

Nauvoo City Officers

The following chart identifies significant city offices in Nauvoo, Illinois, and the names of the individuals who held those offices between February 1841 and April 1843. The city charter for Nauvoo, approved 16 December 1840 to take effect the first Monday of February 1841, called for a city council consisting of a mayor, four aldermen, and nine councilors, who would be elected and serve for two years. The charter made provision for the city council to add to the number of aldermen and councilors if necessary. Other city officers were appointed or elected by the city council. The first city election was held 1 February 1841. An additional office of vice mayor was created 22 January 1842, though the holders of this office retained their seats as city councilors. Councilors and aldermen are listed in the order in which they most commonly appeared in municipal records.

The mayor and aldermen served as justices of the peace within the limits of the city of Nauvoo. The charter prescribed that the mayor's court "had exclusive jurisdiction in all cases arising under the ordinances of the corporation." The mayor also served as chief justice of the municipal court, and the aldermen as associate justices of that court, to which appeal could be taken "from any decision or judgement of said Mayor or Aldermen, arising under the city ordinances." From the municipal court, appeal could be made to the Circuit Court of Hancock County.

When council seats became vacant because of death, resignation, or appointment to other office, the vacancies were filled by election or appointment by the city council. If members of the city council were to be absent for significant lengths of time, substitute or temporary councilors were elected and sworn in to fill the vacancy. These temporary councilors are not listed in the following chart.

OFFICE	1841	1842	1843
MAYOR	John C. Bennett 3 Feb. 1841–19 May 1842		
VICE MAYOR		Joseph Smith Jr. 22 Jan. 1842–19 May 1842	Hyrum Smith 19 May 1842–6 Feb. 1843
CITY COUNCILORS	Joseph Smith Jr. 3 Feb. 1841–19 May 1842		William Smith 19 May 1842–6 Feb. 1843
	Don Carlos Smith 3 Feb. 1841–7 Aug. 1841	Brigham Young 4 Sept. 1841–3 Feb. 1845	
	Hyrum Smith 3 Feb. 1841–27 June 1844		
	Charles C. Rich 3 Feb. 1841–6 Feb. 1843		
	John P. Greene 3 Feb. 1841–6 Feb. 1843		
	John Barnett 3 Feb. 1841–6 Feb. 1843		
	Vinson Knight 3 Feb. 1841–31 Jul. 1842		Amasa Lyman 5 Aug. 1842–6 Feb. 1843
	Wilson Law 3 Feb. 1841–6 Feb. 1843		
	Sidney Rigdon 8 Feb. 1841–1 Nov. 1841	William Law 1 Nov. 1841–6 Feb. 1843	
	John Taylor 30 Oct. 1841–3 Feb. 1845		
	Orson Pratt 30 Oct. 1841–3 Feb. 1845		

OFFICE	1841	1842	1843
CITY COUNCILORS (CONT.)		Heber C. Kimball 30 Oct. 1841–3 Feb. 1845	
		Lyman Wight 1 Nov. 1841–6 Feb. 1843	
		Willard Richards 1 Nov. 1841–6 Feb. 1843	
		Wilford Woodruff 1 Nov. 1841–6 Feb. 1843	
		Samuel Smith 23 May 1842–6 Feb. 1843	
			Orson Hyde 6 Feb. 1843–3 Feb. 1845
			Sylvester Emmons 6 Feb. 1843–21 June 1844
			Benjamin Warrington 6 Feb. 1843–3 Feb. 1845
			Daniel Spencer 6 Feb. 1843–10 Aug. 1844
ALDERMEN	Daniel H. Wells 3 Feb. 1841–3 Feb. 1845		
	William Marks 3 Feb. 1841–6 Feb. 1843		
	Newel K. Whitney 3 Feb. 1841–6 Feb. 1843		
	Samuel Smith 3 Feb. 1841–23 May 1842		
		Gustavus Hills 23 Oct. 1841–6 Feb. 1843	

OFFICE	1841	1842	1843
ALDERMEN (CONT.)		Orson Spencer 23 Oct. 1841–3 Feb. 1845	
		George W. Harris 30 Oct. 1841–after 8 Feb. 1845	
		Hiram Kimball 30 Oct. 1841–6 Feb. 1843	
			George A. Smith 11 Feb. 1843–10 Aug. 1844
			Samuel Bennett 4 Mar. 1843–3 Feb. 1845
MARSHALL	Henry G. Sherwood 3 Feb. 1841–21 Dec. 1843		
		Dimick Huntington 23 Oct. 1841–9 Apr. 1842	
TREASURER	Robert B. Thompson 3 Feb. 1841–27 Aug. 1841	John Fullmer 4 Sept. 1841–9 Sept. 1842	William Clayton 9 Sept. 1842–ca. 1846
	James Sloan 3 Feb. 1841–12 Aug. 1843		
CITY RECORDER AND CLERK OF THE MUNICIPAL COURT			
CORONER		Dimick Huntington 23 May 1842–ca. 1846	
SEXTON	William D. Huntington 4 Sept. 1841–ca. 1846		