

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

May 23, 1950

Early Records Tell of City Business

Records of the proceedings of the Ayuntamiento of Monterey commencing in January 1850 should be of interest to old timers and new comers alike, in that they make a comparison of the business of the Council today and that of the governing body of the city fifty years ago.

The first official records of the Ayuntamiento were taken on January 2, 1850, at 1 o'clock p.m. Present were: P.A. Roach, first Alcalde; Frcs. L. Ripley, 2nd Alcalde; James McKinlay, Jos. Boston, Benito Diaz, John O'Neil, first, second third and fourth Regidor, and William S. Johnson, Sindico. Benito Diaz took the oath of office that evening. On motion of J. O'Neil, Jos. Boston was nominated as Sec'y pro tem, the motion prevailed and he was declared duly elected.

On motion of Boston, seconded by O'Neil "that the sittings of this board be held on the evening of Monday of each week at 5 o'clock." After some discussion the motion prevailed.

On motion of Boston, seconded by O'Neil, "That committees be formed as follows: on Roads, Bridges and Police, Laws and Ordinances, Ways and Means. After some discussion the measure was put and carried.

His honor, the Alcalde, thereupon appointed the following gentlemen to serve on the committees on Roads, Bridges and Police. W.S. Johnson and Benito Diaz; on Law and Ordinances, F.L. Ripley, James McKinlay; on Ways and Means, John O'Neil, Jos. Boston.

On motion the report of Com. On Ways and Means was brought up at the second meeting of the Ayuntamiento held January 7, 1850 and laid before the board for discussion. On motion of Diaz, the report of the committee be voted upon by sections. The motion prevailing the board proceeded to vote on: Sec. 1 – 'That each store, tent or booth engaged in vending goods or wares of whatever kind or description by wholesale or retail be taxed ten dollars a month, paid in advance. Ayes: O'Neil, Ripley, McKinlay, Boston; Nays, Diaz. Sec. 2 – That all hotels, taverns, barrooms, booths, or tents engaged in selling wines or liquors, to be taxed ten dollars per month payable in advance, monthly. Adopted unanimously. Sec. 3 – That all taverns or other places where gambling is carried on shall pay ten dollars

per month in addition to the foregoing, payable monthly in advance. Ayes, McKinlay, O'Neil, Ripley, Boston. Nays, Diaz.

Sections 4,5,6,7,8 and 9 came up and were voted upon and passed unam.

Report of the meeting of the Ayuntamiento at Colton Hall on January 14, 1850, was featured with: Memorial of Dr. W. Willey received in relation to the state of the sick and the want of hospital accommodations. Memorial of Dr. King, U.S.A., relative to the want of a town hospital. His honor the Alcalde appointed Jos. Boston in conjunction with himself to enquire whether the building known as Cuartel or Government house belongs to the municipality and also to confer with Dr. King in relation to the hospital.

Communication from the Prefect in relation to the disposal of the lands belonging to this municipality.

On motion of W. Boston. Resolved that all the public lands belonging to this town shall be granted to actual residents at a uniform price and granted only to such as who have not heretofore received grants. Adopted.

On motion of Boston. Resolved that certain lots now vacant according to a map drawn by I. R. Snyder within the limits do belong to the town of Monterey.

It is further resolved that said lots be granted in lots of not more than three hundred English yards square to applicants in accordance to the foregoing resolution. Adopted.

Report of Mr. Boston on Town Ordinances was most interesting. It begins: The Ayuntamiento of the Town of Monterey, State of California, doth enact as follows: Sec. 1 – Any person or persons slaughtering beeves or other cattle in the street, or open lots of the town shall be fined five dollars for each and every animal thus slaughtered. It is here declared lawful to slaughter cattle one mile from Colton Hall in this town in any direction, and cattle may be slaughtered in the town in enclosed lots or shambles.

Sec. 2 – No person shall throw offal or the carcasses of dead animals in any of the streets, lanes, or lots of the town. Any person violating this ordinance shall be liable to a fine of five dollars for every offense.

Sec. 3 – It shall be unlawful for the owners of pits or wells in open lots to leave them exposed, but they shall erect or cause to be erected a wall or fence around the pit or well at least three feet high.

Sec. 4 – All persons, shall on dark nights, expose a lantern (containing a light) in some conspicuous part of their houses or dwellings or be liable to a fine of fifty cents for the first omission, one dollar for the second, and for any other omissions they shall be liable to such penalties as the alcalde may in his discretion seem fit.

Petition of W.S. Johnson, P. A. Roach, B. Diaz, J. O'Neil, Jos. Boston and F.L. Ripley, all members of the Council, for a grant of land was laid on the table.