greater needs of the Airport Dept. due to the addition of Stinson and Alamo Fields, but stressed that the anticipated increase in revenues would equal the budget increase. Gen. Paul Wilkins outlined the Stinson Field budget needs.

Commissioner Callaghan stated his 1945 budget was \$130,000 plus \$12,000 carried over from the previous year. He said an increase of \$38,000 for 1946 was needed largely due to annexation. He cited higher costs and the need for additional help, and the need to lay a foundation for a general re-survey of assessments. He said he doubted very much if his office could "handle it" if assessments were raised at this time.

Commissioner Hein discussed his requested budget for 1946 and the need for additional men and equipment. C. J. Crampton, General Manager of the Chamber of Commerce, stated the present polio epidemic is costing the City more than the entire requested budget for 1946, and pledged 100% cooperation of the Chamber of Commerce to make San Antonio one of the most beautiful and cleanest cities in the nation. He asked an improved sanitation department. More money for recreation was asked by a delegation led by Father Paul Ehlinger and Rabbi David Jacobson.

Commissioner Steffler stated his budget increase of \$65,000 was based on increased personnel and material costs but that he could use much more.

Commissioner Anderson explained the need for an increase in base pay of firemen and policemen, the increased services and greater area coverage required of all his departments, and the need for more equipment. President Jake Tiner of the Planning Board suggested the budgeting of \$10,000 to cover cost of preparation and printing of a standard building code, on which he said the Planning Board had already done much work.

City Auditor Tatsch pointed out that approximately \$90,000 had to be included in the budget to take care of various expenses agreed to by the Mayor and Commissioners outside of their regular departmental expenses. The Mayor also stressed the need of a general contingency fund of about \$150,000 to meet "emergencies" in all departments. Commissioner Callaghan endorsed the need for such a fund.

Commissioner Anderson advocated a Traffic Court separate from the Corporation Court. The Mayor agreed such was needed but explained it would require a Charter amendment.

Planning Board President Tiner praised the budget meeting, stressing the paramount importance of health and sanitation and the fact that San Antonio, growing fast, was trying to operate on facilities of a city half its present size.

The Mayor suggested another budget meeting be called within a few days for further discussion.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:

*Gust Mauermann*

M A Y O R

ATTEST:

*Frank Brady*  
City Clerk

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