

# CITY COUNCIL MEETING 1850

## The Scene:

We are stepping back in time to a meeting of our city's first government, the Common Council, which was called during very trying times.

The city is having problems with "squatters" occupying and settling on public lands and private lots. There is a sense of urgency, for at any time things might get out of hand. This city council hand some important decisions to make, and they are going about that business as we join them.

Four of the council are at the Sutter House meeting place and are anxiously awaiting the others, who arrive somewhat late.

The President of the Common Council, Albert Maver Winn, is much delayed, as he was waiting for a messenger from the State Senate to bring him the good news of the passage of our city's charter. The year is 1850, and you are there....

**1850**  
**CITY COUNCIL**  
**MEETING**

**President A.M. Winn**

**COUNCILMEN**

Gillespie  
Glaskin  
Kewen  
McConnekin  
Miles  
Rodgers  
Smith  
Warbass

**Cunningham**  
City Marshal

# CITY COUNCIL MEETING

## 1850

### CASTING

A.M. WINN\_\_\_\_\_ Dr. Bob LaPerriere  
MARSHAL CUNNINGHAM\_\_\_ John Bettencourt  
COUNCILMEMBER MILES\_\_\_ Pat Stanford  
COUNCILMAN WARBASS\_\_\_ Lou Demas  
COUNCILMAN GILLESPIE\_\_\_ Marilyn Demas  
COUNCILMAN McCONNKIN\_ Chuck Case

COUNCILMEMBER SMITH\_\_\_ Frances Pendleton  
COUNCILMEMBER RODGERS\_\_ Barbara Oliva  
COUNCILMEMBER KEWEN\_\_\_ Mory Holmes\*  
SECRETARY GLASKIN\_\_\_\_\_ Mory Holmes

\*The parts of both Glaskin and Kewen. Enter as Glaskin.

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### OPENING

Four councilmembers sitting at table  
discussing the lack of punctuality of other members:

Councilmember Miles  
Councilman Warbass  
Councilman Gillespie  
Councilman McConnekin

### ENTER

Councilmember Smith  
Councilmember Rodgers  
Councilmember Kewen

### ENTER

General A.M. Winn  
Marshal Cunningham

### ENTER

Secretary Glaskin

# CITY COUNCIL MEETING 1850

**WARBASS:** Where are the others? And where's our President?

**McCONNKIN:** He's coming. I'm sure they'll all be here presently.

**MILES:** Well, when the next meetins's called, I'll make such an effort to get here on time.

**WARBASS:** What are they doin' out there, McConnekin?

**McConnekin:** Have you and Miles forgot that our charter ain't been approved by the State yet? When you come right down to it, we ain't exactly operating according to law.

**MILES:** We know all that, but it's no excuse for.....

**GILLESPIE:** Here comes Smith and Rogers now.

**WARBASS:** Where's General Winn? I thought he was with you gentlemen?

**ROGERS:** He was, but he's waiting for a messenger from the Senate with news about the charter. He was supposed to have been there by nine.

**WARBASS:**

What's all this about the State Senate? I thought we resolved to meet tonight to hear Marshal Cunningham's report on movin' them squatters off our levee and public lots?

**SMITH:**

We'd best be taking some action soon, etc.

**SMITH:** We'd best be takin' some action soon, gentlemen. Why, only yesterday our ex-councilman Snyder was pushed off his horse down by the levee by some of those no-account squatters. If we don't take real action right away, they'll be takin' over our whole city.

**McCONNKIN:** Seems to me this council ain't in session yet, Smith.

**SMITH:** Who said it was?

**McCONNKIN:** Well, you ain't said so in so many words, but from your chatterin' about Snyder you wouldn't be aimin' to sort of prejudice us, would ya?

**SMITH:** Now look here, McConnekin, I don't know what your personal interests are, but being the newest member on this here council, I'd sort of listen if I were you.

**McCONNKIN:** Are you spoilin' for an argument, Smith? 'Cause if you are...well, I'm all ready and.....

**GILLESPIE:** Gentlemen, please! Here comes General Winn and Cunningham.

**ROGERS:** Did the runner arrive, General?

**WINN:** No. I gave up waiting, but I left orders to have the message brought here as soon as it arrives. I do appologize for having delayed

WINN (cont.): you so long.

**WARBASS:** I could have fixed that spring in our buggy in the time we've wasted here.

**MILES:** That springs been busted since the flood last month, Warbass.

**WARBASS:** Well, I've had things to do, and...

(rapping of the gavel)

WINN: This meeting will come to order. The Secretary will read...  
Where's our secretary?

(rapp the gavel twice)

WINN: Does anyone know where Mr. Glaskin is....or why he isn't here?

GILLESPIE: He planned to be here. He informed you of that, Mr. Cunningham, didn't he?

CUNNINGHAM: Yes, he did. He also remarked that he was losin' his appetite for the job. He said it was too much work for too little money.

MILES: Glaskin's like all the rest of 'em....This is probably the best job he's ever had in his life.

RODGERS: Why don't you go home, Miles. All you ever do is complain. **ll sure feel sorry for that wife**

## 150 Year Celebration Jack Crist Introduction

- ✓ Winter of 1848, Sutter's long trusted employee James Marshall built a water powered Sawmill 45 miles up the south fork of the American at a place called Coloma.

This mill's purpose was to produce the planks and beams that growing valley towns would need.

- ✓ On the morning of January 24, 1848, Marshall reached into the icy waters of the American River and found the first gold nugget.

Needless to say, not much lumber was milled at Coloma as the announcement of Gold set off a worldwide contagion known as **Gold Fever** in the foothills.

- ✓ A year later in August of 1849, the City of Sacramento was born.

- ✓ 1999 is our Great City's 150<sup>th</sup> year celebration.

Tonight, we kick off a year long series of events celebrating our City's history.

The **Gold Fever** exhibit at Memorial running through Oct 31 is the first of these events

- ✓ Other 1999/2000 celebration events will include:
  - Parks and Rec 150<sup>th</sup> kick-off at Fremont Park - Aug. 28
  - Going for the Gold historic wagon train here in Old Sacramento September 4-6 as part of our Heritage Days
  - River Otter Amphibious Race in Sept
  - Police Department's Gala Ball in December
  - Festival De La Familia in April
  - Pacific Rim Festival in May
  - History Channel Great Race in June
  - U.S. Olympic team track & Field trials in July
  - Second Great Gold Rush in August 2000
  
- ✓ Our City Clerk Val Burrowes has graciously agreed to feature a bit of Sacramento trivia history each week in the City Council agenda.
  
- ✓ We have formed a working steering committee composed of three former Mayors:
  - Phil Isenburg
  - Burnett Miller
  - Anne Rudin
  
- ✓ City Manager Robert Thomas has:
  - Included \$ 150k in this years budget for celebration activities;
  - Just appointed Alan Tomiyama as the citywide coordinator for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary
  - Created a special logo for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary
  - Encouraged activities in City departments

✓ Tonight we are in period costume to formally launch the 150 year celebration with :

- Presentation of some resolutions of recognition
- Enjoy some pageantry in front of City Hall with horses and carriages
- Receive a short historical background from Mr. History himself Jim Henley
- Reenact an agenda item from an early City Council meeting with the help of some of our history center docents

✓ Program:

- 5 minute introduction from Jack Crist
- 5 minutes of presentation of resolutions (Matsui, Governor, Leg, 3 former Mayors)
- 10 minutes from Jim Henley
- 5 minute reenactment from Docents
- 1 minute to express thanks to the John Bettencourt and his fellow docents; and costume making volunteers, especially Becky Rogers, and living history program director Andrea Dayton. Express appreciation to Russ Heimrich, Comcast to provide 100 promotion spots about the City's anniversary
- 5 minutes-comments from Mayor and Council members

**RODGERS :**

~~of yours.~~

**MILES:**

~~You leave my wife out of this!~~

(rap the gavel three times)

**WINN:**

Gentlemen! Gentlemen, please! Let us have order. This is, after all, an official meeting of the council....and we should conduct ourselves in a like manner.

In the absence of Mr. Glaskin, we will proceed with the business for which this meeting was called - namely, to hear Mr. Cunningham's report on the squatter situation. Are you prepared to make that report, Mr. Cunningham?

**CUNNINGHAM:**

I am, President Winn.

**WINN:**

Proceed then, sir.

**CUNNINGHAM:**

Thank you.  
Gentlemen of the Council, I....

**WARBASS:**

Here's Glaskin now.

**MILES:**

Where have you been, Glaskin?

**GLASKIN:**

I'm very sorry, President Winn.

**WINN:**

We'll discuss it later.....  
Proceed with your report, Mr. Cunningham.

Gentlemen, the number of squatters in this city has doubled in the past year. They are all foreigners to this territory and have no claim whatsoever. But their number is growing so rapidly that unless we take immediate legal action, the situation will lead to real trouble.

**SMITH:** I say we take a vote right now!

(rap of gavel)

**WINN:** Mr. Smith, you're out of order! Mr. Cunningham has the floor.

**CUNNINGHAM:** I will yield to Mr. Smith, if the Council member wants.....

**WARBASS:** Mr. President...a point of order.

**WINN:** You're right, Mr. Warbass. Mr. Cunningham cannot yield the floor. He is not a member of this council. He is only an emissary to the council.....Proceed, Marshal Cunningham.

**CUNNINGHAM:** Two deputies and I rode down to the levee yesterday and gave notice to more than a dozen families who have built themselves living huts there. We told them to be out of there by today, but today they were still there. We managed to lasso and drag down two of the houses, but by then the other squatters started after us and I was forced to fire my pistol at them...in order for my

**CUNNINGHAM:** deputies and I to escape. That's all I have to

1. The first part of the document is a list of names and titles, including "The Hon. Mr. Justice G. D. C. O'Connell, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New South Wales."

2. The second part of the document is a list of names and titles, including "The Hon. Mr. Justice G. D. C. O'Connell, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New South Wales."

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16.

report, Mr. President.

**WINN:** Well, gentlemen, you have heard the report and now we'll...

**SMITH and  
WARBASS:** (together)  
Mr. President!

**WINN:** Councilman Warbass.

**SMITH:** President Winn, a point of order!

**WINN:** You are out of order, Mr. Smith. The Chair recognized Mr. Warbass. Proceed, Mr. Warbass.

**SMITH:** Discrimination, that's what it is!

**WARBASS:** Gentlemen on the Council. We passed an ordinance last December on cleaning and keeping clear public landings, streets and other public property. Because of the flood last month and the discomforts that followed, this ordinance has not been read a second and third time. With this ordinance, passed and printed and sent to the public, our Marshal, Mr. Cunningham, would have a legal right to remove the undesirables from our landings and public lots. Therefore, I move we pass over the second and third readings and make this city ordinance a law.

**KEWEN:** I second the motion, Mr. President.

**WINN:** Mr. Kewen has seconded Mr. Warbass'

WINN: Mr. Kewen has seconded Mr. Warbass' motion. Is there any discussion?

SMITH: Mr. President.....

WINN: Mr. Smith.

SMITH: Mr. President, this ordinance, and all such minor laws are only bypaths. Our real problem is the presence of these squatters, and the only way to overcome the problem is to drive 'em out of town; burn down their shacks, and dump their belongings in the river.

GILLESPIE: Here! Here!

WINN: Is there any further discussion?  
Gentlemen, you have heard the motion. Those in favor of passing the ordinance without a second and third reading signify by aye.

AYES;  
Mr. McConnekin.  
Mr. Warbass.  
~~Mr. White~~  
Mr. Kewen  
Mr. Rodgers.

~~WINN:~~ ~~Those opposed.~~

NO: Smith  
Gillespie

WINN: Let the record show Mr. Miles not voting.

**WINN:**

The "Ayes" have it. The ordinance passes

**THE END.**