



City of Boston Archives and Records Management Division

## Guide to the City Council records

### Committee hearing transcripts 1886-1937 with gaps

Finding aid prepared by Kristen Swett  
This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

<b>Repository:</b>	City of Boston Archives and Records Management Division
<b>Title:</b>	City Council Committee hearing transcripts
<b>Collection No.:</b>	0100.002b
<b>Dates:</b>	1886-1937 with gaps
<b>Quantity:</b>	4.0 Cubic feet (4 record cartons)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS    SERIES LIST

[Historical note](#)

[Series I: Hearing transcripts](#)

[Scope and Contents note](#)

[Related Material](#)

### Historical note

Boston was incorporated as a city on February 23, 1822 by chapter 110 of the Acts of 1821. This act was adopted by the voters on March 4, 1822. The City Charter established the form of government as a Mayor; a Board of Aldermen; and a Common Council; to be called when conjoined, ‘the City Council.’ The Mayor and Aldermen were vested with the administration of the police, and executive power of the corporation generally, with specific enumerated powers. All other powers belonging to the corporation were vested in the Mayor, Aldermen and Common Council exercised by concurrent vote.

The Mayor served as ex officio Chairman of the Board of Aldermen until 1855. Section 29 of Chapter 448 of the Acts of 1854 , an act to revise the charter of the City of Boston, provided for the choice of a permanent chairman by the Board of Aldermen who presided at all meetings of the board and at conventions of the two branches in the

absence of the Mayor. The administration of the police, together with the executive powers of the corporation generally, all the powers formerly vested in the Selectmen of Boston, and all the powers subsequently vested in the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, as county commissioners or otherwise, were vested in the Board of Aldermen. The Mayor if present continued to preside but without a vote. All other powers belonging to the corporation continued to be vested in the Mayor, Aldermen and Common Council, exercised by concurrent vote.

Powers related to the administration of the Police were transferred to the Board of Police Commissioners by chapter 244 of the Acts of 1878. Chapter 266 of the Acts of 1885, an act to amend the charter of the City of Boston, transferred to the Mayor the power to appoint, subject to the approval of the Board of Aldermen, all officers and boards elected by the City Council or Board of Aldermen, and all offices that may be established in the future. The positions of City Messenger, Clerk of Committees and other clerks of the City Council were exempted from this provision. All executive powers vested in the Board of Aldermen were transferred to the Mayor to be exercised through the several officers and boards of the City in their respective departments, under the general supervision and control of the Mayor. The Mayor no longer would be a member, nor preside at any meeting, nor appoint any committee of the Board of Aldermen.

Chapter 486 of the Acts of 1909 abolished the City Council and both branches thereof. The act established a City Council consisting of nine members elected at large. The City Council retained the power to approve ordinances and loan orders presented by the Mayor and the budget. All heads of departments and municipal boards, excluding the school committee and those appointed by law by the governor, would be appointed by the mayor without confirmation by the City Council.

Chapter 479 of the Acts of 1924 provided for the election of 22 City Councilors, one from each ward beginning with the biennial election in 1925. Chapter 356 of the Acts of 1951 provided for the election of 9 City Councilors at large.

Chapter 190 of the Acts of 1982 (Tregor Bill) made major changes to the financial operations of the City and to the budgetary powers of the Mayor and City Council. Chapter 605 of the Acts of 1982 provided for a City Council of thirteen members, one each from nine districts and three at large, effective with the preliminary election in September of 1983.

City Council committees are established under the Rules of the City Council. Prior to 1910, the Board of Aldermen and the Common Council both had their own Rules and established their own standing committees and special committees. The two bodies came together for joint standing committees and joint special committees. From 1910 to the present, the President of the City Council appoints members to standing and special committees. Committees hold hearings to discuss matters and hear testimony from the public.

[Return to the Table of Contents](#)

---

## Scope and Contents note

This collection includes transcripts of City Council committee hearings dating from 1886-1937. It is not a comprehensive collection of all committee hearings from this time period. The transcripts in this collection are filed chronologically in the record cartons. However, the transcripts are organized by committee in this finding aid. The transcripts are typewritten verbatim records of hearings on various topics including building limits, bicycle path on the common, automobile vehicles, Woburn rifle range, municipal lighting et al.

[Return to the Table of Contents](#)

---

## Related Material

Collection #0100.001: City Council proceedings

Collection #0100.002a: City Council meeting and hearing transcripts, 1947-2009

Collection #0140.001: City Council committee records, circa 1822-1909 (Bulk, 1878-1896)

[Return to the Table of Contents](#)

**Series I: Hearing transcripts**

**Appropriations**

Box	Folder	
3	3-4	Department Appropriations, 1909 February 9, 16
3	5	Executive Session, 1909 February 16
3	6-7	Department Appropriations, 1909 February 23, 27
3	8	Executive Session, 1909 February 27
3	9	Department Appropriations, 1909 March 2
3	10	Executive Session, 1909 March 2
3	24	Mayor and City Council - District Appropriation Needs East Boston, 1910 February 8
3	25-26	Mayor and City Council - District Appropriation Needs Dorchester, 1910 February 9
3	27	Mayor and City Council - District Appropriation Needs Charlestown, 1910 February 10
3	28	Mayor and City Council - District Appropriation Needs South Boston, 1910 February 11
3	29	Mayor and City Council - District Appropriation Needs Downtown wards, 1910 February 14
3	30	Mayor and City Council - District Appropriation Needs West Roxbury, 1910 February 15
3	31	Mayor and City Council - District Appropriation Needs Brighton, 1910 February 16
3	32	Mayor and City Council - District Appropriation Needs Roxbury, 1910 February 17
3	33-39	Department Appropriations vol. I-VII, 1910 February 28-March 22
3	43-44	Mayor and City Council - District Loan Needs, 1910 May 10
4	37	Mayor Curley's position on budget etc., 1924 May 19
4	41	Budget Hearings, 1929 April 2

**Building Department**

Box	Folder	
1	47	Extension of Building Limits vol. I, 1898 May 26
2	1	Extension of Building Limits vol. II, 1898 June 2
2	3	Extension of Building Limits vol. III, 1898 June 9

**Bituminous Coal**

Box	Folder	
1	10	Devices for the consuming of smoke, 1891 March 6

**Disposal of Offal**

Box	Folder
-----	--------

1 20-21 Cremation of Garbage vol. I-II, 1893 March 22, 24

**Elections**

Box Folder

1 18 Contested Election Norris v. Maguire, 1893 February 1

1 19 Contested Election Perkins v. Donovan, 1893 February 4, 8

**Electric Wires**

Box Folder

2 31 Improper Erection of Poles on Walk Hill Street, 1903 February 10

1 4 Police Signal Boxes, 1887 October 12

**Executive**

Box Folder

3 45 Transit Facilities Bowdoin and Scollay Square, 1910 September 19

3 47 Junk and Second Hand Dealers, 1910 December 16

4 10 Petition of Mt. Lebanon Cemetery Association, 1920 June 1

4 23-24 Municipal Gas & Lighting Plants v. II-III, 1921 May 6, 13

4 31-32 Retirement allowances for city and county employees, 1922 July 17, 25

4 33 Mayor Curley's address on increased wages for laborers & mechanics, 1923 April 23

4 39 Conference with Samuel L. Silverman, Esq. on Department of Corrections, 1924 November 17

4 40 Edison - Municipal Lighting, 1925 August 24

4 55 Departmental Reorganization, 1936 December 7

**Finance**

Box Folder

2 32 Loan Bill for 1903, 1903 February 20

4 36 Proposed Street Lighting Contract with Boston Consolidated Gas Company, 1924 May 19

**Fire Department**

Box Folder

1 17 Pintsch Compressing Co., 1892 December 9

**Fire Hazard**

Box Folder

4 3-5 The Building Limits vol. I-III, 1914 March 20-April 2

4 6 Brief on Extension of the Building Limits, 1914 August 17

**Fourth of July**

Box Folder

2 4 Children's Entertainment, 1898 June 10

**Health**

Box Folder

1 11 Winthrop Junction nuisance, 1891 July 27

1 27 Consumptives' Home, 1894 June 20

1 28 Hospital on Bellevue Street, 1894 September 7

2 59-61 Hospital on Bay State Road, 1907 April 12, 26, May 2

3 1-2 Hospital for Contagious Diseases, 1907 June 14, July 1

**Hospital Department**

Box	Folder	
2	35	City Hospital Clinics, 1904 May 17

**Inspection of Prisons, etc.**

Box	Folder	
2	15	Investigation of House of Corrections vol. I-XI, 1901 January 2-April 16
4	38	Conference with Samuel L. Silverman on Deer Island, 1924 November 14

**Legislative Matters**

Box	Folder	
1	24	Taxation, 1894 February 24
1	26	Taxation, 1894 February 28

**Licenses**

Box	Folder	
1	14	Theatrical Posters, 1892 November 23
1	31	Theatrical Exhibitions, 1895 January 25
1	33	Howard Athenaeum License, 1895 March 26
1	43	Head Coverings in Theatres etc., 1898 March 26
2	30	Petition of Wm. H. O'Neil for License for Pavilion, 1902 April 9

**Market**

Box	Folder	
2	12-14	Proposed New Market vol. I-III, 1899 October 6, 16, 25

**Miscellaneous**

Box	Folder	
2	36	Municipal Court Second Session - John R. Mitchell v. Walter H. Underhill, 1904 October 4
4	11	Law Department - Boston Consolidated Gas Company report on accounts, 1920 November 29
4	20-21	Newspaper articles: Ten Year Garbage Contract, 1921
4	42	Budget Commissioner's proposal for classification and compensation of county employees, 1930
4	44-45	Finance Commission - Report on proposed garbage contract, 1931 December 9

**Municipal Lighting**

Box	Folder	
4	51-52	Boston Consolidated Gas Company Contracts v. 1-2, 1936 March 5

**Ordinances**

Box	Folder	
1	1	Occupation of Streets for Building Purposes, 1886 February 26
1	12	Street Peddling, 1891 October 15
1	16	Unloading of coal, 1892 December 2
1	23	Enforcement of Peddling Ordinance, 1893 November 9
1	25	Awnings, 1894 February 28
1	37	Peddling Ordinance, 1896 July 14
1	46	Bicycle Path on the Common vol. I, 1898 May 20
1	48	Bicycle Path on the Common vol. II, 1898 May 27
2	2	Bicycle Path on the Common vol. III, 1898 June 3

- 2 29 Street Stands in Market Limits, 1902 February 20
- 3 46 Department of Public Works, 1910 November 11
- 4 53-54 Proposed Department Reorganization v. 1-2, 1936 June 4, 16

**Park Department**

- Box Folder
- 1 13 South Boston Park betterments, 1892 October 26

**Public Improvements**

- Box Folder
- 2 5 Petition of Massachusetts Telephone & Telegraph Co., 1898 December 8
- 2 7-8 Automobile Vehicles vol. I-II, 1899 March 21, April 4
- 2 34 Conference with Corporation Counsel Andrew Bailey and City Solicitor Thomas M. Babson, 1904 February 15
- 3 11-14 Proposed Land Exchange in the West End vol. I-IV, 1909 March 19-22

**Public Lands**

- Box Folder
- 3 15-18 Woburn Rifle Range vol. I-IV, 1909 April 15-May 5
- 3 20 Woburn Rifle Range vol. V, 1909 May 12
- 3 22 Woburn Rifle Range vol. VI, 1909 May 19
- 4 43 Proposed sale of land in the West End, 1931 September 25

**Public Library**

- Box Folder
- 1 6 Work on New Public Library, Order to Proceed with, 1888 March 27
- 1 9 New Library Building, 1891 February 11
- 1 15 Roxbury Branch Library, 1892 December 2

**Public Lighting**

- Box Folder
- 2 37-40 Municipal Lighting vol. I-IV, 1906 May 9, 15, 22, 25

**Railroads**

- Box Folder
- 1 43 Location of tracks on Walnut, Humboldt and Seaver Streets vol. I-II, 1898 May 6, 18
- 1 42 Boynton Bicycle Railway, 1897 December 4
- 2 27 Proposed Revocation of West Roxbury Track Locations, 1901 October 5
- 2 28 Old Colony Railway Tracks in West Roxbury and Roslindale, 1901 December 23
- 2 33 Extension of Tracks of the Boston Elevated Railways (6 hearings), 1903 November 21-December 23

**Rules and Orders**

- Box Folder
- 1 32 Exhibition of Horses, 1895 February 9
- 1 36 Team Loads, 1896 July 10

**Special**

- Box Folder
- 1 2-3 Charges against Coun. Lauten, 1887 June 15, 27

1	5	Petition of Patrick Maguire, 1887 October 13
1	7	Investigation of Mt. Hope Cemetery third meeting, 1888 April 6
1	22	Free Public Baths the year round, 1893 May 12
1	30	Roxbury Memorial Park, 1894 November 28
1	39	Consumptives' Hospital, 1897 February 19
1	40	Charges against Constable Blatt, 1897 July 24
1	41	Elevated Railroad Location, 1897 August 17
1	34	Widening Tremont Street, 1895 May 9
2	6	Discharged City Employees, 1899 January 17
2	9-11	Rainsford Island Investigation vol. I-II, IV, 1899 April 25, May 9, June 27
2	15	Revision and Reduction of Water Rates, 1900 December 21
1	35	Municipal Lighting, 1895 December 20
2	44	Municipal Lighting vol. VI, 1906 June 25
2	46-48	Municipal Lighting, 1906 August 7, September 10, 18
2	50	Discharged Park Employees, 1906 October 26
2	52-53	Billboard Advertising, 1906 December 21, 28
2	54-58	Disposal of Garbage vol. I-V, 1907 February 20-March 12
3	19	Public Lighting vol. I, 1909 May 11
3	21	Public Lighting vol. II, 1909 May 18
3	40-42	Payments to Michael Sughrue vol. I-IV, 1910 March 30-May 3
3	52	Town Meeting: Charlestown, 1912 April 1
3	53	Town Meeting: Dorchester, 1913 April 4
3	54	Town Meeting: Downtown wards, 1913 April 5
3	55	Town Meeting: Brighton, 1913 April 7
3	56	Town Meeting: Roxbury, 1913 April 8
3	57	Town Meeting: South Boston, 1913 April 9
3	58	Town Meeting: Hyde Park, 1913 April 10
3	59	Town Meeting: East Boston, 1913 April 15
3	60	Town Meeting: West Roxbury, 1913 April 16
3	61	Town Meeting: Charlestown, 1913 April 17
4	48	Information about Contractors v. 2, 1932 March 9
4	56	Investigation of Pending Abatements for the Conveyencers Title Insurance & Mortgage Company v. 2, 1937 July 14

**Steam Engines, etc.**

Box Folder

1	8	Petition of J. M. Radocanachi, 1891 February 6
---	---	--

**Streets and Sewers**

Box Folder

1	38	Rifle Range, 1896 November 17
---	----	-------------------------------

**Tenement District Improvements**

Box Folder

1	29	Tenement District, 1894 October 10
---	----	------------------------------------

**Whole**

Box Folder

2	41	Revised Grade of D and W. 9th Sts., Ward 13, 1906 May 25
2	42	Telephone Petitions, 1906 June 7
2	43	Telephone Petitions Metropolitan Home Telephone Co., 1906 June 21
2	45	Statements by Gen. Thomas Sherwin and Frederick P. Fish, Esq., 1906 July 20
2	49	Regarding Junius T. Auerbach, 1906 September 18
2	51	Whole as County Commissioners - Land for Depot and Station Purposes, 1906 November 26
3	23	Elizabeth Dineen Case, 1909 November 29
3	49-51	Disposal of Refuse, 1911 December 17, 1912 January 3-4
4	1-2	Boston Consolidated Gas Co. Proposed Contract, 1913 July 8
4	7	Electric Lighting Contract, 1914 December 1
4	8	Boston Gas Company Proposed termination of contracts, 1918 April 10
4	9	Forest Hills easement, 1920 December 1
4	12	Proposed revocation of track locations in Hyde Park, 1920 April 20
4	13-19	Charges against Dr. Charles E. Donlan, 1920 April 6-22
4	22	Removal of William J. Corcoran, 1921 March 29
4	25-30	Disposal of garbage and refuse v. 1-6, 1921 November 16-December 14
4	34-35	Street Lighting Gas Contracts v. 1-2, 1924 April 1, May 14
4	46-47	Disposal of garbage v. 1-2, 1931 December 16, 18
4	49	City of Boston Gas Contract, 1935 May 14
4	50	Boston Consolidated Gas Company Contracts, 1936 February 4

[Return to the Series List](#)